Anthropology 2240 – Fall 2006
Week 4 Discussion Group Questions

Names of Participants in Your Group (please sign):

1. Summarize the strengths and weaknesses of research by analogy with primates. (Why is primate research useful for understanding human behavior. Where, for you, does it fall short?)

2. Don't biological explanations for the roles of women and men include reasonable assumptions? What kinds of assumptions do biological anthropologists make about sexuality and gender? Or, to ask it another way, what are the benefits of acknowledging that women actually are the biological bearers of children and men are not for understanding the roles of men and women?

3. How does patrilineality affect Migdim and her family in *Writing Women's Worlds*? Draw up a list of the ways in which patrilineality affects Awlad 'Ali women, men, and children. (Refer to your book if you have to.)

4. Recent anthropologists, including Louise Lamphere, Michelle Rosaldo, and Lila Abu-Lughod moved the focus of gender in anthropology away from questions of biology or culture. What was of more interest to them? What is the legacy of Margaret Mead's research for these women?