ANTHROPOLOGY/WOMEN'S STUDIES 315: 
SEX AND GENDER

Spring 2007, TR 9:00 - 10:15
Instructor: Nancy Kleiber, Ph.D.

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Office hours: Tuesdays at 8 a.m. and by appointment

We will examine biological, evolutionary, social, economic, legal, and ideological aspects of women's position in selected developing and industrial societies. We will also explore the impact of sex and gender in anthropological research, and feminist issues in anthropology.

TEXTS:

Brewis, Alexandra

Davies, Sharyn Graham

Paul, Richard and Linda Elder:

Sanday, Peggy

Plus articles handed out in class on specific topics.

COURSE GOALS:

1. To examine and analyze the situation of women and men in a variety of societies, looking at both the positive and negative aspects of their lives.

2. To examine the social construction of anthropological knowledge, by looking at anthropological theories and methods, and the critiques of these which have been proposed by feminist scholars.

3. To explore the ways in which materials from this course are relevant to the understanding of
our own lives.

4. To learn and apply critical and ethical thinking skills in a variety of situations

5. To facilitate student participation in all parts of the course, and perhaps even to have fun.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: (performance, criteria, conditions)

1. Vocabulary. A list of anthropological and feminist professional vocabulary will be supplied. There will be three vocabulary exams, with recognition questions. A grade of 90% or better on an exam exempts the student from subsequent exams.

2. Research Papers. Each student will write a research paper about the lives of women and men of in a particular society/culture. We will be focusing on marriage in a wide variety of cultures. This will include same-sex marriage, and the social and ethical challenges presented by culture change.

3. Reading/writing assignments. There are various writing assignments, to be done in and out of class. Assignments must follow directions, and be handed in on time [neither early nor late] to receive credit. All assignments will have an ethics component.

4. Exams: There will be a vocabulary exam, one mid-term and a final, covering the readings, class discussions, films, field trips, and research papers.

5. Attendance and participation: This class depends on teamwork. We need YOUR consistent participation to make it work for everyone.

CLASS POLICIES:

Attendance is required. Those who miss classes will have their grades lowered. Course materials will be covered in small and large group discussions. These depend on the consistent participation of every class member. Please sign the attendance sheet for each class, in order to be marked ‘present’. This is the responsibility of each student.

Read the assigned material, carefully, before each class session. Class periods will include lectures, discussions, videos and student presentations. You may be called upon at any time to provide information and analysis of assigned materials.

To receive credit, assignments must be HANDED IN ON TIME! ! Students must inform the instructor IN ADVANCE should problems arise and/or if you need special assistance. The goal is to have you do splendidly in this class. That takes cooperation and participation from you. No ‘incompletes’ will be given.
Assignments which are not properly prepared will not be accepted. All written assignments must INCLUDE REFERENCES TO THE READINGS AND OTHER CLASS MATERIALS AND TO DISCUSSIONS. Assignments must be proof-read for spelling, grammar and punctuation.