

SOCIAL SCIENCE 351.01 -- VALUES: GENDER & CULTURE
Fall, 2009 -- M/W 7:30-8:45 a.m. -- Sam Glenn 121

INSTRUCTOR: Diana Ames

OFFICE: Spalding Hall, Rm. 100; (*leave papers/messages in my box in Soc. Sci. Div., SPH 101A*)

OFFICE HOURS: Tues, Weds, Thurs, 10:30-Noon, *or by app't. at a mutually convenient time*

PHONE: My office, with 24/7 voicemail: 792-2478 Social Science Division: 792-2291

E-MAIL: dames@lscs.edu (*Save all e-mail sent to me until I reply*). *You* are responsible for checking LCMail email acc't. for announcements or changes in syllabus requirements.

TEXTS: McKee, Nancy *Gender & Culture in America, 3rd Ed.*
Shostak, Marjorie *Nisa: the Life and Words of a !Kung Woman*
Austen, Jane *Pride and Prejudice*

RESERVED: There will be a number of articles 'on Reserve'; some will be on 'Electronic Reserve', and I will provide others to you individually in class.

FILMS: I will be showing a number of ethnographic films during regularly scheduled class periods. You will be responsible for information from these films on your exams.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will consider gender, sex and sexuality from an anthropological and culturally relative perspective. You will learn to think about values of gender and sexuality holistically, as they are embedded in the cultural systems of different societies, and as they relate to other aspects of a given society, including our own. In particular, you will learn to analyze the social and cultural constructions of gender in different cultural contexts, and at different times. This requires an understanding of cultural relativism, and an ability to think about issues comparatively and cross-culturally. All presentations and discussions will approach issues of gender and sexuality in an objective, scholarly and cross-culturally appropriate manner.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: *Successful completion of this course means that you should have a good understanding of the following:*

- the concept of culture;
- cultural relativism [as opposed to ethnocentrism];
- comparative and cross-cultural approaches to the study of gender;
- the holistic and integrated nature of culture as it relates to gender roles in different societies;
- distinctions between gender and sex;
- distinctions between sex and sexuality;
- the ability to analyze values about gender and sexuality from a cultural perspective;
- changes in cultural values about gender and sexuality over time in this society;
- the means to understand and relate personal and cultural values;
- issues of gender in contemporary US society.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Exams

- There will be *two equally-weighted exams* [see 'Tentative Course Outline' for dates].
- Exams will include material from the lectures, class discussions, readings and films. A week before each exam, I will hand out a study guide from which I will make up the exam. The exams will be primarily essay, with some short answer questions included.
- **Make-ups.** You are expected to take the exams at the scheduled times unless you will be gone for a College-related activity *and* have talked to me ahead of time. I will consider make-ups for documented illnesses and/or emergency situations on an individual basis *if* you contact me by phone, voicemail, or email within two days of the missed exam.
- Please see me before any exam for which you need special accommodations; I am happy to make such arrangements.

Writing Assignments

- There are *2 equally weighted writing assignments* for this course. The first of these is based on your reading of Shostak's 'Nisa', and the second is based on Austen's 'Pride and Prejudice' [See 'Tentative Course Outline' following for due dates].
- For each of these assignments you will write a four+ page (typed) analysis, which focuses on some course topics and questions as they relate to each book (see "Writing Assignments" following).
- Note the dates that these are due. No late papers accepted unless you have talked to me prior to the day the paper is due, or in the case of a documented illness or emergency.
- You are **required** to print and keep a second *paper* copy of each paper that you hand in.

Presentation

- You will give an oral presentation to the class on some aspect of gender and culture during the last two weeks of the semester.
- There will be assignments throughout the semester related to your presentation [see 'Presentation' and 'Tentative Course Outline' following for details and due dates].

Preparedness and Participation

- ***Ten percent*** of your final course grade will be based on your day-to-day preparedness and participation. This does not mean that you must be prepared 'with all the answers', but it does mean that you need to come to class having read and thought about the material, and ready to *try* to discuss it; I give this 10% based on your *effort / trying*, not on 'the right answer'. This grade does not include your attendance, although you obviously must be in class in order to engage in discussions.

COURSE EVALUATION:

Exams: [2 @ 20% each] = 40% of final grade

Papers: [2 @ 15% each] = 30% of final grade

Presentation = 20% of final grade

Prep & Participation = 10% of final grade

Total: = 100% of your course grade

I will compute your final grade based on the following cumulative percentages:

100%-90% = A to A-; 89%-80% = B+ to B-; 79%-70% = C+ to C-; 69%-60% = D+ or D;

59% & less = F

STUDENTS, PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions about the course or your work. Stop by during my office hours, or call and make an appointment to meet with me. I am happy to meet with you about any issues or concerns you have about the course and about your work.
- I encourage students who have any type of disability to see me privately [after class or in my office at your convenience--Spalding 100; 792-2478] so that we can arrange appropriate accommodations to better meet your learning needs in this course. I also urge you to contact the Office of Disability Services [Reid Hall, Rm. 111; 792-2211] to learn more about College services available to you.
- You must use LCSC's LCMail [you@lcmail.lcsc.edu] for all course emailings. This means that *you* are responsible for all information I send out via LCMail. If you have another preferred email ISP you may set your LCMail acc't. to forward to that email account. But *you* are still responsible for ensuring that you receive your email--one way or another.
- You may ***not*** use any online term paper / essay sources [free or paid], or any others' work, published or not, online, from Wikipedia or the like, or from 'paper files'. Doing so will result in a zero for the assignment and other College disciplinary action. If you are in any doubt about this, please contact me. As always, you may use appropriate scholarly resources for your papers, although both assignments will be designed so that you need no other references. Any outside sources must be appropriately cited, using standard MLA, AAA, or APA formats. If you are in doubt about *any* of this, contact me and I'll work with you on sources. You are responsible for knowing and following the College's code of academic honest.

COURSE RESPONSIBILITIES:

You are responsible for the following:

- your class attendance.
- readings [books or articles], lecture material, class films, ***and*** class discussions.
- directions or clarification of assignments made in class, including possible changes in assignments or exam dates.
- checking your LCmail email for course announcements [see info. above about this].
- notifying me before any paper due-date or exam that you will miss for scheduled College activities.
- contacting me immediately [within a day] by email, phone / voicemail, or in person when assignments or exams are missed due to unforeseeable and documented emergencies.
- turning in papers by their assigned due dates and times.
- *printing and keeping hard [paper] copies* of all your papers *before* you turn them in.
- a *thorough* knowledge of the College's policies concerning academic honesty (cheating on exams; plagiarism on papers). Check the LCSC Student Handbook for this. [See additional information about this above, and on each paper assignment sheet]. 351F09p3

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINE & ASSIGNMENTS
Social Science 351.01

Note: r=read for comprehension; sk=skim for main ideas; rr=reread for review

Key: MCK = McKee; SH = Shostak; AU = Austen Articles listed by authors' last names

<u>WEEK OF:</u> <i>(Monday date)</i>	<u>TOPICS</u>	<u>READINGS</u>
8/24	Course intro.; Gender, values & an anthropological perspective	r SH Intro. & 1-3 r Mascia 1; sk Austen.
8/31	Anth. perspective; gender, sex & sexuality and other terminology	r MCK Pref., 1 & 2;
9/7*	*Labor Day 9/7; Gender, sex & sexuality, cont.; Primates & prehistory & gender;	rr MCK; SH 4-7 r Brettel 1; r D. Freidel
9/14	Gender inequality; Begin hunters & gatherers Pres. Topic due 9/9.	r E. Friedl 1; Klein 1; r SH 8-12
9/21	Hunters & Gatherers; Begin pastoralists/horticulturalists	r Klein 2; SH 13-end Nielsen 1
9/28	Pastoral/horticultural, cont.; Middle Eastern tribal	rr Klein 2 r Lamphere 1
10/5	Catch-up; Exam # 1, Weds., Oct. 7th	rr all to here
10/12	Gender stratification Presentation Proposal due Oct. 5th	rr Nielsen 1 MCK 7; Nielsen 2
10/19	Kinship and gender Shostak Writing Assignment due Weds. 10/21 in class	r Klein 3; r AU 1-15
10/26	Marriage and gender roles <i>Last day to withdraw from a course w/o a grade is Fri., 10/30</i>	rr Klein 3; rr SH 5-7 r AU 16-30
11/2	Marriage and gender Presentation Preliminary Bibliography due 11/4	r MCK 3 & 8; r AU 31-45
11/9	Gender & Culture in America	r MCK 5-7; AU 46-end
11/16	Alternative constructs of gender and sexuality Exam # 2, Weds. Nov. 18th	r MCK 4; r Nanda 1 rr SH 13
11/23	***** Thanksgiving Break 11/23-11/29 *****	
11/30	Individual Presentations	
12/7	Individual Presentations	
12/14	Austen Writing Assignment due Monday, Dec. 14th by class time.	

COURSE WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

Following is the general information for both papers, as well as the specific assignments, with due dates.

General Information

Your papers should be **analyses** (NOT “book reports”), which focus on the gender topics of the specific ethnographic sources [‘Nisa’ and ‘Pride and Prejudice’]. **Specifically**, your writings should analyze the ethnography relative to gender roles in those societies, and relative to their cultural ethoses and cultural values, not your own. We will discuss this more in class.

These assignments should be between about 5 and 8 pages (typed, double spaced using standard margins and font sizes). You should have 1) an introduction to the paper topic/thesis; 2) a *brief* summary of the book as it relates to the topic; 3) an analysis/discussion of the questions I’ve noted in the assignments; 4) relevant examples and quotes throughout from the book; and 5) a summary of your discussion, supporting your main point and/or thesis.

Note that these must be *your* original analyses and writing. The use of anyone else’s work must be duly noted and cited in appropriate format, *even if it is not a direct quotation*. You may not use the words, or closely paraphrased wording, of anyone else without proper citation. And you may not use others’ previously written [published or unpublished] papers or articles [or any sections of same], from the Internet or from anyone else, including the work of other students, now or in the past. Doing so will *minimally* result in a ‘0’ on this assignment, and will also result in reports to the following: your academic advisor, the Chair of your major Division and/or Program, and the Academic Dean of the College.

WRITING ASSIGNMENT # 1

Nisa: the Life and Words of a !Kung Woman

Due: In class, Wednesday, October 21st

Using the general criteria above, write an *analysis* of marriage in !Kung society as described by Nisa. Go beyond a description of the form and rituals to examine both men’s and women’s roles in marriage and throughout their lives. Your paper should look at both marriage and gender roles in the context of traditional !Kung society and culture. In other words, be sure that your analysis indicates in what ways both gender roles and marriage reflect the cultural values and cultural ethos of !Kung life.

WRITING ASSIGNMENT # 2

Pride and Prejudice

Due: In class, Monday, Dec. 14th

Marriage is arguably one of the most important cultural institutions in eighteenth and nineteenth century England, particularly among the gentry and the aristocracy. Using *Pride and Prejudice* as your ethnographic guide, write an analysis that describes the central role of marriage in the lives of both men and women. What are the cultural values and practices that surround and support it, and how and in what ways does it support the culture of that time? In particular, in what ways does it define the gender roles of that society?

GENDER AND CULTURE ORAL PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTATIONS: In-class, **the last two weeks of the semester**; [see the ‘Tentative Course Outline’ above]. Attendance is required for all sessions.

You will choose and focus a topic related to religion and culture, and develop a bibliography from professional sources [journals; academic texts]. This topic may cover any socio-cultural aspect of religion, but must be focused around the relationship between culture and religion. Your presentation must have a thesis and focus from the professional literature, and present current information on the topic. The primary sources of information for your paper must be published monographs, and/or articles published in refereed academic journals. You may use information from the Internet, *but this material **will not count as sources in your bibliography.*** In other words, you may read this for background, but your bibliographic sources must be from peer-reviewed journals and from academic texts [not the same thing as textbooks].

You will choose your presentation topic *by the **fourth week*** of the semester, and submit a short focused topic; you will submit a brief proposal [1-2 paragraphs] for the presentation during the ***eighth week.*** *By the **eleventh week*** of classes, you will submit a statement of progress, along with your preliminary / significant bibliography of materials [you may use additional sources, but the majority of your research bibliography must be done by this time]. The choice of your presentation, your proposal, and progress report / preliminary bibliography will count **10%** of the final presentation grade. In other words, you can not get an ‘A’ on this presentation without doing these assignments appropriately. You will also turn in a final bibliography [using APA format] on the day you give your presentation.

NOTE: You are also responsible for a full understanding of the codes of academic honesty, and for avoiding any forms of plagiarism.. This must be your original work. Understand that any violation of the above will result *minimally* in a zero for the assignment and reports to the following: your academic advisor; the Chair of your major Division and / or Program; the Academic Dean of the College.

RESERVE ARTICLES

The following articles are arranged alphabetically by the authors' last names. They will be available on Electronic Reserve, or handed out in class; you are responsible for obtaining the assigned articles by their reading due dates.

- Brettel, Caroline, B. *'Gender and Prehistory'*
Freidel, D., Schele, L. *'Mayan Royal Women; a Lesson in Pre-Columbian History'*
Friedl, Ernestine *'Society & Sex Roles'*
Lamphere, Louise *'The Domestic Sphere of Women and the Public Sphere of Men'*
Mascia-Lees, F. E. *'The History of the Study of Gender in Anthropology'*
Nanda, Serena *'Neither Man nor Woman; the Hijras of India'*
Nielsen, J. McC. *'Gender and Status in Pre-industrial Societies'*
Nielsen, J. McC. *'Multiple Jeopardies: Age, Race, and Social Class'*