

ANT 245-0990 ONLINE
SEX and GENDER in Cross-Cultural Perspective
Summer 2018
Three Week Online Course: May 14-June 1
The University of Maine

Dr. Lisa K. Neuman

Office: 116 S. Stevens (ANT) and 204 Corbett (NAS)

Office Hours: Online and by appointment

Phone: 581-4489 (NAS and Voicemail); x4490 (ANT)

E-mail: lisa.neuman@maine.edu; include **ANT 245** in subject line

Blackboard Address: <http://bb.courses.maine.edu>

Anthropology reference librarian: Jen Bonnet, 581-3611

Course Summary

This is an ONLINE intermediate-level anthropology course (3 credit hours) that satisfies the University's general education *Cultural Diversity and International Perspectives* and *Ethics* requirements. Although scholarship on sex and gender is often interdisciplinary by nature, the field of anthropology (taken broadly) will provide the theoretical and methodological framework for our understanding of the complexity and diversity of gendered identities and practices around the world. There is no prerequisite for this course.

Your grade in this course will be based on a combination of three online tests and a short paper, to be submitted digitally. There is no final exam in this course.

Larger Themes

What is gender and how is it related to culture? Are there really two biological sexes? What do people in other cultures think about sexuality? How is gender connected to power? Do "women" and "men" exist in all cultures? Do scholars tend to view gender and sexuality through their own cultural lenses?

This anthropology course takes a cross-cultural look at the concept of gender, examining the roles of women and men, concepts of femininity and masculinity, and sexuality as they are variously expressed around the world. Both men and women can be said to be "gendered" beings. Yet, because many academic fields of inquiry have tended in the past to ignore or downplay the histories, roles, actions, and identities of women, we will give particular scholarly attention to how female persons are constructed as gendered beings. We will also utilize ethnographic research, cross-cultural case studies, and historical examples to provide a counterpoint to scholarship that focuses only on the contemporary "Western" world or the European-American experience in theorizing about the human experience of gender. We will deconstruct some of our own scholarly and everyday assumptions about gender and examine whether the concepts of male/female, man/woman, and straight/gay/bisexual accurately describe gendered and sexual behavior in diverse cultural contexts.

Course Objectives

As a student in this course, you will:

- 1) Learn to read, write, speak, and think critically about the relationship between gender and culture
- 2) Understand how scholars from many different theoretical backgrounds study gender and its relation to culture, with an emphasis on the theoretical and methodological approaches taken by anthropologists
- 3) Gain an appreciation of the diversity of ways in which gender and sexuality are expressed and experienced around the world
- 4) Understand and analyze representations of gender in popular culture and examine the workings of gender in everyday life
- 5) Be able to answer the following questions: What is gender and how is it different from sex? Where do gender identities come from? Does biology have anything to do with gendered behavior? How do anthropologists study gender in cross-cultural and historical context? What do some scholars mean when they write that gender is “performed” or “enacted”?

Grading and Course Requirements

Online Tests (3 @ 25%)	75%
Ethics and Gender Paper	25%

Grading Criteria

Tests and papers will be scored out of 100 points. I convert points to final letter grades in this course as follows: Conversion: 100-93 = A; 92-90 = A-; 89-87 = B+; 86-83 = B; 82-80 = B-; 79-77 = C+; 76-73 = C; 72-70 = C-; 69-67 = D+; 66-63 = D; 62-60 = D-; 59 or below = F. Scores of .5 round up to the next grade level (e.g., 92.5 = A; 79.5 = B-). Please consult the section entitled “A Note about Failing Grades on Papers Versus Exams.”

Electronic Learning:

Course Infrastructure and Access: This is an online course that uses a **Blackboard course site (bb.courses.maine.edu)** and email correspondence. This course does **not** utilize WebCT or FirstClass folders. **Use your Mainstreet ID and Password (the one associated with your maine.edu account, not FirstClass) to login to Blackboard.** You will receive important announcements, assignments, and notes through the Blackboard website. You are responsible for checking the site regularly for updates. I recommend checking the site daily.

Please note:

1. **Tests are taken on Blackboard in their allotted time frames. The final paper is also submitted on Blackboard by the date specified.**
2. Computer Literacy Requirements: Access to a computer with broadband, ability to download programs, e.g. send email, read email, and access the web.

3. Please make sure you have a **valid email account and that you check it daily**. You will be given a FirstClass email account as a student in this class (even if you are not enrolled at the Orono campus).
4. Bandwidth Requirements: Broadband or high speed Internet connection. Video streaming on Blackboard may require a high-speed connection. Satellite does not always work with streaming.
5. **Technical Help:** You can contact the I.T. Help Center at help.center@umit.maine.edu or 207 581-2506 for computer-related (including network connection) questions. You can also contact cedtechhelp@umit.maine.edu, 207 581-4591 or 1-877-947-4357. Broadband connection is available at computer labs at UC Centers throughout Maine. For help locating a UC Center nearest you, please dial UC Tele-service at 1-800-868-7000.
6. Lectures and required videos are on the Course Content page. If the image darkens when you are watching a video, just tap your keypad and it will usually reappear.
7. **Tests are to be taken on Blackboard within the test window** found on the course schedule (end of syllabus). **Tests are multiple choice and open book/notes, but you will only have 75 minutes to complete the test once you begin.** You are **not** permitted to collaborate or share information about the content of the tests; **you must work alone.** Other students may not have the same version of the test that you do.

Required Textbooks

The following textbooks will be available through the UMaine (Orono) (581-1700, <http://bookstore.umaine.edu/>) bookstore. NOTE: The textbook has just gone out of print, so USED copies will be your most likely option. AMAZON sells used copies for under \$12.00 and rents them as well for the summer. Hard copies of both books are also available On Reserve at the Circulation desk in Fogler Library on UMaine's Orono campus for 4-hour in-library use. Their number is: (207) 581-1641. I will also try to post some chapters of the LaFont text online.

LaFont, Suzanne. 2003. *Constructing Sexualities: Readings in Sexuality, Gender, and Culture*. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson Education, Inc. (a division of Prentice Hall). ISBN: 978-013009-6616.

Mascia-Lees, Frances E. and Nancy Johnson Black. 2017. *Gender and Anthropology*. Second Edition. Long Grove, Illinois: Waveland Press, Inc. ISBN: 978-1-4786-3416-4.

Additional required readings (mostly shorter articles) are available through Fogler Library at http://library.umaine.edu/reserves/using_reserve.htm. On this page, you will find detailed instructions about how to access E-Reserves through the new ARES system (note: the old Docutek system, with which you may be familiar, has been replaced).

Films

Films are as important as readings and lectures in this course. Please be prepared to take notes during the online films. All our films are in the new Kaltura media platform on Blackboard. Our lectures and film guides are in the Synapse media format. Synapse should open automatically for you. If you have any problems, sometimes switching to a new browser helps. If not, please contact the IT Help Center.

Ethics and Gender Paper

Each student will write a short (4-5 pages, double spaced) individual paper on an ethical issue involving gender, at home or abroad. The one requirement is the paper's due date: **It can be submitted via Blackboard beginning at 12:00 AM on May 21 but no later than June 2 at 11:59 PM. Guidelines for the paper are available under "Ethics and Gender Paper Description" on the course Blackboard web site.**

Missed Test and Late Paper Policy

To be fair to all students, late papers can be accepted until 11:59 PM on June 5, but the grade will be lowered according to a formula that will be consistently applied to all late assignments (1/3 letter grade per day). Due to requirements for submitting final course grades, submissions after June 5 will not receive credit.

Students are expected to take the tests online in the time frame specified in the schedule.

In the event of illness, an emergency, or an unforeseen event over which you have no control, please email as soon as possible and we will discuss your alternatives, including how to provide documentation of your situation and how to arrange for you to make up missed work. I reserve the right to refuse to grant a makeup test, an extension, or an incomplete grade in the course.

UMaine Official Contingency Statement:

In the event of an extended disruption of normal classroom activities, the format for this course may be modified to enable its completion within its programmed time frame. In that event, you will be provided an addendum to the syllabus that will supersede this version.

Where to Find Out About Important Announcements

Important announcements will be made on the course Blackboard site. Please check your email daily as well.

Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability for which you may be requesting an accommodation, please contact Student Accessibility Services, 121 East Annex, 581-2319, as early as possible in the term.

A Note About Failing Grades on Papers versus Exams

While a student who fails an exam can often earn partial credit for some correct work on the exam (35 points, 55 points, etc.), a student who fails a written paper earns no points, rather than some other form of partial credit. I am quite generous when drawing the line between a paper earning a "D" grade and one earning an "F." However, there are times when a paper has very little merit or does not truly represent a student's own work (see section on plagiarism below) and cannot receive a passing grade.

Plagiarism will earn a student a failing grade on a written assignment or paper (as would cheating on an exam), and hence that assignment or paper will be scored as a "0." Plagiarism and cheating have severe academic consequences, as well, so I encourage you to read the following section.

Sexual violence policy:

Sexual discrimination reporting: The University of Maine is committed to making campus a safe place for students. Because of this commitment, if you tell any of your teachers about sexual discrimination involving members of the campus, **your teacher is required to report** this information to the campus Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention or the Office of Equal Opportunity.

Behaviors that can be "sexual discrimination" include sexual assault, sexual harassment, stalking, relationship abuse (dating violence and domestic violence), sexual misconduct, and gender discrimination. Therefore, all of these behaviors must be reported.

Why do teachers have to report sexual discrimination?

The university can better support students in trouble if we know about what is happening. Reporting also helps us to identify patterns that might arise– for example, if more than one victim reports having been assaulted or harassed by the same individual.

What will happen to a student if a teacher reports?

An employee from the Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention or the Office of Equal Opportunity will reach out to you and offer support, resources, and information. You will be invited to meet with the employee to discuss the situation and the various options available to you.

If you have requested confidentiality, the University will weigh your request that no action be taken against the institution's obligation to provide a safe, nondiscriminatory environment for all students. If the University determines that it can maintain confidentiality, you must understand that the institution's ability to meaningfully investigate the incident and pursue disciplinary action, if warranted, may be limited. There are times when the University may not be able to honor a request for confidentiality because doing so would pose a risk to its ability to provide a safe, nondiscriminatory environment for everyone. If the University determines that it cannot maintain confidentiality, the University will advise you, prior to starting an investigation and, to the extent possible, will share information only with those responsible for handling the institution's response.

The University is committed to the well-being of all students and will take steps to protect all involved from retaliation or harm.

If you want to talk in confidence to someone about an experience of sexual discrimination, please contact these resources:

For confidential resources on campus: Counseling Center: 207-581-1392 or Cutler Health Center: at 207-581-4000.

For *confidential resources off campus*: **Rape Response Services: 1-800-310-0000**
or **Partners in Peace: 1-800-863-9909**.

Other resources: The resources listed below can offer support but may have to report the incident to others who can help:

For *support services on campus*: **Office of Sexual Assault & Violence Prevention: 207-581-1406, Office of Community Standards: 207-581-1409, University of Maine Police: 207-581-4040 or 911**. Or see the OSAVP website for a complete list of services at <http://www.umaine.edu/osavp/>

Academic Code of Conduct

Each student is expected to complete his or her own work, including tests and papers. Collaboration on tests and papers is not allowed. When an outside source is utilized in writing a paper, that source must be acknowledged [through the use of quotation marks indicating use of another person's words (when applicable) and a citation indicating the source] or the student has committed **plagiarism**.

Plagiarism will earn a student a failing grade on a written assignment or paper (as would cheating on an exam), and hence that assignment or paper will be scored as a "0." Plagiarism and cheating have severe academic consequences.

Academic honesty is very important. It is dishonest to cheat on exams, to copy term papers to submit papers written by another person, to fake experimental results, to reword parts of books or articles into your own papers without appropriately citing the source, or to copy parts of books or articles (or web sites) into your own papers without putting the copied material in quotation marks and clearly citing its source. Students committing or aiding any of these violations may be given failing grades for an assignment or for an entire course, at the discretion of the instructor. In addition to any academic action taken by an instructor, these violations are also subject to action under the University of Maine Student Conduct Code. The maximum possible sanction under the student conduct code is dismissal from the University (taken from the UMaine student handbook and Faculty Senate policy statement, with minor modifications).

I have a strict anti-plagiarism policy in this course. I am an expert at detecting it. Don't do it.

Regarding the use and citing of online sources: With more and more students using the Internet, it is tempting to search for material online. If you search the Internet often, you may even notice that some web sites copy material from others, often without acknowledging it (hence, they are committing plagiarism!). Importantly, this does not mean that such material is in the public domain, nor does it mean that you, as a student, are permitted to use such material in your papers, projects, and reports without properly attributing it to the Internet source that you utilized. Also remember that all such material, unless paraphrased, must contain quotation marks.

Additional warning: It is not a good idea to be looking at an online source (particularly an online study guide) or another person's paper or written work while attempting to write your own. This type of writing strategy often leads to lazy language use, copying, and plagiarism. Ultimately, I recommend that at all times you strive to develop your own ways of expressing ideas and cite other people's ideas and words sparingly.

Ultimately, I recommend that at all times you strive to develop your own ways of expressing ideas and cite other people's ideas and words sparingly.

Online Office Hours

I am available via email to talk about your course needs and answer questions. Please feel free to contact me. If we cannot resolve an issue online, we will set up a personal appointment on campus.

Schedule

M-L & Black = *Gender and Anthropology*; LaFont = *Constructing Sexualities*.

All non-textbook readings are on E-reserve at the Fogler Library website via www.umaine.edu.

Day 1 (May 14) The Anthropology of Gender: Gender, Science, and the Cultural Lens of Sex

Online Lecture #1

Required Readings

LaFont: Preface; Introduction to Part I (pps. 1-5); and Chap. 3

M-L & Black: Preface: Chaps.1 and 2

Day 2 (May 15) Evolutionary Approaches

Online Lecture #2

Required Readings

M-L & Black: Chap. 3

LaFont: Chaps 5 and 6

On E-Reserve: Ehrenberg, *The Role of Women in Human Evolution*

Day 3 (May 16) Psychological and Social Construction Approaches

Online Lecture #3

Required Readings

M-L & Black: Chap. 5

LaFont: Chap. 19

Online Film #1: *Masai Women* (Kenya/Tanzania)

Day 4 (May 17) Materialism/Political Economy Approaches

Online Lecture #4

Required Readings

M-L & Black: Chap. 4

On E-Reserve: Brown, *A Note on the Division of Labor by Sex*

Online Film #2: *Baka: People of the Forest* (Cameroon)

Day 5 (May 18) Structuralist Approaches (and beyond)

Online Lecture #5

Required Readings

M-L & Black: Chap. 6

On E-Reserve: Ortner, *Gender Hegemonies*

Test #1 Online Window (Noon May 18 – 11:59 PM May 21)

Day 6 (May 21) Gender and Language/Reflexive and Post-Modern Approaches

Online Lecture #6

Required Readings

M-L and Black: Chaps. 7 and 8

On E-Reserve: Adams and Ware, *Sexism and the English Language*

On E-Reserve: Miller and Swift, *Women and Names*

Day 7 (May 22) Marriage, Family, and Kinship in Cross-Cultural Perspective

Online Lecture #7 (You can work ahead and take this as a holiday)

Required Readings

LaFont: Chaps. 14, 15, 16, and 28

Online Film #3: *Dadi's Family* (India)

Day 8 (May 23) "Girl Power"? Women and Modern Matriarchies

Online Lecture #8

Required Readings

On E-Reserve: Schlegel, *Male and Female in Hopi Thought and Action*

Online Film #4: *Hopi: Songs of the Fourth World* (USA)

Day 9 (May 24) Cultural Constructions of Biology: Gendered Rites of Passage

Online Lecture #9

Required Readings

LaFont: Chaps. 12 and 13

On E-Reserve: Davis-Floyd, *Gender and Ritual: Giving Birth the American Way*

Online film #5: *Masai Manhood* (Kenya/Tanzania)

Day 10 (May 25) Masculinity in Cross-Cultural Perspective

Online Lecture #10

Required Readings

LaFont: Chap. 23

Online Film #6: *Guardians of the Flutes* (New Guinea)

Test #2 Online Window (Noon May 25 - 11:59 PM May 28)

Day 11 (May 28) Sexuality in Cross-Cultural Perspective, Part 1

Online Lecture #11

Required Readings

LaFont: Chaps. 8, 10, 11

Online Film #7: *The Celluloid Closet* (USA)

Day 12 (May 29) Sexuality in Cross-Cultural Perspective, Part 2

Online Lecture #12

Required Readings

LaFont: Chaps. 24, 26, 31

Day 13 (May 30) Deconstructing Bodies and Crossing Genders, Part 1

Online Lecture #13

Required Readings

LaFont: Chaps. 17 and 18

Online Film #8: *Boys Don't Cry* (USA)

Day 14 (May 31) Deconstructing Bodies and Crossing Genders, Part 2

Online Lecture #14

Required Readings

LaFont: Chaps. 20 and 22

Test #3 Online Window (Noon THURSDAY May 31 - 11:59 PM June 4)

Day 15 (June 1) Course Wrap Up

Online Lecture #15

*****Ethics and Gender Paper due 11:59 PM SATURDAY June 2 (may be submitted as early as May 21)**

Last day for all work to be submitted to receive credit: Tuesday June 5, by 11:59 PM.