

**DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY**  
**University of Calgary**

**ANTH 331.02**  
**Anthropology of Sex and Gender**  
**FALL 2011**

**Time: MWF 15:00-15:50**

**Location: CHC 119**

Instructor: Juli L. Finlay  
Office: SS 802  
Email: jlfinlay@ucalgary.ca  
Office Hours: MW 13:30-14:30

TA: TBA  
Office:  
Email:  
Office Hours:



**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course examines anthropological approaches to the study of sex (the genetic distinction between male and female) and gender (the socially and culturally constructed ideas about what it means to be male and female). We begin with an examination of behavioural ecology perspectives on biological differences between males and females, with a focus on sexual selection and reproductive strategies across species (evolutionary theory), and within human origins research. We investigate how the gender biases of scientists have influenced their (and our) perceptions of animal behaviour and its applicability to humans.

In the remainder of the course we look at various ways that gender has been (and is) perceived across cultures. We will discuss how gender roles can affect power differentials between males and females, economics, kinship systems, and perceptions of masculinity and femininity. Though the roles of both men and women will be studied, we will focus more on the experiences of women.

**REQUIRED TEXT:**

Brettell, Caroline B. and Sargent, Carolyn F. (eds.) 2009. Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective. Pearson-Prentice Hall: New Jersey (listed in Lecture Schedule as B&S)

**ADDITIONAL REQUIRED READINGS:**

From: Zuk, Marlene. 2002. Sexual Selections. University of California Press: California (listed in Lecture Schedule as Zuk)

This book does NOT need to be purchased. It is available as an e-book through the University of Calgary Library.

## EVALUATION:

Evaluation for this course will include two mid-term exams and one final exam. Exams are NOT cumulative, although material from earlier in the course and from other courses you have taken can be used to answer questions.

### **Mid-Term Exam 1 - 30% of final grade - October 14**

This exam will cover all lectures, videos, discussions and assigned readings from the beginning of the course (Sept. 12 - Oct. 12). Format is multiple choice and short answer.

### **Mid-Term Exam 2 - 30% of final grade - November 9**

This exam will cover all lectures, videos, discussions and assigned readings since Mid-Term 1 (Oct. 17 - Nov. 7). Format is multiple choice and short answer.

### **Final Exam - 40% of final grade - Set by the Registrar (Dec. 12-21)**

This exam will cover all lectures, videos, discussions and assigned readings since Mid-Term 2 (Nov. 14 - Dec. 9). Format is multiple choice, short answer and one essay question.

**Please Note:** Since ALL lecture materials will be covered on exams (including videos, lectures, discussions, and guest lectures), students will need to attend class to do well in the course. Lecture notes will be posted on Blackboard and can be printed before class to assist in note-taking.

The textbook material is related and complementary to lecture material. However, lectures will not be tightly tied to the textbook and both need to be mastered to do well on exams. Students should read the assigned texts and pay close attention to areas where they overlaps with the lectures.

## TENTATIVE LECTURE SCHEDULE:

**Readings should be done prior to the weeks' lectures to enhance your understanding and ability to participate in class discussions.** Although not assigned, I recommend reading the introduction to each of the sections we will cover in B&S. The introductions provide an overview of the study area, and a synopsis of each of the papers in the section.

WEEK 1 Sept. 12, 14, 16	Introduction to Sex and Gender Debunking Biological Myths Film: <i>Codes of Gender</i> <b>Readings:</b> Biology, Gender and Human Evolution (B&S: pp. 1-7); Introduction and Chapter 1 (Zuk: pp. 1-33)
WEEK 2 Sept. 19, 21, 23	Darwinism and Social Darwinism Sex Differences I Film: <i>What Males Will Do</i> <b>Readings:</b> Animal Models and Gender (B&S: pp. 7-16); Chapter 2 (Zuk: 34-46)

WEEK 3 Sept. 26, 28, 30	Sex Differences II <b>Readings:</b> Chapter 3 (Zuk: pp: 47-60); Lifeboat Ethics: Mother Love and Child Death in Northeast Brazil (B&S: 33-39); Chapter 8 (Zuk: 121-135)
WEEK 4 Oct. 3, 5, 7	Gender in Human Origins Models and Prehistory <b>Readings:</b> The Role of Women in Human Evolution (B&S: pp. 16-21); The Fashioning of Women (B&S: pp. 65-76)
WEEK 5 Oct. 10, 12, 14	Oct. 10 - Thanksgiving – University Closed – No Class Oct. 12 – Catch-up and Exam Review <b>Oct. 14 – Mid-Term 1</b>
WEEK 6 Oct. 17, 19, 21	Domestic and Public Worlds Film: <i>Asante Market Women</i> (52 mins) <b>Readings:</b> The Domestic Sphere of Women and the Public World of Men: The Strengths and Limitations of an Anthropological Dichotomy (B&S: 90-99); “It’s a Pleasure to Cook for Him”: Food, Mealtimes, and Gender in Some South Wales Households (B&S: 99-108); Fatherhood and the Mediating Role of Women (B&S: 109-123)
WEEK 7 Oct. 24, 26, 28	The Sexual Division of Labour and Gender Stratification <b>Readings:</b> Woman the Hunter: The Agta (B&S: pp. 143-152); Do Tents and Herds Still Matter? Pastoral Nomadism and Gender among the Tuareg in Niger and Mali (B&S: 162-174); Women and Work in a Postrevolutionary Society: Urban Cooperatives and the Informal Economy in Nicaragua (B&S: 174-189)
WEEK 8 Oct. 31, Nov. 2, 4	Gender, Property and the State Film: <i>Daughters of Afghanistan</i> <b>Readings:</b> Dowry, Bride-Burning, and Female Power in India (308-317); Japanese Mothers and <i>Obentos</i> : The Lunch-Box as Ideological State Apparatus (329-345)
WEEK 9 November 7, 9, 11	Nov. 7 - Catch-up and Exam Review <b>Nov. 9 – Mid-Term 2</b> Nov. 11 – Reading Days (Nov. 10-13) – No Class
WEEK 10 Nov. 14, 16, 18	The Cultural Construction of Gender and Personhood Film: <i>Tough Guise</i> <b>Readings:</b> My Encounter with Machismo in Spain (B&S: 196-210); The Named and the Nameless: Gender and Person in Chinese Society (B&S: 215-227)

WEEK 11 Culture, Sexuality and the Body  
 Nov. 21, 23, 25 Guest Speaker: Jesse Invik (Wednesday, November 23)  
 Film: *Middle Sexes* (partial)  
**Readings:** Chapter 11 (Zuk: 168-183); Hijras: An “Alternative” Sex/Gender in India (B&S: 275-282); Measuring Up to Barbie: Ideals of the Feminine Body in Popular Culture (B&S: 282-295)

WEEK 12 Gender, Household and Kinship  
 Nov. 28, 30, Dec. 2 **Readings:** Between a Rock and a Hard Place: The Labyrinth of Working and Parenting in a Poor Community (B&S: 362-377); Matrilocality, Power, and Gender Relations in Jamaica (B&S: 377-384)

WEEK 13 Gender, Politics and Reproduction  
 Dec. 5, 7, 9 Are boys genetically predisposed to be better at math than girls?  
 Exam Review  
**Readings:** Political Demography: The Banning of Abortion in Ceausescu’s Romania (B&S: 467-482); Female Genital Cutting: Culture and Controversy (B&S 491-504); Chapter 12 (Zuk: 184-199)

**GRADING SCHEME:**

A+	100-94.9%	B	79.8-74.9%	C-	62.8-58.9%
A	94.8-89.9%	B-	74.8-70.9%	D+	58.8-54.9%
A-	89.8-84.9%	C+	70.8-66.9%	D	54.8-49.9%
B+	84.8-79.9%	C	66.8-62.9%	F	49.8% and less

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:**

**Missed Exams** - A missed examination automatically receives a score of zero. In the event of an emergency or illness, notify the Department of Anthropology office (403-220-6516) or the instructor ([jilfinlay@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jilfinlay@ucalgary.ca)) before the missed exam. Documentation (i.e., a doctor’s note) must be provided before a make-up test will be scheduled.

**Returned Exams** - Results of exams will be posted on Blackboard. Exams will NOT be returned to the student, but can be reviewed with the instructor or TA (preferred) during office hours or by appointment. Some exam questions will be discussed in class. To view multiple choice keys see the TA. If, following a review of your exam, you have concerns about your evaluation; you will be asked to provide a short statement explaining the problem. The question will then be re-graded and marks adjusted (up or down as warranted) at the instructor’s discretion.

No accommodation will be made for poor performance on exams. For instance, additional items cannot be submitted in lieu of exams and grades will not be curved. Be sure that you are prepared for exams so that you perform well when you have the opportunity.

**ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS:**

It is the students' responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at (403) 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course.

**EMERGENCY EVACUATION:**

In the event that the classroom should need to be evacuated due to an emergency situation please note that the primary assembly point shall be at the Professional Faculties Food Court and the Education Block Food Court shall be used as a secondary assembly point.

**PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:**

Plagiarism: "to steal and pass off the ideas or words of another as one's own" (Webster's). Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will automatically result in a failing grade for the submission. Any student caught plagiarizing may also be subject to additional University sanctions. Students are expected to be familiar with the Anthropology Departments policy on intellectual honesty available at:

<https://www.anth.ucalgary.ca/home/links/intellectual-honesty-guidelines>