

Anthropology 2240, Fall 2006
Readings for Klein

Weeks 1 – 5 (To Midterm I)

1: Class Introduction (September 6, 11, 13)

- No questions from Klein

2: Biological Orientations – Biological Anthropology, Primatology, and Archaeology (September 18, 20)

- Klein Chapters 1-2

1. What does anthropology bring to a study of gender and human sexuality?
2. How do science and religion explain human origins differently?
3. What is sexual dimorphism? Does it apply to humans?
4. Why study non-human primates to learn about sex and gender?
5. What problems exist when studying gender in archaeological terms? (Think, in part, of the problem of research by analogy.)
6. Note the reasons why Venus figurines and the excavations at Çatal Hüyük are important for the study of gender and sexuality.

3: Cultural Orientations –Family and Marriage (Sept 25, 27, October 2)

- Klein Chapter 7

1. Distinguish gender from kinship. Is kinship based in biology?
2. What stereotypes are associated with patrilineal, matrilineal, and bilateral kinship systems?
3. What impact does the type of kinship system you are part of have on marriages?
4. What does Klein mean by the ideology of marriage?
5. What are the characteristics of each of the types of marriages? In what circumstances (politically, economically) would you expect to see each one?
6. What questions interest Klein in the second part of her book? (pp 143-145)

Weeks 6 – 10 (To Midterm II)

4: Foragers (October 11, 16, 18)

- Klein Chapter 3

1. What is it about foraging cultures that make them seem so different than other cultures in terms of gender?
2. Is it hunting or gathering? Is it men or women? What and who dominates life in foraging cultures? (Or, am I simply asking about the anthropological stereotypes related to the roles of men and women in these cultures?)
3. What kind of leaders do you get in foraging groups?
4. What does cosmology say about gender roles and sexuality?

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

- Klein Chapter 4
1. Distinguish horticulturalists and pastoralists from foragers in terms of economy and family.
 2. How do Marx and Engels explain the beginnings of social inequality?
 3. In general terms, how do parental roles differ in matrilineal and patrilineal societies? What impact does patrilineal and matrilineal descent have on families?
 4. How does the text characterize the roles of Navajo men and women?

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

- Klein Chapter 5
1. Is inequality inherent in chiefdom or kingdom political systems and agricultural or industrial economies? Why is it accepted?
 2. Distinguish ascribed and achieved status. What are the impacts of these terms on the study of inequality?
 3. How are gender roles assigned among the Tlingit?

7: The State (November 6)

- Klein Chapter 6
1. We've moved from modes of production (economies) to political systems (ie the state) as our focus and frame for analysis. Why? Where's industrialism as a mode of production?
 2. Why break the chapter up into general thoughts on 'the state,' rural regions, and urban regions?
 3. What is the basis for life (according to the author) in rural areas? Urban areas? Does this conform with your thinking about these regions?
 4. How are the lives of men and women characterized differently in rural and urban areas?

Weeks 11 – 13 (To Final Quiz and End of Course)

8: Politics and Colonialism (November 15, 20)

- Klein Chapters 8, 10
1. What is authority and how is it different from power or even influence?
 2. Why are we back again talking about the universal subordination of women?
 3. How do you measure inequality?
 4. Why talk about women and power in terms of societal power and local power?
 5. In what ways has globalization affected the lives of indigenous men and women?
 6. Does anthropology have a role in 'development work'? How might anthropologists assist in the empowerment of men and women in colonial situations?

9: Religion (November 22, 27)

- Klein Chapter 9
1. What is religion and what does it do for followers or believers?
 2. Do women have power in religion? If so, what kinds of religions?
 3. How has missionizing by 'world religions' affected the status of women in religion and politics?
 4. What kinds of roles do women take on in religions?