**American University of Central Asia**

**Anthropology, Technology, and International Development**

**Program**

**Gender, Kinship, and Family Course**

**Syllabus[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**Spring 2023**

M. W. 2:10-3:25 pm

Instructor: Prof.Ch.Turdalieva

Email: [turdalieva\_c@auca.kg](mailto:turdalieva_c@auca.kg)

**Office Hours:** Wed. at 11:00-12:00 PM and by appointment

The e-course keyword is family

**Course overview:**

This course will examine gender, family, and kinship, which are fundamental grounds of human society and its social organization. Students will explore different types and forms of marriage, family, and kinship that existed in the past. They will also analyze how particular processes related to migration and globalization shape marriage, kinship, and family in contemporary societies and ethnic cultures. During the course, students will examine the family life of multiethnic communities in Luxemburg village, Chui region. Special comparative analyses and attention will be paid to these institutions in Central and South Asia.

**Course Learning Objectives and Goals:**

1. Learn the broad scope of the history of Anthropology of Kinship as a discipline;
2. Be familiar with the main anthropological definitions and theoretical concepts;
3. Learn the basic anthropological qualitative and quantitative methods and approaches;
4. Assess different societies by understanding the uniqueness of their family and kinship traditions;
5. Analyze human family and kinship through anthropological methods and concepts;
6. Demonstrate acquired knowledge and practical skills during the fieldwork;
7. Develop critical thinking and skills enabling one to analyze family and kinship institutions existed or existing in society;
8. Build rapport, i.e., mutual trust, friendship, and interaction with a person or a community while doing the research fieldwork.

**Course Readings:**

The syllabus and course readings are available on the E-course.

Stone L. (2010) Kinship and Gender. Philadelphia: Westview Press.

*Kinship and Family. An Anthropological reader*. (2004). Ed. By Robert Parkin and Linda Stone (Malden&Oxford: Blackwell.

Stone L. (2001). *New Directions in Anthropological Kinship*: Maryland.

Stone L. (1997). *Kinship and Gender:* Boulder.

Fox Robin. (1967). *Kinship* and Marriage: An Anthropological Perspective: Cambridge.

**Assignments/Assessment**

**Attendance and class participation 20%.** This course assumes that you want to learn the material we will read and analyze. Three or more absences without a medical report over the period will get a “0” for the entire course.

**Museum Visit -15%.** Students will visit any museum offline or online and write a reflection paper on any topic related to the course. (5 double-spaced pages long, 12 Times New Roman).

**Presentation – 20%**

Active class participation should be realized through oral or PowerPoint presentations. Each student should make at least one class presentation, which takes 20 %. If the student fails the presentation or fails to make it on time, they will lose the 20% assigned for the presentation. The topic for the presentation should be discussed with the instructor in advance.

**Presentation criteria:**

1. the statement of key facts and analysis of readings -10 %
2. creativity (use of extra materials and arguable opinions) and implication of cases and theories to modernity – 10 %

**Midterm – 20%**. Midterm is a multiple-choice test consisting of 20 questions based on the primary sources assigned by the instructor. The due date is listed below.

**Final exam - 25%** Final exam is a multiple-choice test consisting of 25 questions based on past topics—the due date is listed below.

**Plagiarism**

***Plagiarism will not be tolerated during the course.*** Plagiarism is appropriating another person’s ideas and representing them as your original work. You must either paraphrase the sentence by putting it entirely in your own words and citing it with the proper footnote, endnote, or in-text citation or put the quotation marks or make a block quotation if you use the direct words of the source without any change with the following footnote, endnote or other citation after the copied words. All information must be cited. Always cite a legitimate source. Wikipedia is not a legitimate source. Books published by university presses and academic papers found on AUCA and other databases are legitimate sources.

**Grading system**

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

100-96 = A; 95-91 = A-; 90-86 = B+; 85-81 = B;80-76 = B-;75-71 = C+;70-66 = C;65-61 = C-;60-56 = D+;55-51 = D;50-46 = D-; 45 and lower = F

**Course Policy**

Please turn off your mobile phones and other electronic devices before class. Please come to class on time. You are arriving late for class or leaving it before the end will be considered an absence.

**Course Schedule**

**PART 1. GENDER**

**Week 1.**

**Introduction: What is kinship about?**

[Lévi-Strauss](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Claude_L%C3%A9vi-Strauss) Claude. (1971). *Elementary Structures of Kinship*. Beacon Press, Ch.1.

Schneider David M. (2004). *“What Is Kinship All About? From Kinship and Family”* in An Anthropological Reader, edited by Robert Parkin and Linda Stone, Malden&Oxford: Blackwell, pp. 257-274.

Stone L. (2010). Kinship and Evolutionary Theory. Kin Recognition in *Kinship and Gender*, Westview Press, Introduction.

***Film activity:*** video about Kinship: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YOi2c2d3\_Lk

**Week 2.**

**A History of Kinship Studies: from Lewis Morgan to Claude Levi Strauss**

Morgan L.H. (1871). *Systems of Consanguinity and Affinity of the Human Family*, Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press.

Lévi-Strauss Claude. (1971). Elementary Structures of Kinship. Beacon Press, Ch.1.

Stone L. (2010). Kinship and Evolutionary Theory. Kin Recognition in *Kinship and Gender*, Westview Press, pp. 229-258.

**Week 3.**

**Understanding Gender**

Westbrook L., Schilt K. (2014). Doing Gender, Determining Gender: Transgender People, Gender Panics, and the Maintenance of the Sex/Gender/Sexuality System in *Gender and Society*, Vol. 28, No. , pp. 32-57.

Ehrenreich B. and Hochschild P. (2002). Global Woman: Nannies, Maids and Sex Workersin *the New Economy*, New York: Henry Holt and Company, pp. 115-141.

**Week 4.**

**How Culture Shapes Gender?**

Beauvoir S. (1949). *The Second Sex* - Libcom.orghttps://libcom.org › files › 1949\_simone-de-beau...PDF, read two Introductions.

Caplan P.& Caplan J. (1994). *Thinking Critically about Research on Sex and Gender*. NY: Harper Collins, Introduction.

**PART 2. MARRIAGE AND FAMILY**

**Week 5.**

**Marriage: Basic Forms and Rules**

Stone L. (2010). Kinship and Gender, Westview Press, pp. 190-207.

Radcliff-Brown. (2013). The Andaman Islanders. Cambridge Un-ty Press. Ch. Social organization.

**Document analysis:** Analyzing marriage certificates

**Week 6.**

**Contemporary Marriage and its Variations**

Gates Gary. (2015). *Marriage and Family: LGBT Individuals and Same-Sex Couples*, VOL. 25 / NO. 2, pp.67-87.

Bosrup J. (2004). *The economics of polygamy* in An Anthropological Reader, edited by Robert Parkin and Linda Stone, Malden&Oxford: Blackwell.

**Film activity:** “Will you marry me in Africa” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKPgX8sHqEM

**PART 3. KINSHIP**

**Week 7.**

**The Problem of Incest**

Lévi-Strauss Claude. (1971). *Elementary Structures of Kinship*, Beacon Press, ch.2.

Readi. D. (2014). Incest Taboos and Kinship: A Biological or a Cultural Story? In *Reviews in Anthropology*, 43, pp. 150-175.

**Museum activity:** offline or online visit any museum to find a topic related to kinship, family, or gender issues.

**The Midterm is due!**

**Week 8.**

**The Power of Patriliniality and Matriliniality**

Stone L. (2010). *Kinship and Gender*, Westview Press, 69-117.

Evans-Pritchard E.E. *The Nuer of Southern Sudan in Kinship and Family*, pp.87-73.

**Week 9.**

**Kinship, Social Structures, and Politics**

Stone l. (2010). *Kinship and Gender*, Westview Press. Case 6: The Beng, p. 160; Case 7: The Kwaio, p. 174; Case 8: The Huli, p. 178.

Jorio, R. Women’s Organizations, the Ideology of Kinship, and the State in Post-independent Mali, in *An Anthropological Reader*, edited by Robert Parkin and Linda Stone, Malden&Oxford: Blackwell, (2004), pp.322-336.

**The museum paper is due!**

**Week 10.**

**Kinship and Household**

Robert, S. (2004). Parenting from Separate Households: A Cultural Perspective in *An Anthropological Reader*, edited by Robert Parkin and Linda Stone, Malden&Oxford: Blackwell, pp.229-245.

Ehrlich A. (2004).Power, Control and Mother-in law Problemin *An Anthropological Reader*, edited by Robert Parkin and Linda Stone, Malden&Oxford: Blackwell, pp.175-183.

**Week 11.**

**The Role of Kinship among Indigenous Communities**

Malinowski, B. (1922). *The Argonauts of the Western Pacific*, London: Routledge. Ch.Kula.

Fox, Robin 1967 Kinship and Marriage: An Anthropological Perspective. Baltimore: Penguin Books.

**Week 12.**

**Kinship and Family in Central and South Asia**

Tokhtakhodjaeva M. (1997).Society and Family in Uzbekistan in *Polish Sociological Review*, No. 118, pp. 149-165.

Kleinbach, R. (1999). Bride Kidnapping in Kyrgyz Republic in *International Journal of Central Asian Studies*, Vol.4.

**Class activity:** Film about bride kidnapping in Kyrgyzstan, at www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZECgt3AyfBs

**Week 13.**

**Kinship and Family in Contemporary Western World: the case of the USA**

Stone L. (2004). Has the World Turned? Kinship and Family in the Contemporary American Soap Opera in *An Anthropological Reader*, edited by Robert Parkin and Linda Stone, Oxford: Blackwell, pp.395-408.

**Activity:** Guest lecture.

**Week 14.**

**New Reproductive Technologies and Kinship**

Stone L. (2010). *Kinship and Gender*, Westview Press. Case 14: New Reproductive Technologies in Israel, p.296.

Modell, J. (2004). Open Adoption: Extending Families, Exchanging Facts in Kinship and Gender in *An Anthropological Reader*, edited by Robert Parkin and Linda Stone, Malden&Oxford: Blackwell, pp.227-259.

**Week 15.**

**Gender, Family, and Kinship in the Context of Globalization**

Stone L. (2010). *Kinship and Gender*, Westview Press. Case 12: Honor Killings, p. 270;

Case 13: Kinship, Gender, and Necktie Alcoholics in Japan, p. 277.

Collier, J., Rosaldo M.,Yanagisako S. (1992). Is There a Family? New Anthropological Views*,* in *Rethinking the Family: Some Feminist Questions,* edited by Barrie Thorne with Marilyn Yalom. Boston: Northeastern University Press, pp. 31-48.

**The final exam is due!**

1. This syllabus may be changed in inessential parts (e.g. replacement of reading assignments); students will be notified of any such change in advance. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)