

Women in an Anthropological Perspective

Department of Anthropology
070:225



All societies use gender as a means of organizing social relationships and symbolic systems. But they do so in different ways. This course focuses on variation in women's lives using a cross-cultural perspective to address such fundamental questions as these:

- Are women the “second sex” in all societies?
- Do societies exist in which men and women experience equality?
- Have there ever been matriarchal societies?
- How does women's work vary?
- Are women always the nurturing and caring sex?
- Are women more highly valued in cultures that worship female deities and in societies that trace family relations through the mother's line?
- Are practices such as veiling and seclusion necessary indicators of women's low status in a society?

Students read ethnographies that situate women's lives in particular historical and geographic contexts and within varying political economies and social hierarchies. An anthropological perspective on women's experiences in diverse cultures acts as a backdrop against which students can understand and evaluate their own lives and society.

This course may be used to fulfill the following requirements:

- **Social Sciences Requirement**
- **Diversity Requirement**
- **Global Awareness Requirement**



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STUDY CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY AT RUTGERS

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