Course Outline for Anthropology 6

ANTHROPOLOGY OF SEX AND GENDER

Catalog Description:

ANTH 6 - Anthropology of Sex and Gender 3.00 units

Using research and theory from the fields of biology, cultural anthropology, linguistics, and archaeology, this course takes an anthropological approach to the study of sex and gender across cultures and throughout time. Topics include the cultural construction of gender, sex, and sexuality; the biological foundations of sex; and how gender difference relates to cultural practice.

Strongly Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 1A or ENGL 1

Grading Option: Optional

Discipline:

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<th>Type</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Inside of Class Hours</th>
<th>Outside of Class Hours</th>
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<td>54.00</td>
<td>108.00</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>54.00</strong></td>
<td><strong>108.00</strong></td>
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Prerequisite Skills:

None

Measurable Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

1. Define and differentiate between the concepts of sex, gender, gender role, gender identity, and sexual preference;
2. Explain the genetic, chromosomal, and gonadal foundations of biological sex;
3. Deconstruct the binary of sex assignment;
4. Explain the concept of gender as a cultural construct;
5. Describe the varieties of gender identification across cultures;
6. Apply a critical analysis to the semiotics of masculinity and femininity;
7. Explain the material basis for a gendered separation of labor;
8. Describe how gender is embedded in language;
9. Describe the evidence for gendered labor in the archaeological record;
10. Examine the varieties of human sexuality from a historical and cross-cultural perspective.

Course Content:

1. The biological foundations of sex
   A. Chromosomes
   B. Hormones
   C. Gonads
   D. Intersex
2. Cultural interpretations of biological sex
   A. Structuralism and the binary model of sex
   B. Non-binary models of sex
3. The cultural construction of gender
   A. The gendered separation of labor
   B. Biological determinism
   C. Theoretical models
   D. Semiotics and the performance of gender
4. Gender roles across cultures
5. Gender identity
   A. Transgender identity
   B. Gender-fluid and non-binary identities
6. Gender in language
   A. Language codes and genderlect
   B. Gendered languages
7. Gender in the archaeological record
   A. Feminist archaeology
   B. Textiles
   C. Toolmaking and food preparation
8. Sexuality
   A. Primate sexuality
   B. Human sexuality
   C. Heteronormativity
   D. LGB(T) sexuality
   E. Gay marriage
   F. Pornography
   G. Sex work

Methods of Presentation
1. Lectures
2. Field Trips
3. Case Study
4. Presentation
5. Written assignments
6. Class and group discussions
7. Group Activities
8. Guest speakers

Assignments and Methods of Evaluating Student Progress

1. Typical Assignments
   C. Class and group discussions. a. Do men and women speak in different ways? What hypotheses have been proposed to explain these differences? b. Is sexual orientation determined by nature or nurture? Both? Which examples can you give?
   D. Research project. a. Choose an ethnography from an approved list and write a paper that contrasts the cultural attitudes toward sex, gender, and sexuality to those of American culture. b. After acquiring explicit permission to do so, interview two or more adults of different sexes and transcribe it. Identify with explanation all of the statements that are indicative of gendered speech.

2. Methods of Evaluating Student Progress
   A. Exams/Tests
   B. Final Examination or Project
   C. Homework
   D. Projects
   E. Written assignments

3. Student Learning Outcomes
   Upon the completion of this course, the student should be able to:
   A. Deconstruct the biological concept of “sex.”
   B. Describe and demonstrate how the relationship between sex, gender and culture has social consequences.
   C. Analyze cross-cultural notions of gender & gender roles from a variety of anthropological and theoretical perspectives.

Textbooks (Typical):

Special Student Materials
1. None

Abbreviated Class Schedule Description:

What is the difference between sex and gender? What determines/influences sexual orientation? This course takes an anthropological approach to the study of sex and gender, covering topics such as pornography and arranged marriages. The course takes examples from different human communities across time and space.

Strongly Recommended: Eligibility for ENGL 1A or ENGL 1