

DIVISION OF APPLIED ARTS

300

Anthropology of Gender

3 Credits

Spring, 2021



COURSE OUTLINE

300

ANTHROPOLOGY OF GENDER

3 CREDITS

PREPARED BY: Victoria Castillo, Instructor

DATE: November 27, 2020

APPROVED BY: Andrew Richardson, Dean

DATE: Click or tap to enter a date

APPROVED BY SENATE: Click or tap to enter a date

RENEWED BY SENATE: Click or tap to enter a date

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ANTHROPOLOGY OF GENDER

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| INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Victoria Castillo | OFFICE HOURS: Thursday 10:00-11:00 am |
| OFFICE LOCATION: A2505 | CLASSROOM: Zoom Lectures |
| E-MAIL: vcastillo@yukonu.ca | TIME: Mon/Wed, 10:00 to 12:00 pm + online |
| TELEPHONE: 867.456.8615 | DATE: May 3rd to June 29th, 2021 |

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Gender can be defined as the socially and culturally produced ideas that are built on perceived differences between females, males, and other identities in a particular society (what anthropologists call a culture's gender ideology). Although these differences can often be based on a society's essentializing interpretation of assumed physical sex differences, sex and gender are intertwined in complex ways.

Grounded in anthropological approaches to the study of gender, we will discuss the value and limitations of gender as an analytical category. We will undertake a cross-cultural comparative analysis of the social construction of gender and the multiplicity of masculinities, femininities and non-normative identities that exist within and between cultures. We will focus on evolutionary understandings of sex and gender, interrogate the sex/gender binary, examine gender fluidity, and discuss gender in relation to cross-cultural kinship variants. Through an intersectional framework that focuses on identities and experiences in varied cultural contexts, we will examine the impact that colonialism, sexism, racism, religion, globalization and the state have had on people's gender roles and identities in parts of the global North and South. Different theoretical approaches to sex and gender will be highlighted and applied to case studies.

PREREQUISITES

Successful completion of one of the following: ANTH 140, ANTH 210, ANTH 312, FNGA 200, FNGA 207, FNGA 209, FNGA 240, PHIL 230, POLI 230, SOCI 203, SOCI 209, or SOCI 227.

RELATED COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students should have access to a computer with camera and voice capabilities. Students should also have access to Wi-Fi to participate in cloud-based web conferencing meetings.

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

This course is newly developed and its transferability is still being evaluated. Receiving institutions always determine course transferability. Further information and assistance with transfers may be available from the School of Liberal Arts.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

1. Discuss the main principles of the gender perspective in anthropology.
2. Explain the linkages between biology, gender and human evolution.
3. Evaluate the different theoretical orientations that anthropologists use to approach the study of gender roles and gender inequality including self-reflexive (postcolonial) approaches.
4. Use cross-cultural examples, including examples from Indigenous communities, to examine the intersectional impacts colonialism, sexism, racism, religion, globalization and the state have on gender roles in the global North and South.
5. Critically examine how anthropological understandings of gender instruct cross-cultural ideas about masculinity, femininity, sexuality, heteronormativity, and non-binary identities.
6. Express the social and political context that creates their own identity in terms of gender, ethnicity, class, sexuality, and ability. Consider how their identity informs their understanding of and outlook on gender within their own culture and cross-culturally.

COURSE FORMAT

Due to COVID-19 and social distancing recommendations from Yukon's Chief Medical Officer of Health, this course is being taught through Zoom using a variety of materials, activities, and technical solutions. Students will need to visit the course Moodle site to view recorded presentations, activities, films, and supplementary reading materials and participate in weekly online discussions.

There are two scheduled Zoom lecture/seminars and one online asynchronous forum discussion for this course per week. Video or audio-conferencing may be used for office hours. The class will proceed on a timetable with set assignments and due dates. This is not a self-paced course.

ASSESSMENTS:

All assignments must be submitted through the course Moodle page.

Preparation and Active Participation (10%)

All students are expected to attend class sessions and contribute to discussions, activities, and reflective exercises as engaged and active participants. Students are also required to prepare for class sessions by completing readings and other preparatory tasks in advance, as assigned by the instructor. Preparation and active participation are essential to the learning environment.

Online Responses (20%)

Students will write eight 200-word responses to assigned media (videos, films, podcasts, etc.). These responses will be posted on the Moodle discussion board once a week. Further details will be provided in class.

Article Presentation and Summary (20%)

Students will choose an anthropology article that focuses on gender and will present a 15-minute summary of the article to the class using PowerPoint slides (a selection of possible articles will be provided, or you can identify your own). They will also hand in a 250-word, written summary of the article. Further details will be provided in class.

Observation and Analysis Project (30%)

The purpose of this project is to examine gender norms anthropologically, by observing the behavior of different genders you see in a public setting (such as a library, community or cultural centre, coffee shop, park, walking trail, etc.). Remember that gender norms are those rules that people follow and use to define their own gender and the gender of others. You will observe and document people’s behaviours at one location for 30 minutes. This includes recording notes on observable expressions of gender such as facial expressions, laughing, body posture, verbal comments, touching, hand gestures, etc. You will submit a 500-600 word paper that focuses on the gender norms you observed and how you categorized them. Further details will be provided in class.

Quizzes (20%)

There will be two quizzes each worth 10%. Further details will be provided in class.

EVALUATION:

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| Preparation and Active Participation | 10% |
| Article Presentation and Summary | 20% |
| Online Responses (8 in total) | 20% |
| Observation and Analysis Project | 30% |
| Quizzes (2 x 10% each) | 20% |
| Total | 100% |

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIAL

Textbook 1: Brettell, Caroline B. and Carolyn F. Sargent (editors). 2017. *Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective*. New York, Routledge.

Textbook 2: Mascia-Lees, Frances E. and Nancy Johnson Black. 2017. *Gender and Anthropology*. 2nd ed. Waveland Press, Illinois.

*Readings will be provided by the instructor and made available on Moodle.

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT CONDUCT

Information on academic standing and student rights and responsibilities can be found in the current Academic Regulations that are posted on the Student Services/ Admissions & Registration web page.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Plagiarism occurs when a student submits work for credit that includes the words, ideas, or data of others, without citing the source from which the material is taken. Plagiarism can be the deliberate use of a whole piece of work, but more frequently it occurs when students fail to acknowledge and document sources from which they have taken material according to an accepted manuscript style (e.g., APA, CSE, MLA, etc.). Students may use sources which are public domain or licensed under Creative Commons; however, academic documentation standards must still be followed. Except with explicit permission of the instructor, resubmitting work which has previously received credit is also considered plagiarism. Students who plagiarize material for assignments will receive a mark of zero (F) on the assignment and may fail the course. Plagiarism may also result in dismissal from a program of study or the University.

YUKON FIRST NATIONS CORE COMPETENCY

Yukon University recognizes that a greater understanding and awareness of Yukon First Nations history, culture and journey towards self-determination will help to build positive relationships among all Yukon citizens. As a result, to graduate from ANY Yukon University program, you will be required to achieve core competency in knowledge of Yukon First Nations. For details, please see www.yukonu.ca/yfnccr.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Reasonable accommodations are available for students requiring an academic accommodation to fully participate in this class. These accommodations are available for students with a documented disability, chronic condition or any other grounds specified in section 8.0 of the Yukon University Academic Regulations (available on the Yukon University website). It is the student's responsibility to seek these

accommodations. If a student requires an academic accommodation, he/she should contact the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC): lac@yukonu.ca.

TOPIC OUTLINE

*Content notes will be provided next to readings that contain difficult materials and content so that we have the opportunity to provide extra care for ourselves, if necessary, when we engage with the material.

**Readings may change at the discretion of the instructor

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| Part I - Gender as an Assumed State: Is it Nature or Nurture? | |
| <u>Due to the condensed nature of this course, you will be asked to read 2 - 4 articles a week, or approximately 60+ pages per week and required media viewed outside of class.</u> | |
| May 3 | Welcome; Terminology |
| May 5 | History of Gender in Anthropology |
| May 10 | Biology, Gender, and Human Evolution |
| May 12 | Gender and Prehistory |
| May 17 | Constructing an Essentialized Womanhood and Challenging Normative Femininities |
| May 19 | Constructing an Essentialized Womanhood and Challenging Normative Femininities |
| May 26 | Constructing an Essentialized Manhood and Challenging Normative Masculinities |
| May 31 | Constructing an Essentialized Manhood and Challenging Normative Masculinities |
| Part II - Gender as Process | |
| June 2 | Constructing Families and Kinship and Normative Ideas of Family and Kinship |
| June 7 | Gendering Children and Challenging Normative Ideas of Childhood |
| June 9 | Physically Achieving/Subverting Gender |

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| June 14 | Performing Gender/Sexuality Through Language |
| June 16 | Gender, Agency and Cosmology |
| Part III - The Effects of Gendered Power | |
| June 21 | Aboriginal Day - No Class |
| June 23 | Gendering the Colonized and National Subjects |
| June 28 | Gendered Violence Home/National/International & Sex Work and Agency & Review |

