

Anthropology 109
Sections 8005/6
Dr. Leanna Wolfe

LA Valley College
Fall 2011

GENDER, SEX AND CULTURE

Class Meets:

August 30, 2011 – December 15, 2011
Tuesdays/Thursdays 11:20 AM – 12:45 PM Room: EST-107

How to Reach Me:

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Office: AHS-303 **Office Hours:** 1:00 – 2:00 PM Thursdays by appointment

Textbooks: (available at the campus bookstore and online)

Sex at Dawn: How We Mate, Why We Stray and What it Means for Modern Relationships
By Christopher Ryan and Cacilda Jetha, HarperCollins, 2010
ISBN: 9780061707810

Marriage, A History: How Love Conquered Marriage
By Stephanie Coontz, Penguin, 2005
ISBN: 14303667X

Gender Diversity: Crosscultural Variations
By Serena Nanda, Waveland Press, 2000
ISBN: 1577660749

Overview:

This course offers a worldwide comparison of gender roles and sexuality as viewed from various perspectives including biological/evolutionary, cultural, psychological, historic, and prehistoric, especially as they relate to the lives of women and men in modern Western society. Special attention will be focussed on multiple-partner sexuality and the negotiation of jealousy. The class includes lectures, discussions, videos, and readings.

Student Learning Outcomes: When all is said and done we hope that as a result of taking this class that:

- You will be able to discuss sex and gender in other cultures in a non-ethnocentric manner
- You will be able to evaluate sex and gender using basic anthropological concepts and theory.

Exams and Grading: Grade points can be earned as follows:

Midterm #1.....50 pts.	Field Observation.....60 pts.	Participation.....10 pts.
Midterm #2.....55 pts.	Essay.....60 pts.	Survey Monkey Project....60 pts.
Midterm #3.....55 pts	Sex History.....60 pts.	Final Exam.....50 pts.

Option A

Your grade will be based on four exams, **three 60 pt. written assignments** and class participation. **A maximum of 400 points is possible.** Grades will be assigned as follows:

A: 350+ pts B: 290 - 349 pts C: 240 - 289 pts D: 180-239 pts

Option B

Complete all requirements under Option A, but do only **two 60 pt. written projects**. **Maximum possible points is 340.** Grades will be assigned as follows:

A: 300+ pts B: 245 - 299 pts C: 195 - 244 pts D: 150-194 pts

Option C

Complete all requirements under Option A, but do just **one 60 pt. written project**. **Maximum possible points is 280.** Grades will be assigned as follows:

A: 260+ pts B: 205 - 259 pts C: 175 - 204 pts D: 145-174 pts

Exam: Exams are based on readings, class activities, (discussions, videos, presentations and student panels). All exams have objective questions (true/false, multiple choice, matching) and the three midterms include essay questions. Bring an #882 scantron and several sheets of paper for the exams.

Timeliness: You are expected to turn in all assignments and take all exams on time. Late exams and assignments may be docked 20 points per class meeting day.

Extra Credit: A maximum of 35 points are possible. You can earn up to 5 extra credit points for doing an oral report on essays, field observations and the survey monkey project. You can also earn up to 5 extra credit points for participating in the men's panel, the women's panel, the sexual boundaries panel, the singles panel or the marriage panel. If you attend the Sex and Culture Lecture Series which meets on alternating Tuesday and Wednesday evenings at Dr. Wolfe's home in Van Nuys you can earn 10 points for each meeting you attend and produce a written summary (about 1 ½ pages) about what you learned.

Plagiarism: Cheating on exams, improperly citing sources and turning in written work that you did not personally research and write are all examples of plagiarism. They are not allowed in this class and can result in being suspended from LAVC. Ask for help before resorting to these unsavory activities!

Cell Phones and Beepers: Please do not activate these in the classroom. Please also refrain from texting and engaging in off-topic Internet surfing during class lecture-discussions.

Regarding Written Assignments: You can do two versions of the sex history and field observation assignments. For example you can write both a personal sex history AND a sex history of someone else, OR you can visit (and write reports on) two different field observation sites. You cannot turn in more than one essay or more than one survey monkey project.

Course Outline:

Please complete readings *before* the class they are assigned.

GD for chapters in *Gender Diversity*; SD for chapters in *Sex at Dawn*;

MAH for chapters in *Marriage, A History*

Additional Articles are either linked to the class web page or distributed in class

Week	Day	Readings/Activities	Topic
1	8/30	Introductions PPT: Sex and Culture Project	Overview
	9/1	The Nature of Romantic Love The Laws of Chemistry (take the quiz) Video: The Laws of Chemistry Who Needs Love! In Japan, Many Couples Don't	Love & Attraction
2	9/6	SD: Preface, Introduction ch. 1-2 PPT: Speculations on the Origins of Human Sexual Behavior WOMEN'S PANEL	On the Origin of the Specious
	9/8	Does Hooking Up Hurt Young Women? Hooking Up Hooking Up is the Rage, But is it Healthy? Hooking Up, Hanging Out and Hoping for Mr. Right MEN'S PANEL	
3	9/13	SD: ch. 3-4 Video: Gender, Sex and Desire SINGLES PANEL SEX HISTORIES DUE	
	9/15	MAH: Introduction, ch 1-2 MARRIAGE PANEL	Traditional Marriage
4	9/20	Can You Be Faithful in Cyberspace? America's Fidelity Crisis Married with Infidelities Who Cheats and Why? Sexual Affairs... CHEATING PANEL	Cheating

Week	Day	Readings/Activities	Topic
4 con't	9/22	MAH: ch. 3 PPT: How the Bough Bends: Users of Donated Gametes Sexual Boundaries: Who Pushes Them and Why?	The Invention of Marriage
5	9/27	SD: Part II – ch. 5-10 MIDTERM #1 REVIEW	Lust in Paradise
	9/29	Jewish New Years (Rosh Hashanah) - No Class	
6	10/4	MIDTERM #1	
	10/6	GD: Introduction & ch. 1 (Berdache) Video: Middlesexes (part 1)	Third Genders
7	10/11	GD: ch 2 &3 (India and Brazil) Video: Middlesexes (part 2)	
	10/13	Guest Speaker: Connie Rogers	
8	10/18	GD: ch. 4 & 5 (Polynesia, Thailand & Philippines) GD: ch. 6 &7 (Euro-American and Conclusions)	
	10/20	PPT: Who is Doing Anal Play and Why? GAY/BI PANEL ESSAYS DUE! (oral reports)	
9	10/25	MAH: ch. 4 & 5 Slide Show: Morocco: Divided Genders	Marriage in the Ancient World
	10/27	MAH: ch. 6 & 7 MARRIAGE PANEL	Marriage in the Middle Ages
10	11/1	SD: Part III – ch. 11-14 FIELD OBSERVATIONS (oral reports)	The Way We Weren't
	11/3	“Arranging a Marriage in India” Arranged Marriage Slide Show: India Today MIDTERM #2 REVIEW	
11	11/8	MIDTERM #2	
	11/10	When Brothers Share A Wife How Many Fathers Are Best for a Child? Video Clips: Women Who Share Men/Men Who Share Women	Polyandry/Partible Paternity

Week	Day	Readings/Activities	Topic
12	11/15	Polygamy: Not As Rare as You May Think Adding A Co-Wife PPT: Adding A Co-Wife	Polygamy
	11/17	Polyamory: The Next Sexual Revolution Polyamory: The Perfectly Plural Postmodern Condition Video: Beyond Monogamy	Polyamory
13	11/22	On Kittens and the Very Invented Culture of Polyamory When One Lover Isn't Enough PPT: Polyamory 101 PPT: Polyamorous Behaviors of Non-Poly Identified Peoples	Polyamory
	11/24	Thanksgiving – No Class	
14	11/29	SURVEY MONKEY PROJECTS DUE (oral reports) MAH ch. 8 MAH: ch. 9	The Dawn of the Modern Age The Emergence of the Love Match
	12/1	MAH & Conclusion	Transformation of Marriage
15	12/6	SD: Part IV – ch 15-19	Bodies in Motion
	12/8	SD: Part V – ch. 20-22 FINAL REVIEW	Men Are From Africa...
16	12/15	FINAL EXAM – 10:30-12:30 AM	

Important Information for using the class website:

- See “Class Links” for assigned articles, panel questions and PowerPoint shows
- “Quizzes” will be posted every week—download these and bring them to class
- See “Projects” for information on how to do Class Projects
- See “Student Work” for examples of completed projects
- “Exams” will contain review information for the midterm and final exams and will be updated one week prior to each exam.
- “Links” contains leads to more information on Sex, Gender and Anthropology