

DOUGLAS COLLEGE
Anthropology 2240
Anthropology of Human Sexuality

Fall 2006, Mondays and Wednesdays 2:30p-4:20p (Room 3417)

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Office Hours: Mondays 1:00-2:30p or by appointment

I am available at other times by appointment. You may also contact me at any time at the email address listed above.

Aims and Objectives

This course will introduce students to the anthropological study of human sexuality and gender. Topics covered include the biological basis for differences between men and women, how gender and sexuality appear differently in different cultures around the world, and topics like gender and language, politics, and religion. Examples of cultural practices will be drawn from around the world and presented using lectures, films, and slide presentations.

Textbooks

Klein, Laura F. 2004. *Women and Men in World Cultures*. New York: McGraw Hill.

Abu-Lughod, Lila 1993 *Writing Women's Worlds: Bedouin Stories*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Other Course Resources

www.tadmilwraith.com – This is my website. A page on the website is devoted to this class. You can keep up with the lecture schedule there, find additional copies of handouts, and review slides presented in class. Other resources related to your studies are posted on the website too. This includes a list of ethnographies and web links that might help you in your research.

www.anthroblog.tadmilwraith.com – This is my blog. I discuss issues related to anthropology, studying anthropology, and my other interests here. Much of the blog deals with aboriginal rights in British Columbia but other topics related to our course will be discussed when relevant. Feel free to browse at your leisure and, should you feel inclined, you are able to comment on what I write about on the blog.

Course Requirements

- i) Readings: Students are expected to complete required readings before class.
- ii) Tests and Exams: There are two midterm exams and a final quiz for this course. Students are responsible for all materials discussed in class. The tests will cover material from a limited number of lectures and the final exam will include materials from the entire course.
- iii) Written Assignments: There are two written assignments for this course. The first is a short prospectus outlining your intentions for an essay project. It is due in class on October 18, 2006. The second assignment is an essay of 2000-2500 words. It is due in class on November 29, 2006. All assignments will be discussed in class and handouts will be provided.
- iv) Participation is also graded in this class. Participation will be graded based on your involvement in the classroom and during discussion groups. Some of this mark will be based on the completion of answers to questions distributed in advance of discussion groups and participation in the discussion groups themselves.

Evaluation

Prospectus (Due October 18)	10%
Essay (Due November 29)	30%
Midterm I (October 4)	20%
Midterm II (November 8)	20%
Final Quiz (December 6)	10%
Participation	10%

Respectful Learning Environment

Students are expected to adhere to all College policies regarding respectful conduct in all aspects of this course. This includes proper conduct in classrooms and online through message boards, etc.

Attendance

As material discussed in class will differ from the text material, attending class is important. Regular participation in class-room discussion is part of your grade. If you miss a class, it is strongly recommended that you talk to the instructor and obtain the notes from another student.

Policy on Missed Tests

You must contact the instructor before an examination if an emergency prevents you from attending. Make up tests will only be administered if the student provides a **legitimate and pressing** reason for missing the test. **Otherwise a grade of 0 will be assigned for the test.**

Late Assignments

Penalties will be assessed at **10% per week** unless otherwise specified in assignment handouts. No assignments will be accepted after the last day of our class (December 6, 2006) or as otherwise noted in assignment handouts.

Plagiarism (Academic Dishonesty) Policy

Plagiarism is defined as a student “submitting the words, ideas, images or data of another person as his or her own in any academic writing, essay, thesis, research project or assignment in a course or program of study”. **Plagiarism amounts to cheating: it is a serious academic offence and will be dealt with as such in this course. If you are caught plagiarizing, you will receive a grade of 0 for the assignment and you will be subject to College disciplinary measures.**

Language Competency Policy

Students are advised that this is a **language intensive course**. Much of the material covered relies upon students possessing a good grasp of English grammar and syntax. It is **strongly recommended** that students have completed English 124 (Writing Skills) or possess its equivalent level for reading and writing English **prior** to taking this course. Students who do not possess a “post-secondary” level of reading and writing competence in English will not be able to complete this course successfully. Students for whom English is a second language are **strongly** advised to ensure that their level of English proficiency is adequate before taking this course.

Lecture Outline and Reading Assignments

I. The Anthropological Perspective and Theoretical Orientation

- 1: Class Introduction (September 6, 11, 13)
- Abu-Lughod – Preface (for Sept 11)

II. Biology Versus Culture

- 2: Biological Orientations – Biological Anthropology, Primatology, and Archaeology (September 18, 20)
- Klein Chapters 1-2
 - Abu-Lughod – Introduction (for Sept 20)
- 3: Cultural Orientations –Family and Marriage (Sept 25, 27, October 2)
- Klein Chapter 7
 - Abu-Lughod – Chapter 1 (for Sept 27)

October 4: Midterm I

October 9: No Class

III. The Impact of Material Conditions on the Expression of Sexuality and Gender

4: Foragers (October 11, 16, 18)

- Klein Chapter 3
- Abu-Lughod – Chapter 2 (for October 16)
- *Prospectus Due October 18*

5: Horticulturalists and Pastoralists (October 23, 25, 30)

- Klein Chapter 4
- Abu-Lughod – Chapter 3 (for October 23)

6: Agriculturalists and the Origins of Inequality (November 1)

- Klein Chapter 5
- Abu-Lughod – Chapter 4 (for October 30)

7: The State (November 6)

- Klein Chapter 6

November 8: Midterm II

November 13: No Class

IV. Ideological Constraints on the Expression of Gender and Sexuality: Ambiguities and Issues

8: Politics (November 15, 20)

- Klein Chapters 8, 10
- Abu-Lughod – Chapter 5 (for November 20)

9: Religion (November 22, 27)

- Klein Chapter 9

10: Gendered Language (November 29 and December 4)

- *Papers Due November 29*

December 6: Final Quiz