

**ANT 314: Anthropology of Sex and Gender Diversity**

T TH 3:30-4:45

Candelaria 1260

Spring 2009 Section 009

**Instructor:** Professor Sara Jamieson  
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**Office Hours:**  
Tues. 2:00– 3:00  
Thurs. 2:00– 3:00

**Texts:**

Gender Diversity: 2000

Serena Nanda

The Headman Was a Woman: 2008

K. Endicott and K. Endicott

**Reserve Readings:** listed in order of due date (see syllabus)  
Available on-line at Michener Library

“Testosterone Rules” – Sapolsky, Robert

"Genesis" [Judeo-Christian] – Old Testament

"Emergence" – [Apache] Bierhorst, John, ed.

“Men and Women in Prehistory: An Archaeological Challenge” – Conkey, Margaret

“The Slaying of Monsters” [Apache] – Opler, Morris

“Thinking about Women and the Origin of the State” – Rapp, Rayna

“The Domestic Sphere of Women and the Public World of Men” – Lamphere, Louise

“The Egg and the Sperm” – Martin, Emily

“A Cultural Approach to Male-Female Miscommunication” – Maltz, Daniel and Ruth Borker

“Unmasking Tradition; A Sudanese anthropologist confronts ‘female circumcision’ and its terrible tenacity” – Abusharaf, Rogaia Mustafa

“Coming of Age and Coming Out Ceremonies Across Cultures” – Herdt, Gilbert

“Urbanization and the Symbolic Revaluations of the Girls’ Puberty Rite among Urban Wayuu in Maracaibo, Venezuela” – Jamieson, Sara

"Thailand: Because She Looks Like a Child" – Bales, Kevin

**Instructions for Accessing Electronic Reserves**

1. Begin at the **UNC Homepage** ([www.unco.edu](http://www.unco.edu)) and click on **Libraries**
2. Click on **The Source Library Catalog**
3. Click on **Course Reserves by Instructor**
4. Enter my name: **Jamieson, Sara**
  - a. This page displays all items on Paper and Electronic Reserve. Items that are listed as **“View or Print [Title]”** are electronic Reserves. Click on the item you’re looking for.
  - b. You will see the first page of the Reserve item. Enter your name and ID number and click on **Submit**.
5. You can now view or print the Reserve item.

Reserve materials are stored as PDF files. For a free download of the Adobe Acrobat Reader software, go to <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>  
For further information or help accessing electronic Reserves, please call (970) 351-2671.

**ADA Statement:**

Students with disabilities who believe they may need accommodations in this class are encouraged to contact the Disability Access Center at UNC 351-2289.

**Catalogue Description:**

This course focuses on biologically and culturally determined gender role differences by comparing sex-related behavior in a variety of cultures.

**Purpose of Course / Goals and Objectives:**

This course explores the construction of gender and sex in a variety of the world's societies. It focuses on sex and gender as fundamental aspects of the human experience and as analytical constructs. On completion of the course, students will have gained knowledge of gender-based systems of social classification in non-Western societies, and acquired knowledge of the ways in which gender impacts on the lives of women and men throughout the world.

The goals and objectives of this course for the student are as follows:

1. To become aware of and knowledgeable about the essential role played by gender in all human societies; this means that we will draw on the historical framework, methodology, and research findings of various relevant disciplines; this course is broad in scope and will integrate various perspectives; the interrelation of knowledge will be emphasized.
2. To critically view the multiple ways in which gender is elaborated in a variety of social and cultural constructs; this means that students will identify issues involved in human welfare and survival and foster cross-cultural understanding.
3. To develop a critical ability to understand and engage in on-going theoretical debates about gender; thus I aim to foster critical and independent thought.
4. To develop writing and communication skills; produce scholarship.

**This course is divided into FOUR sections:**

**I. Origins: Nature-Nurture**, searching for the essence of a gendered humanity.

**II. Anthropological Theories of Gender** (followed by the midterm exam).

**III. Cross-Cultural Case Studies** on sex roles and sexual practices.

**IV. Gender Diversity/Gender Bending** (followed by the final exam).

**Course Requirements:**

**500 pts.**

**2 Exams: Midterm (250 pts.) and a non-cumulative Final exam (250 pts.)** These will be part essay, part identification, and part multiple choice (see syllabus for exact dates).

**50 pts.**                    **Pop quizzes and attendance** I will not take attendance for this class. However, absences will preclude you from taking pop quizzes, for which no make-ups will be given. Pop quizzes will be worth a total of 50 pts. and will cover information in the readings, films, or lectures. Know that you are accountable for keeping up with the assigned readings and for attending class regularly. I also reserve the right to makes changes to the syllabus, which I will announce during class. Therefore when you miss a class you are responsible for getting notes from a classmate and finding out about possible amendments to the syllabus. I will not provide you with copies of my lectures.

**50 pts.**                    **Exercise** on gender in contemporary advertisements will be worth 50 pts.

**600 pts. TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE**

**Class Grades**

<b>A = 600 – 540</b>	<b>(100-90%)</b>
<b>B = 539 – 480</b>	<b>(89-80%)</b>
<b>C = 479 - 420</b>	<b>(79-70%)</b>
<b>D = 419 - 360</b>	<b>(69-60%)</b>
<b>F = below 359</b>	<b>(below 60%)</b>

**Tentative Course Outline and Assignments**

- Be sure to look ahead; reading assignments are due on day listed; bring books/articles/reading notes to class.
- Please turn off and put away cell phones (except for emergency situations); I will confiscate your cell phone if I catch you text-messaging during class.
- In-class exercises and **cannot** be made up, except for documented illness or conflicts you notify me of in advance.

**Week #1            INTRODUCTION**

Jan. 13 Introduction to course and course requirements

Jan. 15 Introduction to Anthropology

**I. ORIGINS: The “science” of sex**

An introduction to gender and the biology of sex (XX, XY, and Intersex). Check out: Intersex Society of North America Web Site

<http://www.isna.org/> and “When Gender Isn’t a Given”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/09/19/fashion/19INTE.html>

Assignment: Begin reading *Headman* (pp. 1-38)

**Week #2**      **Origins: The Case for Nature: Biological Determinism or the “Essentialist Position”**

Jan. 20      The Case for Nature  
Assignment #1: do an Internet search on testosterone and estrogen (one hit/hormone). Read them and bring these to class with you. In-class group exercise.  
Assignment #2: *e-Reserve* “Testosterone Rules”

Jan. 22      **SEX ID and Sexualities: homo— hetero— bisex—**  
Assignment #1: Go to <http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/humanbody/sex/results.shtml> and complete your sex i.d. profile.  
Assignment #2:  
Check out: Straight, Gay or Lying? Bisexuality Revisited at <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/07/05/health/05sex.html>

**Week #3**      **Origins: The Case for Nurture: Cultural Determinism or the “Constructionist Position”**

Jan. 27      The Case for Nurture  
Assignment: *e-Reserve* "Genesis" [Judeo-Christian]; "Emergence" [Apache]; Batek Origin Story (pp. 27-28: *Headman was a Woman*)

Jan. 29      HIV and AIDS presentation / in-class exercise

**Week #4**

Feb. 3      Gender Advertisements  
Assignment #1: Check out: <http://www.genderads.com>

Feb. 5      **II. THEORIES OF GENDER**  
***Evolutionary Theory***  
Assignment #1: “Men and Women in Prehistory: An Archaeological Challenge” (+ typed reading notes)  
Assignment #2: *Headman* (pp. 39-67)

**Week #5**

Feb. 10      Gender Advertisement Assignment due at the beginning of class  
***Psychological Theories***  
Assignment: *e-Reserve* “The Slaying of Monsters”

Feb. 12      ***Materialist Theories***  
Assignment #1: *e-Reserve* “Thinking about Women and the Origin of the State.”  
Assignment #2: *Headman* (pp. 69-109)

**Week #6**

Feb. 17

***Structuralist Theories***

Assignment: e-Reserve “The Domestic Sphere of Women and the Public World of Men”

Feb. 19

***Discourse Analysis***

Assignment: e-Reserve “The Egg and the Sperm”

**Week #7**

Feb. 24

***Gender and Language***

Assignment: e-Reserve “A Cultural Approach to Male-Female Miscommunication”

Feb. 26

**Midterm exam**

**Week #8**

March 3

**III. GENDERED CROSS-CULTURAL CASE STUDIES**

***Male and Female Puberty Rites: an Introduction to ‘blood magic’***

***Female Puberty Rites with a focus on Female Circumcision [Africa]***

Film: “Female Circumcision”

Assignment: e-Reserve “Unmasking Tradition: a Sudanese anthropologist confronts...”

March 5

Female circumcision continued

**Week #9**

March 10

***Male Puberty Rites with a focus on New Guinea (Sambia)***

Assignment: e-Reserve “Coming of Age and Coming Out Ceremonies Across Cultures”

March 12

Film: “Guardians of the Flute” (55 min.)

March 16-20<sup>th</sup> **SPRING BREAK**

**Week #10**

March 24

Female initiations among the Wayuu of Venezuela

Assignment: E-reserves: “Urbanization and the Symbolic Revaluations of the Girls’ Puberty Rite among Urban Wayuu in Maracaibo, Venezuela.” Pp. 142-152.

March 26

***Marriage Practices*** in cross-cultural perspective

**Week #11**

March 31

***Marriage Practices*** continued

Mosuo of Southwestern China “Walking Marriage”

April 2 ***Sexual Exploitation with a focus on Southeast Asia***  
Assignment: *E-reserves*: "Thailand: Because She Looks Like a Child"

**Week #12**

April 7 Film: "Anonymously Yours"  
Assignment: *Headman* pp. 111-126

April 9 \*NO CLASS\*  
Assignment: *Headman* pp. 127-146

**Week #13**

April 14 ***Gendered in Japan: Geishas, Male Host Bars, and Mizuko Kuyo***  
Assignment #1: *Headman* pp. 147-152

***Gendered in the Middle East***

Assignment # 2: Check out: “The Day the Music Died” at  
<http://www.now.org/nnt/03-98/taliban.html> and <http://www.rawa.org/index.php>

April 16 **IV. GENDER DIVERSITY**  
***North American Indians***  
Film: “Two Spirit People”  
Assignment: *Gender Diversity* pp. 1-9. Ch. 1 (pp. 11-26)

**Week #14**

April 21 ***India***  
Assignment: *Gender Diversity* Ch. 2 (pp. 27-41)

April 23 ***Brazil***  
Film excerpt “All about My Mother.”  
Assignment: *Gender Diversity* Ch. 3 (pp. 43-56)

**Week #15**

April 28 ***Polynesia***  
Film: “Paradise Bent.” (50 min.)  
Assignment: *Gender Diversity* Ch. 4 (pp. 57-70)

April 30 ***Thailand and the Philippines***  
Film: “Ladyboys”  
Assignment: *Gender Diversity* Ch. 5 (pp. 71-85)

***Gender Diversity: summary and questions***

Assignment: *Gender Diversity* Ch. 6-7 (pp. 87-106)

(Last day of classes is May 1<sup>st</sup>)

May 5<sup>th</sup>

**Final Exam**, time to be announced