GENDER IN CROSS-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE

Required texts:
- Female of the Species by M. K. Martin and B. Voorhies. Columbia University Press (M&V)
- Sex and Temperament by M. Mead. William Morrow & Co.
- SELECTED ARTICLES on library shelves & under "readings" on Blackboard
- Suggested articles on reading lists handed out in class

DATES DISCUSSION TOPICS AND ASSIGNED READINGS

9-16 Jan  Introduction: bio-cultural perspective; sex vs. gender; social roles; objectivity in science; current hot topics; background for final paper.

- M&V Chap 1 (pp. 1-15)

18-25 Jan  Human biological differences, sex-linked traits; genes vs. environment; why 2 sexes?

- M&V Chaps 2,3 (pp. 16-83)

30 Jan -1 Feb  Cultural classifications of sex and gender; alternatives: female husbands, berdaches, two-spirits, other third and fourth genders.

- M&V, Chap 4 (pp. 84-107)

6-13 Feb  Non-human primates (monkeys, apes): biological & social systems, latest data

- M&V Chap 5 (pp. 108-143)
15-20 Feb  Human evolution & gender roles: the first families; paleontological and archaeological evidence, controversies

- M&V Chap 6 (pp. 144-177)

PAPER 2 DUE 22 Feb

22 Feb- 1 Mar  Hunting/gathering societies

- M&V Chap 7 (pp. 178-211)

6-20 Mar  Horticultural societies

- M&V Chap 8 (pp. 212-275)
- MEAD, whole book
- LEPOWSKI, whole book

PAPER 3 DUE 22 Mar

SPRING BREAK 13-15 MARCH

22-29 Mar  Agricultural societies: chiefdoms and states; pastoral societies; more archaeological evidence, origins of social complexity

- M&V Chaps 9, 10 (pp.276-366)

PAPER 4 DUE 3 April

3 April  Modern states, agricultural and industrial; theoretical perspectives

- M&V Chap 11(pp. 367-409)
5-26 April  Futures: possibilities, speculation, fantasy, science fiction (Do androids have/need
gender? Will Commander Data ever get a sweetheart? Will gender become irrelevant in the
West or anywhere? If Mars attacks will the aliens have genders and/or want sex?)

- fiction book from reading list 5.  ➔ ORAL PRESENTATIONS READY 5 April

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course examines roles of women, men, and other genders, and social, economic, and
political aspects of sex and gender, from a bio-cultural viewpoint, with emphasis upon non-Western
societies and cross-cultural comparison. Examples are drawn from different societies widely
separated in space and time, and from all the subdisciplines of anthropology (biological and cultural,
including archaeology). The latest theoretical issues in gender research and feminist (and other)
anthropological theory are emphasized. Near the end we will refer briefly to the modern world and
western culture as it could evolve. We will emphasize the dimensions of critical thinking and inquiry-
based learning, changing historical perspectives, and human and cultural diversity around the globe.

This is a General Education Core Area course and Exit course

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This is a senior-level anthropology class, requiring previous anthropology or women’s
studies knowledge. Classes include lectures, discussions, movies. Readings must be done IN
ADVANCE OF THE DATE INDICATED ON THIS SYLLABUS so that you can DISCUSS the
material and BE GRADED WEEKLY ON CLASS PARTICIPATION. Required readings are listed
here, and more extensive bibliographies will be handed out for additional optional study. There is
also a list of modern science fiction from which you will choose a book to read and report on briefly
during the last 2 weeks of class. Lectures and class discussions include much material beyond what
is in your texts, for which you are responsible; thus note-taking and attendance are required.

Assignments are all SHORT, requiring you to extract important points and synthesize ideas
concisely:  5 SHORT PAPERS and a short CLASS PRESENTATION:

Papers are SHORT syntheses of readings, lectures/discussions, movies, etc. (Don’t forget to
include archaeological, ethnological, and other different kinds of evidence.) They should include
critical evaluation of the readings and contrasting of different opinions. You may include additional
references in your paper, from the 4 suggested readings lists or other sources IF THEY ARE
ANTHROPOLOGICAL in nature. However you do not need to reference anything beyond the
assigned readings. Papers must be well-formatted, with proper citations and bibliographies in
anthropological style. Begin them early and we’ll discuss them in class so that you can get an idea
of how to write them well. All papers will be returned to students with grades and comments, and
they will then be discussed in general in the classroom.
Paper Due date Subject

1 6 Feb biological differences between men and women and the range of cultural roles, 3rd, 4th genders. [see also suggested readings list 1]

2 22 Feb male and female roles among non-human primates and earliest humans. [see also suggested readings list 2]

3 22 Mar gender roles among hunter-gatherers & horticulturalists. [see also suggested readings list 3]

4 3 April gender among agriculturalists and pastoralists. [see also suggested readings list 3]

5 30 Apr modern agricultural/industrial states; original crucial issues of the course: are gender differences inevitable? Are they natural or cultural? Is male dominance universal? What is dominance? Why do these issues matter for you, specifically? For the modern world? [see also suggested readings list 4]

BRING SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE TO GET YOUR PAPER/GRADE MAILED BACK, OR STOP IN OFFICE TO PICK IT UP BEFORE 10 May, AFTER WHICH ALL PAPERS WILL BE DISCARDED.

Papers 1-4 = 4-5 pages; paper 5 = 7-8 pages.

** 5 April: be ready for oral presentation on modern science fiction relating it to course material. Pick book from reading list 5. MAX 5 MINUTES! (2-3 double-spaced typed pages in case you want to prepare better).

MEETING DEADLINES IS ESSENTIAL! LATE PAPERS ARE NOT ACCEPTED. Emailed papers are NOT accepted.

If you do not hand in the paper by the deadline and have not contacted your professor about it, you will get a zero for that amount of your grade. So at least hand in something, even if you have not completed it. For some emergency situation preventing your meeting deadlines, please call/email/or otherwise communicate before the deadline. GRADES: Papers 1- 4 = 15% each (total = 60%)

Paper 5 = 25%
Oral presentation = 10%

Class participation = 5% (knowledge of readings, class discussion, current events, etc.)

CLASS POLICIES

Respectful behavior in the classroom is required; do your errands, phone calls, pit stops before class; do not arrive late, leave early, or otherwise disrupt the class. TURN OFF THE CELL PHONE OR LEAVE THE CLASSROOM, PLEASE. Points will be TAKEN OFF class participation if your phone rings and disrupts the class. Laptops are permitted but only for taking class notes.

Cheating and other academic dishonesty are dealt with severely, according to USF policy (see the current catalog). A grade of incomplete (I) is given ONLY if there is sufficient and serious reason that the work was not done and if the student signs a contract to complete the work.

If the building must be evacuated for some emergency, we will meet at the north-northeast entrance and go elsewhere. Classes will always be held when scheduled, even if we must go to another location.

All papers will be returned so that students can learn from their mistakes. Papers will be held (in SOC 144) for 3 weeks from the date received for students to pick up; after this time they will be discarded. Grade policy now includes plus/minus grades (though this may not necessarily help you!).

If you need to be absent for a major religious observance, please provide written notification by 20 January so you will not be penalized.

Students with disabilities that may affect their performance in the class are urged to consult with the instructor to reach acceptable accommodations.
Read and review a book you choose from reading lists 1-4, any title with asterisk *

Book choice should be related to your specialties in graduate study, so please consult with the instructor for advice. Book reviews should be 5-7 pages.

First summarize the book and its intent, audience, and theoretical viewpoint. Then include some critique of the book in light of the course content. If it is a collection of articles by different authors, summarize all briefly and concentrate on just a few for more detailed review.

Get reviews of the book by others from various anthropology journals in the library to see what others have said about it.

Book review paper is **due on or before NOON Wednesday 2 May.**

**GRADES:** Determined as follows:

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<th>Component</th>
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<td>Papers 1-4 = 10% each</td>
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(knowledge of readings, class discussion, etc.)