

*Department of Anthropology ~ The George Washington University*

Spring Semester 2010

ANTH 157:10- KINSHIP, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

Class meets on Monday and Wednesday at 08:00 AM to 09:15 AM in Government Hall, Room 104

Instructor: Dr. K. Nambiar

Office Location: 2106 G Street, Room 303A

Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday 09:30 AM to 10:00 AM or by appt

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COURSE BACKGROUND

This course explores kinship, family and community in comparative and historical perspectives. We will explore cross-cultural analysis of kinship, family and community by paying close attention to the rise of alternative family forms and practices. We will emphasize the social, global and environmental factors that are directly responsible for the creation and function of alternative family forms in different cultures. We will also look at different family forms and ask what relationships exist between them in terms of practices, kinship and community. Particular attention will also be given to the historical foundations of kinship studies leading to an ethnographic example.

CLASS FORMAT

Due to the nature of the course, the format of the class includes lectures, discussion, and the viewing of several films relevant to the course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. Required textbooks can be purchased from the GWU bookstore:

1. Schneider, David. M. American Kinship: A Cultural Account. Englewood Cliffs, N.J., Prentice-Hall.
2. Stone, Linda Kinship and Gender: An Introduction. Boulder, Colo. Westview Press, (Fourth Edition.).
3. Weston, Kath Families We Choose: Lesbians, Gays, Kinship. New York. Columbia University Press, (1997).
4. Young, Antonia Women Who Become Men: Albanian Sworn Virgin Oxford University Press, (2001).

B. Electronic reserve:

The following materials are taken from Matrilineal Kinship, Edited by Schneider, David and Gough, Kathleen. University of California Press, (1962).

1. *Nayar: Central Kerala*, by K. Gough
2. *Nayar: North Kerala*, by K. Gough

C. Handouts

You will also be given a few handouts such as free newspaper clippings, articles from journals, etc. on current events/issues.

D. Written works:

1. A detailed genealogical sketch of your own family. If you wish not to use the actual names of your family members, you are free to use fictitious names. You will do this after three weeks of lectures and after reading Kinship and Gender: An Introduction by Linda Stone. Instructions and guidelines for this assignment will be discussed in class.
2. Two 75 minute in-class exams based on lectures, readings and the films shown in class.
3. One quiz which will be based on “*Nayar of: Central Kerala*” and “*Nayar of: North Kerala*”, by Kathleen Gough.
4. A well-researched 15-20 page group research paper is required. This will be done in groups of two students. Towards the end of the semester, before turning in the paper, each group will give a 25 minutes presentation of their project in class. The formats and other details about the paper will be given at a later date.

E. Class attendance class participation:

Regular class attendance is a course requirement. In addition to the videos, important material that is not covered in the textbook and readings will be presented during lectures; there may also be changes in the course syllabus which will be announced in class. Students will be responsible for all changes to the course requirements that may be announced in class. Active and enthusiastic participation in class discussion and reading the assignments as they are assigned are required; these actions raise your grade, and give me a sense of your overall engagement in the course. You will lose one point for each “unexcused” absent. This is a course for active learners and it is structured to be that way. You are particularly required to be present during class presentations. Being present while other students are presenting their research paper is a requirement for this class.

F. Films:

During the course of the semester, I will be showing a number of documentary films for which you are responsible.

G. Grading procedure

1. Genealogical sketch: Ten points.
2. Exams: Twenty points each, total forty points.
3. Quiz: Ten points.
4. Research paper: Thirty Points.
5. Attendance: Ten points.

H. Your final grade:

Regardless of what the University catalogue “might say,” your final grade for this class will be calculated as follows:

NUMBER VALUE	LETTER GRADE EQUIVALENT
96-100	A
91-95	A-
86-90	B+
81-85	B
76-80	B-
71-75	C+
66-70	C
61-65	C-
56-60	D
55 or less	F

The final grade will be evaluated by adding up all the number values you have received.

TENTATIVE COURSE OUTLINES

CLASSES & DATES	SUBJECTS	READINGS
<u>Class 1, 2</u> January 11, 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●Introduction to the course</li> <li>●Task assignment</li> <li>●Theories and methods in kinship Studies</li> </ul>	<u>Kinship and Gender An Introduction</u> , by Stone
<b>January 18</b>	<b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day, no class</b>	
<u>Class 3, 4, 5</u> January, 20, 25, 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●Gender reproduction and kinship</li> <li>● Evolution of kinship and gender</li> <li>●Descent systems</li> <li>● Marriage and new reproductive technology</li> </ul>	<u>Kinship and Gender An Introduction</u> , by Stone continued
Class 6 February 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●Guideline and instruction for genealogical sketch</li> </ul>	<u>Kinship and Gender An Introduction</u> , finish reading Stone
Class 7, 8, 9,10, 11 February 3, 8, 10, 17, 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●Alternative family forms, kinship, marriage and community in contemporary United States</li> <li>●New Reproductive Technology</li> </ul>	<u>Families We Choose : Lesbians, Gays, Kinship</u> by Weston

<b>Monday February 15</b>	<b>President's Day, no class</b>	
Class 12, 13 February 24, March 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Alternative to patriarchal, patrilineal and patrilocal system</li> <li>•Family forms and kinship in traditional South Indian and Tibetan societies</li> </ul> <p><b>February 24; genealogical sketch is due in class</b></p>	Electronic reserve materials on Nayar, by Gough
Class 14 March 3	● First 75 minute in-class exam will be given	No reading
Class 15 March 8	● Discussion and guidelines for research paper	No reading
Class 16, 17, 18 March 10, 22, 24	•Transformations of society and culture: The rise of new forms of family types and family relationship	<u>Women Who Become Men: Albanian Sworn Virginia</u> , by Young (whole book)
<b>March 15, 17</b>	● <b>No class, spring break.</b>	
Class 19, 20, 21 March 29, 31, April 5	• Classical approach to kinship, family and community studies in the United States.	<u>American Kinship: A Cultural Account</u> by David Schneider
Class 22, 23 April 7, 12	•Globalization and its impact on kinship, family and community.	Handouts
<u>Class 24</u> April 14	● Second in-class exam will be given	No reading
<u>Class 25, 26, 27</u> April 19, 21, 26	● Research project paper presentation weeks	No reading
Class 28 April 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Course summary and discussion</li> <li>● <b>Group research paper is due in class</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Please note: This is the last day for this class. There are no other exams remaining for this class. Last day for this class</b></p>	No reading

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION TO REMEMBER

1. Students with a disability who require reasonable accommodations, as required under the Americans with Disabilities Act, should contact the Disability Support Service (DSS) to open a file and discuss needed accommodations prior to each semester. Questions and requests for reasonable accommodations should be directed to DSS, Marvin Center, 800 21st Street, NW Ste 242, phone: (202) 994-7610, web: [gwired.gwu.edu/dss](http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss).
2. No make-up exams or turning in assignments late, unless prior arrangements are made, or it is an emergency, in which case proof is required.
3. All students are expected to follow/honor the University's Integrity Code.
4. All assignments must be typed, double-spaced and the margins on all four sides should be one inch or less.
5. Please note that all work must be turned in at the beginning of class on the date due. Work turned in by other methods may not reach me and may be considered late. Work will not be accepted by email or fax. (If you are unwell with something serious like H1N1, you may submit the work electronically.)
6. Students must show up promptly for the exams. Exams will be 75 minutes unless otherwise announced. Under no circumstances will a student be permitted to begin the exam after any other student has already completed the exam and left the exam room.