



School of Arts & Science  
SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT  
ANTH 110  
Anthropology of Women  
Fall 2010

**COURSE OUTLINE**  
**Monday & Wednesday 2:30-3:50 pm**  
**Young Building Room 214**

**1. Instructor Information**

(a)	Instructor:	Michelle Hardy
(b)	Office Hours:	Monday 4 - 5:00 pm
(c)	Location:	Young 210A
(d)	Phone:	250-370-3370
(e)	Email:	HardyM@camosun.bc.ca

**2. Intended Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Outline the main tenets of the feminist perspective in anthropology.
2. Explain the biosocial nature of pregnancy and childbirth.
3. Outline the cross-cultural patterns of marriage, gender division of labour, and activities originating in the domestic sphere.
4. Describe the impact of international development on women.
5. Critically evaluate relevant topics such as veiling, seclusion, and female genital modification using cultural relativism.
6. Apply the feminist anthropology perspective to issues pertaining to women's lives in Canada and around the world.
7. Apply the anthropological perspective in writing an anthropological paper.

**3. Required Materials**

**(a) From the Camosun bookstore:**

Shostak, Marjorie  
2000 *Nisa: The Life and Words of a !Kung Woman*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press

Reader for Anth 110, which includes 16 anthropological articles and a glossary of key anthropological terms

**(b) On reserve at the Lansdowne Camosun library:**

Friedl, Erika  
1989 A Betrothal, a Rape, and a Guess about Turan's Fate. *In Women of Deh Koh*. Pp110-119 (Chapter 6). New York: Penguin Books

Note: You will be notified in class if additional readings are put on reserve during the term.

**(c) On the internet:**

Firfiray, Fahim  
n.d. Object of Despair. Electronic document, <http://www.islamawareness.net/Poems/poem4.html>, accessed September 2, 2010

Kurkiala, Mikael  
2003 Interpreting Honour Killings: The Story of Fadime Sahindal (1975-2002) in the Swedish Press. *Anthropology Today* 19 (1):6-7

Reischer, Erica and Kathryn S. Koo

2004 The Body Beautiful: Symbolism and Agency in the Social World. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 33:297-317

Wayland, Coral

2001 Gendering Local Knowledge: Medicinal Plant Use and Primary Health Care in the Amazon. *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 15 (2):171-188.

The three articles are available online through the Camosun library. Access them through the JSTOR Arts & Sciences I Collection.

**(d) Handouts**

Reading guide (containing focus questions to assist you with the reading material)

Assignment handouts

Study guides (for exams)

Other short handouts may be given out throughout the term

#### 4. Course Content and Schedule

*Please note:* Schedule may change – changes will be announced in class.

Week	Topic	Readings
1: September 8th	Course Overview Intro to Anthropology	
2: September 13th & 15th	Intro to Anthropology cont'd Intro to Feminist Anthropology A Cross-Cultural Perspective of Gender Roles	Ember (Reader) Gay y Blasco (Reader) Ward (Reader)
3: September 20th & 22nd	Introduction to the !Kung & Fieldwork Methods Childhood among the !Kung	Shostak Introduction Shostak Chpts 1, 2, 3
4: Sept. 27th & 29th	Sexuality, Marriage & Family Childbirth: A Biocultural Perspective	Shostak Chpts 4, 5, 6, 7 Shostak Chpts 8 & 9
5: October 4th & 6th	Gender Roles and Culture Change Review & Catch-Up	Shostak Chpts 10, 11, 12
6: October 11th & 13th	Thanksgiving <b>Wednesday: Midterm I</b>	
7: October 18th & 20th	A Cross-Cultural Approach to Illness & Healing The !Kung Today	Shostak Chpt 13 Shostak Chpts 14, 15 & Epilogue
8: October 25th & 27th	Intro to Do Kay & Gender Socialization Gendered Lives	(Handout) Friedl Chpts 13 & 19 (Reader) Friedl Chpts 4 (Reader) & 6 (Reserve)
9: November 1st & 3rd	Language & Gender Marriage & Family	Brizendine & Allen (Reader) Ward & Edelstein, Nanda, Friedl Chpts 30 & 7 (Reader)
10: November 8th & 10th	Movie: A World Without Husbands & Fathers <b>Wednesday: Midterm II</b>	(Handout)
11: November 15th & 17th	The Female Body in Cross-Cultural Perspective: (a) Introduction & Body Ideals (b) Female Genital Cutting	Reischer & Koo (on-line) & Simmons (Reader) Gruenbaum (Reader)
12: November 22nd & 24th	(c) Clothing: The Veil Women & Development	Fernea & Fernea (Reader) & Firfiray (on-line poem) Lockwood (Reader)
13: November 29th & Dec 1st	<b>Monday: Assignment 2 Due</b> Women & Development cont'd Women & Immigration	Wayland (on-line) Harper (Reader)
14: December 6th & 8th	Women & Immigration cont'd Review & Catch-up	Kurkiala (on-line)

## 5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

### (a) Assignments (25%)

#### **Assignment #1 Group Project & Presentation on Women & Contemporary Cultural Issues & Topics (10%)**

Women in various societies are not only affected by a wide variety of significant issues, but are active agents within their social context. Drawing from an anthropological framework, you will have the opportunity to work with other students (in groups of four) and explore a contemporary social issue or topic linked to women in a particular society. On the next page is a list of project topics and dates that correspond to class topics. Each group will write a project paper and do an oral presentation on the date corresponding to the topic they have chosen. A detailed outline of what should be covered in the project and presentation will be given out in class.

**Due date: Each group project paper is due on the day of the presentation. Presentations will be held throughout the term. Sign-up sheet will be provided.**

#### **Assignment #2 Gender Socialization (15%) Monday, November 29th**

Gender is shaped by culture. This paper allows you to reflect on your own gender socialization by giving specific examples on how your gender identity was influenced by various practices and institutions. You will be required to critically compare your socialization with cross-cultural examples discussed in class and the course readings. Further details on this assignment and formatting requirements will follow in another handout.

**Students are expected to hand assignments in on the day they are due.**

### (b) Exams (75%)

- i. Midterm I 25% Wednesday October 13th
- ii. Midterm II 25% Wednesday, November 10th
- iii. Final Exam 25% During College Exam Period

Each exam will be based on all the material covered to that date, including lectures, films and readings. However, midterm II and the final exam are not cumulative. Each exam will consist of multiple-choice, short-answer and essay questions. You will get a study guide for each exam. All exams must be attempted in order to pass this course. It is your responsibility to be present for all exams. If a student misses an exam due to illness, s/he must present a medical note to write a makeup exam. The final exam will be held during the college final exam period. Do not make any Christmas holiday travel plans until you know when all your exams are. No alternative dates will be given for writing the final exam because of travel plans. Additional exams/assignments are not available to students in order to upgrade poor marks. 5

## 6. Topics for Assignment #1

(a) Gender Roles: The emergence of South African female tribal chiefs.

Resource: <http://www.heraldsotland.com/life-style/real-lives/south-africa-s-female-tribal-chiefs-1.1031663>

Date: Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup>

(b) Illness & Healing: Improving women's health in Haiti's settlement camps.

Resource: <http://www.pih.org/news/entry/improving-womens-health-in-haitis-settlement-camps/>

Date: Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup>

(c) Gender Socialization: Do toys promote gender stereotypes or reflect social reality?

Resource: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/article798589.ece>

Date: Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup>

(d) Gender & Sexuality: Hijras of India – Life on the margins of society.

Resource: <http://www.banglajol.info/bd/index.php/JHPN/article/view/3388/2835>

Date: Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>

(e) Marriage & Family: Should we practice cultural relativism in regards to child brides?

Resource: <http://www.pbs.org/now/shows/341/video.html>

Date: Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>

(f) The Female Body: Breast implants as a coming-of-age ritual in the U.S.A.

Resource: <http://www.womensenews.org/story/health/040606/teens-getting-breast-implants-graduation>

Date: Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup>

(g) Female Genital Cutting: Examining issues surrounding legalizing a less extreme version of female genital circumcision in Australia.

Resource: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/05/28/2911991.htm?section=justin>

Date: Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>

(h) The Veil: Is France's move to ban face veils fair?

Resource: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/europe/french-parliament-approves-ban-on-face-veils/article1638272/>

Date: Monday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>

(i) Women & Development: Why are women excellent investment risks?

Resource: <http://asiasociety.org/education-learning/for-students/global-topics/microfinance-and-women-the-micro-mystique>

Date: Monday, November 29<sup>th</sup>

(j) Women & Immigration: The vulnerability of Filipino nannies in Canada.

Resource: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/arts/television/andrew-ryan/the-nannies-state-of-uncertainty/article1630481/>

Date: Monday, December 6<sup>th</sup>

## 7. Grading System

### Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D	Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite.	1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

### Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy E-1.5 at [camosun.ca](http://camosun.ca) for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
I	<i>Incomplete:</i> A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.
IP	<i>In progress:</i> A temporary grade assigned for courses that, due to design may require a further enrollment in the same course. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course. (For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3 <sup>rd</sup> course attempt or at the point of course completion.)
CW	<i>Compulsory Withdrawal:</i> A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.

## 8. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

### LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College calendar, at Student Services, or the College web site at [camosun.ca](http://camosun.ca).

### STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is a Student Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services, and the College web site in the Policy Section.

## **9. Learning Environment**

As a group, we can foster thoughtful creativity and commitment to learning within each other over the coming term. Your enrollment in this course signifies a commitment to come to class on time, prepared to participate in the class discussions and to complete the assigned work. Please show your respect of other people's perspectives in the class discussions and demonstrate your commitment to learning by turning off cell phones, iPods or other personal devices during classes. Use your laptop for note-taking only. Thank you!