WOMEN, SEX ROLES AND CULTURE
Anthropology 308 C.S.U., Northridge  Spring 2009

Class Times  Tuesday and Thursday 12:30-1:45PM  Ticket No. 11912
Sierra Hall Room 184
Dr. Stephen D. Siemens  email: stephen.siemens@csun.edu
Office: Sierra Hall 240M
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 8:20-9:20AM and 3:30-4PM and by appointment
Office Phone: (818) 677-4931
Department of Anthropology SH232  (818) 667-3331

This is a fifteen-week introductory survey course on the anthropology of gender. The objectives of the course are: to recognize the limits of biological implications for gender relations, to acquire an ability to critically read for gender biases in the popular literature and in anthropology, to learn the range of gender relations that have been documented in non-industrial societies, to learn the effects of monetary economy on gender relations, and to learn how gender relations are symbolically imbued with transcendent values. Finally we will, examine some of the ways women are effected by global social forces and how women can exert control over their lives.

All Upper Division General Education courses are required to be “writing intensive.” This is a writing intensive course. This means that there are writing requirements for the course totaling a minimum of 2500 words. This requirement will be satisfied by the homework assignments.


Grading will be based on comparing your points with the points of your classmates; your grade depends on your ranking in the class. This is grading “on a curve.” Usually about half of the class receives a B or better. No “minus” and “plus” grades will be given. There is no “extra credit” option. To succeed in this course you need to concentrate your efforts on the readings, writing assignments, lectures, study questions and videos.

The exams will cover lectures, assigned readings, and videos. Since lectures will contain material not in the texts, you will need to attend class to pass the exams. Exams will be multiple choice.

This is a Web CT class. Readings, study questions, announcements, handouts, guidelines, and bibliographies will be available for you to read and download. Check Web CT weekly and bring relevant study questions and other materials to class. Additional assigned readings (to be announced in lecture) will be on Web CT. There may be some videos not listed on this syllabus.

Attendance in class is necessary for your education. In general it is better to attend part of a class than it is to be absent. However, show consideration and respect for your fellow students by
your classroom comportment. Arrive at class on time and remain until you are dismissed. Don’t bring food into the classroom. Turn off your cell phone before class begins. **During class you may neither place nor answer phone calls, text messages, and email.** If any of these points are difficult for you to follow, bring the matter up with Dr. Siemens.

Makeup exams will generally not be offered. Discuss a missed exam with me in person as soon as possible. Provide a doctor’s note for medical problems. Provide objective documentation for other extenuating circumstances. If you are prevented from taking an exam due to circumstances beyond your control, I will make a judgment as whether you merit a makeup test or some other grading method. Cheating will result in a grade of F for the course. I require everyone to show a photo I.D. to take the exams. Exams are multiple choice. Attendance at the final exam is required; no accommodations will be made for students who would like to leave campus before the final exam unless it is some dire unforeseen circumstance. Check your final exam date (Thursday, May 14) and time (12:45-2:45PM) before buying airline tickets.

You are required to write answers for some of the study questions and submit your work as homework to be graded. You will also turn in homework based on selected readings by anthropologists that augment the syllabus readings. Homework will improve your writing skills and help prepare you for the examinations. I will provide you with explicit guidelines for your four homework assignments.

The course grade will be determined as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Study Questions Homework (Feb.3, Feb.24)</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthropological Reading Homework (Mar.24, Ap.21)</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>24%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam (Tuesday, March 10)</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam (Thursday, May 14)</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>100%</td>
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**WEEK 1**
Tuesday, January 20
**SCOPE OF ANTHROPOLOGY**
Harris and Johnson *On* WebCT-Cultural Anthropology (excerpt) pp.1-12

Thursday, January 22
**IMPACT OF THE CONCEPT OF GENDER ON THE CONCEPT OF CULTURE**
Brown *On* WebCT Cultural Relativism 2.0 pp.363-384

**WEEK 2**
Tuesday, January 27
**GENDERED SPACE**
Brettell and Sargent *In* B&S-Domestic Worlds and Public Worlds pp.85-90
Lamphere *In* B&S-The Domestic Sphere of Women and the Public World of Men: The Strengths and Limitations of an Anthropological Dichotomy pp.90-99
Murcott *In* B&S-“It’s a Pleasure to Cook for Him”: Food, Mealtimes, and Gender in Some South Wales Households pp.99-108
Thursday, January 29
DIVISION OF LABOR BY GENDER
Llewelyn-Davies on WebCT-Two Contexts of Solidarity among Pastoral Maasai Women pp.206-237
Video: Masai Women

WEEK 3
Tuesday, February 3
STUDY QUESTIONS HOMEWORK DUE
DIVISION OF LABOR BY GENDER
Weismantel In B&S-Cities of Women pp.123-136
Brettell and Sargent In B&S-Equality and Inequality: The Sexual Division of Labor and Gender Stratification pp.137-143
Estioko-Griffin In B&S-Woman the Hunter: The Agta pp.143-152

Thursday, February 5
DIVISION OF LABOR BY GENDER
Lepowsky In B&S-Gender, Horticulture, and the Division of Labor on Vanatinai pp.152-162
Townsend In B&S-Fatherhood and the Mediating Role of Women pp.109-123
Hewlett In B&S-The Cultural Nexus of Aka Father—Infant Bonding pp.39-50

WEEK 4
Tuesday, February 10
DIVISION OF LABOR BY GENDER
Clark On WebCT-Mothering, Work, and Gender in Urban Asante Ideology and Practice pp.717-729
Video: Asante Market Women

Thursday, February 12
DIVISION OF LABOR BY GENDER
Rasmussen In B&S-Do Tents and Herds Still Matter? Pastoral Nomadism and Gender among the Tuareg in Niger and Mali pp.162-174

WEEK 5
Tuesday, February 17
GENDER BIAS (METHODOLOGICAL ISSUES IN ANTHROPOLOGICAL STUDIES OF WOMEN)
Siemens On WebCT-Access to Women's Knowledge: The Azande Experience pp.91-98
Thursday, February 19
GENDER ROLES
Brettell and Sargent *In B&S-The Cultural Construction of Gender and Personhood* pp.191-196
Gilmore *In B&S-My Encounter with Machismo in Spain* pp.196-210
McElhinny *In B&S-Gender and the Stories Pittsburgh Police Officers Tell About Using Physical Force* pp.227-237

WEEK 6
Tuesday, February 24
STUDY QUESTION HOMEWORK DUE
GENDER ROLES
Herdt *In B&S-Rituals of Manhood: Male Initiation in Papua New Guinea* pp.211-214
Herdt *On WebCT-The Sambia (excerpt)* pp.154-166
Video: Guardians of the Flutes

Thursday, February 26
GENDER ROLES
Watson *In B&S-The Named and the Nameless: Gender and Person in Chinese Society* pp.215-227
Video Small Happiness

WEEK 7
Tuesday, March 3
GENDER ROLES
Lamb *In B&S-The Making and Unmaking of Persons: Gender and Body in Northeast India* pp.237-248
Video-Dadi’s Family

Thursday, March 5
GENDER AND SEXUALITY
Brettell and Sargent *In B&S-Culture, Sexuality, and the Body* pp.249-255
Abu-Lughod *In B&S-Is There a Muslim Sexuality? Changing Constructions of Sexuality in Egyptian Bedouin Weddings* pp.255-264
Gottleib *In B&S-From Pollution to Love Magic: The New Anthropology of Menstruation* pp.264-275

WEEK 8
Tuesday, March 10
MIDTERM EXAM
Thursday, March 12
GENDER AND SEXUALITY
Reddy and Nanda In B&S-Hijras: An “Alternative” Sex/Gender in India pp.275-282
Urla and Swedlund In B&S-Measuring Up to Barbie: Ideals of the Feminine Body in Popular Culture pp.282-295

WEEK 9
Tuesday, March 17
MIDTERM EXAM RESULTS
GENDER AND NATION
Brettell and Sargent In B&S-Gender, Property, and the State pp.297-302
Rapp In B&S-Thinking About Women and the Origin of the State pp.302-308
Stone and James In B&S-Dowry, Bride-Burning, and Female Power in India pp.308-317

Thursday, March 19
GENDER AND NATION
Ryan In B&S-Encountering the State: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Women’s Political Experience pp.317-329
Allison In B&S-Japanese Mothers and Obentōs: The Lunch-Box as Ideological State Apparatus pp.329-345

WEEK 10
Tuesday, March 24
ANTHROPOLOGICAL READING HOMEWORK DUE
GENDER AND NATION
Volkman On WebCT-The San in Transition
Video: “N!ai”

Thursday, March 26
KINSHIP AND MARRIAGE
Brettell and Sargent In B&S-Gender, Household, and Kinship pp.347-352
Cable In B&S-Beyond the “Pattern of Heaven”: Gender, Kinship and the Family in China, pp.352-362
Hicks-Bartlett In B&S-Between a Rock and a Hard Place: The Labyrinth of Working and Parenting in a Poor Community pp.362-377

WEEK 11
Tuesday, March 31 CESAR CHAVEZ HOLIDAY NO CLASSES
Thursday, April 2
KINSHIP & MARRIAGE
Prior In B&S-Matrifocality, Power, and Gender Relations in Jamaica pp.377-384
Sanday On WebCT-Eggi’s Village
Sanday On WebCT-Matriarchy and Islam Post 9/11: The Case of the Minangkabau of Indonesia
Blackwell On WebCT-Wedding Bell Blues Marriage, Missing Men and Matrifocal Follies pp.3-19

Tuesday, April 7 and Thursday, April 9 SPRING BREAK NO CLASSES

WEEK 12
Tuesday April 14
KINSHIP & MARRIAGE
Di Leonardo In B&S-The Female World of Cards and Holidays: Women, Families, and the Work of Kinship pp.385-394
TRANSCENDENT MEANINGS OF GENDER
Brettell and Sargent In B&S-Gender, Ritual, and Religion pp.395-401
Boddy In B&S-Spirit Possession and Gender Complementarity: Zâr in Rural Northern Sudan pp.401-412

Thursday, April 16
TRANSCENDENT MEANINGS OF GENDER
McIntosh In B&S-‘Tradition’ and Threat: Women’s Obscenity in Giriama Funerary Rituals pp.412-424
Siemens On WebCT- Parody and Personhood in Zande Funerals: The ‘Work of Death’ and the Play of ‘Wives of Sons.’

WEEK 13
Tuesday, April 21
ANTHROPOLOGICAL READING HOMEWORK DUE
TRANSCENDENT MEANINGS OF GENDER
Kendall In B&S-Shamans, Bodies, and Sex: Misreading a Korean Ritual pp.425-436
Sered In B&S-Women, Religion, and Modernization; Tradition and Transformation among Elderly Jews in Israel pp.437-448

Thursday, April 23
TRANSCENDENT MEANINGS OF GENDER
Gregor On WebCT Anxious Pleasures (excerpt) pp.22-29
Video: We are Mehinaku
Week 14
Tuesday, April 28
POLITICS OF REPRODUCTION
Brettell and Sargent *In* B&S-Gender, Politics, and Reproduction pp.449-455
Davis-Floyd *In* B&S-Gender and Ritual: Giving Birth the American Way pp.455-467
Ragoné *In* B&S-Surrogate Motherhood: Rethinking Biological Models, Kinship, and Family pp.482-491

Thursday, April 30
POLITICS OF REPRODUCTION
Gruenbaum *In* B&S-Female Genital Cutting: Culture and Controversy pp.491-505

CHANGE’S OPPORTUNITIES AND COSTS FOR WOMEN
Brettell and Sargent *In* B&S-Culture Contact, Development, and the Global Economy pp.505-510
Lockwood *In* B&S-The Impact of Development on Women: The Interplay of Material Conditions and Gender Ideology pp.510-525

WEEK 15
Tuesday, May 5
CHANGE’S OPPORTUNITIES AND COSTS FOR WOMEN
Wilson-Moore *In* B&S-Doing Their Homework: The Dilemma of Planning Women’s Garden Programs in Bangladesh pp.525-531
Cairoli *In* B&S-Factory as Home and Family: Female Workers in the Moroccan Garment Industry pp.532-545

Thursday, May 7
CHANGE’S OPPORTUNITIES AND COSTS FOR WOMEN
Constable *In* B&S-Sexuality and Discipline among Filipina Domestic Workers in Hong Kong pp.545-564
Zimmer-Tamakoshi *In* B&S-“Wild Pigs and Dog Men”: Rape and Domestic Violence as “Women’s Issues” in Papua New Guinea pp.564-578

FINALS WEEK
No office hours
Thursday, May 14  FINAL EXAM  12:45-2:45PM