Anthropology of Gender
ANTH 378 (Fall 2014)

Instructor: Professor Dorothy Hodgson
Office: Room 314, Ruth Adams Building, Douglass Campus
Telephone: 848-932-8757
Email: dhodgson@rci.rutgers.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30am, or by appointment
Class Time: Mondays, 12:35-3:35pm
Location: Room 205, Biology Building, Douglass Campus

This course introduces students to contemporary debates and perspectives in the study of gender in anthropology through short, engaging, clearly written articles that demonstrate the power of rich ethnography to pose, elaborate, complicate or challenge theoretical claims. The purpose of the course is to explore different approaches to the study and conceptualization of gender, the value and limitations of gender as an analytic category, and the theoretical insights about gender produced by ethnographic investigations that attend to meaning as well as materiality. Most of the selected articles will incorporate, integrate and apply critical understandings of the cultural, social, political, and economic dimensions of gender.

The course will be taught as a lecture/discussion, with considerable attention devoted to the discussion portion. Students will be expected to keep up with the readings and to be prepared to participate in discussions. Whatever our differing knowledge and experiences of gender and anthropology, we all have something to contribute to discussion.

COURSE OBJECTIVES – After taking this course, students will be able to:
* Understand that "gender" is not a synonym for "women"
* Demonstrate that ideas and practices of gender are relational, historically contingent, contested, and dynamic
* Analyze gender in terms of other cross-cutting forms of social difference like class, generation and race
* Know how to critically apply gender as a category of analysis to ethnographic material
* Understand how ethnographic data informs, shapes and challenges theoretical debates about gender
* Identify, explain and historically contextualize the fundamental concepts, modes of analysis, and central questions in the anthropology of gender
* Use anthropological concepts and examples to reframe contemporary gender debates and issues

COURSE REQUIREMENTS (based on a 100 point scale):

1) Attendance, reading and discussion: 20 points

Attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to have read the assigned material for each class meeting and to actively contribute to discussion of the issues. More than one unexcused absence and/or late arrival (defined as more than 15 minutes after class has started) from class will lower your final grade by 10 points. Each additional unexcused absence or late arrival will lower your final grade by an additional 10 points. *Documentation of an excused absence must be submitted to me within 2 weeks of missing class or the absence will be considered unexcused.*

2) Weekly Commentaries: 30 points

To facilitate discussion, each week students will submit a brief (one to two page) response to the week's readings **by Sunday afternoon (4pm at the latest)** to the "Class Discussion" section of the course Sakai site, under the relevant topic. The response may be in the form of a brief summary, insight into a particular passage, a commentary or meditation on the unit's theme, a list of questions with a short discussion of the readings or whatever format facilitates your reading and discussion of the assigned material. *You must post a minimum of 10 commentaries over the course of the semester. Each commentary is worth a total of 3 points.*

3) Pop Quizzes: **10 points**

3 pop quizzes will be given during course to ensure that everyone is keeping up with the reading. Only the best 2 out of 3 scores will count towards this grade. If you are late to class and arrive after the pop quiz has started, or if you are absent from class on the day a pop quiz is given, whatever your excuse, you will not be able to take a make-up.

4) Class Presentations: **10 points**

Each member of the class will also make an oral presentation as part of a small group on the week's topic and readings. The presentation should summarize the key arguments of the readings; provide additional background, context or resources that might help to explain or illustrate the topic; and offer questions for the class to discuss.

4) Essays: **30 points**

Two 4-5 page double-spaced essays (due on Sakai on **Oct 27th** and **Dec 15th**) are required for the course. The essays will gauge your knowledge of fundamental concepts and assess your ability to integrate, synthesize and understand the significance of the information discussed in class and presented in the readings. For each essay, you will have a choice of topics, which will be distributed well in advance of the due dates.

5) Extra credit: **10 points max**

Students can receive two points of extra credit (up to ten points total for the term) on their final grade for attending talks and programs about cultural anthropology or gender that will be announced in class. You must attend the event from beginning to end, write a list of 4 questions for the speaker (or about the event), and submit questions to Professor Hodgson within 24 hours of the event. No other form of extra credit will be given.

FINAL GRADE: Will be calculated as follows: Attendance, reading & discussion (20 points), Weekly Commentaries (30 points), Class Presentations (10 points), Essays (30 points), with a possible 10 additional points of extra credit available on the final numeric grade. The **Grading Scale** is: A = 90 and above; B+ = 88-89; B = 80-87; C+ = 78-79; C = 70-77; D = 60-69; F = 59 and below

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

All students must strictly adhere to the Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy which identifies and defines violations of cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, plagiarism, and denying others access to information or material. Full definitions of each of these violations, as well as the consequences of violating the Academic Integrity Policy, are available online at http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu. I encourage you to study this website carefully for information about what constitutes plagiarism and how to properly acknowledge the ideas and words of other. The complete Policy can be viewed at: http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy

LAPTOPS, CELLPHONES AND COMMON COURTESY

We are all responsible for creating and maintaining a culture of respect, active listening and participation in the classroom. To that end, I have the developed the following policies: student may use **laptops** to take notes in class or to refer to e-versions of the readings. But if I see that a laptop is being used for email, Facebook, or anything other than taking notes or reading course materials, then you will no longer be allowed to use your laptop in class for the rest of the semester. **Cellphones** must be turned off. If your cellphone rings during class or I see that you are texting or looking at it, I will take it away for the rest of the class period.

REQUIRED TEXT:

All articles are from a draft of Dorothy L. Hodgson, ed. *The Gender, Culture and Power Reader*. New York: Oxford University Press. They are revised and abridged versions of longer articles. The readings are all available on Sakai, under "Resources," "Readings," and then the relevant week.

COURSE OUTLINE: ANTHROPOLOGY OF GENDER

I. KEY DEBATES, PAST & PRESENT

Week 1: Introduction: Challenging Universals (Sept 8)
Ortner, Sherry B., "Is female to male as nature is to culture?"
Rogers, Susan C., "Female forms of power and the myth of male dominance: a model of female/male interaction in peasant society"
Scheper-Hughes, Nancy, "Lifeboat Ethics: Mother Love and Child Death in Northeast Brazil"

Week 2. Power, Agency, Structure (Sept 15)
Abu-Lughod, Lila, "The Romance of Resistance: Tracing Transformations of Power through Bedouin Women"
Mahmood, Saba, "Feminist Theory, Embodiment, and the Docile Agent: Some Reflections on the Egyptian Islamic Revival"
Deomampo, Daisy, "Transnational Surrogacy in India: Interrogating Power and Women's Agency"

Week 3: Gender, Sex and Sexuality (Sept 22)
Kulick, Don, "The Gender of Brazilian Transgendered Prostitutes"
Zavella, Patricia, "'Playing with Fire': The Gendered Construction of Chicana/Mexicana Sexuality"
Mackley, Charlene, "On the Edge of Respectability: Sexual Politics in China's Tibet"

Week 4: Complicating Gender (Sept 29)
Colen, Shellee, "'Like a Mother to Them': Stratified Reproduction and West Indian Childcare Workers and Employers in New York."
Chin, Elizabeth, "Ethnically Correct Dolls: Toying with the Race Industry"
Roseman, Sharon, "'Strong Women' and 'Pretty Girls': Self-Provisioning, Gender, and Class Identity in Rural Galica"

Week 5: Politics of Representation (Oct 6)
Mohanty, Chandra, "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses
Cheryl Rodriguez, "A Home Girl Goes Home: Black Feminism and the Lure of Native Anthropology."
Abu-Lughod, Lila, "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving? Anthropological Reflections on Cultural Relativism and Its Others"

II. BECOMING/BEING GENDERED

Week 6: Growing up Gendered (Oct 13)
Katz, Cindi, "Growing Girls/Closing Circles: Limits on the Spaces of Knowing in Rural Sudan and U.S. Cities"
Mora, Richard, "'Do it for all your Pubic hairs': Latino Boys, Masculinity and Puberty"
Rooke, Alison, "Trans Youth, Science and Art: Creating (Trans) Gendered Space"

Week 7: Language and Performance (Oct 20)
Kulick, Don, "Anger, Gender, Language Shift and the Politics of Revelation in a Papua New Guinean Village"
Cameron, Deborah, "Performing Gender Identity: Young Men's Talk and the Construction of Heterosexual Masculinity"
Weston, Kath, "Do Clothes Make the Woman?: Gender, Performance Theory, and Lesbian Eroticism"

Week 8: Bodies Embodiment (Oct 27) - FIRST ESSAY DUE BY 10AM on SAKAI
Greenhalgh, Susan, "Weighty Subjects: The Biopolitics of the US War on Fat"
Machado-Borges, Thais, "Middle-Class Compassion and Man Boobs"
Ong, Aihwa, "The Production of Possession: Spirits and the Multinational Corporation in Malaysia"

Week 9: Mediated Lives (Nov 3)

High, Casey, "Warriors, Hunters, and Bruce Lee: Gendered Agency and the Transformation of Amazonian Masculinity"

Johnson-Hanks, Jennifer, "Women on the Market: Marriage, Consumption, and the Internet in urban Cameroon"

Gray, Mary, "Negotiating Identities/Queering Desires: Coming Out Online and the Remediation of the Coming-Out Story"

III. GENDERED NEGOTATIONS

Week 10: Gender at Home/Gender at Work (Nov 10)

Gender at Home

Schroeder, Richard, "'Gone to Their Second Husbands': Marital Metaphors and Conjugal Contracts in the Gambia's Female Garden Sector"

Barnes, Riché Jeneen, "Black Women Have Always Worked: Is There a Work-Family Conflict Among the Black Middle Class?"

Gutmann, Matthew C., "Scoring Men: Vasectomies and the Totemic Illusion of Male Sexuality in Oaxaca."

Gender at Work

Freeman, Carla, "Designing Women: Corporate Discipline and Barbados's Off-Shore Pink-Collar Sector"

Clark, Gracia, "Mothering, Work, and Gender in Urban Asante Ideology and Practice"

Lane, Carrie M., "Man Enough to Let my Wife Support me: How Changing Models of Career and Gender are Reshaping the Experience of Unemployment"

Week 11: Gendered States (Nov 17)

Ong, Aihwa, "State versus Islam: Malay families, Women's Bodies, and the Body Politic in Malaysia"

Gill, Lesley, "Creating Citizens, Making Men: The Military and Masculinity in Bolivia"

Friedman, Sara, "The Intimacy of State Power: Marriage, Liberation, and Socialist Subjects in Southeastern China"

IV. GENDER MATTERS

Week 12: Global Connections of Life, Labor and Love (Nov 24)

Faier, Lieba, "Filipina Migrants in Rural Japan and their Professions of Love"

Boeme, Deborah, "'Now I Am a Man *and* a Woman!': Gendered Moves and Migrations in a Transnational Mexican Community"

Schein, Louisa, "Homeland Beauty: Transnational Longing and Hmong American Video"

Week 13: Structures of Violence (Dec 1)

Van Vleet, Krista, "The Intimacies of Power: Rethinking Violence and Affinity in the Bolivian Andes"

Theidon, Kimberly, "Reconstructing Masculinities: The Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration of Former Combatants in Colombia"

Stephen, Lynn, "The Construction of Indigenous Suspects: Militarization and the Gendered and Ethnic Dynamics of Human Rights Abuses in Southern Mexico"

Week 14: Politics of Human Rights (Dec 8)

Halim Chowdhury, Elora, "Feminist Negotiations: Contesting Narratives of the Campaign against Acid Violence in Bangladesh"

Hodgson, Dorothy, "'These are not Our Priorities': Maasai Women, Human Rights, and the Problem of Culture"

Abramowitz, Sharon & Mary Moran, "International Human Rights, Gender-Based Violence, and Local Discourses of Abuse in Postconflict Liberia: A Problem of 'Culture'?"

FINAL ESSAY DUE MONDAY DECEMBER 15 by 10am on SAKAI