Department of Anthropology

Anthropology 2275B-001
Anthropology of Sex and Gender
Winter 2023

PROVISIONAL COURSE OUTLINE

Version date: June 29, 2022

Lectures: Tuesdays 9:30-11:30 am
Classroom: WIRB 1170

Instructor: Dr. Lindsay Bell
Office: SSC-3312
Office hours: Please refer to the course site in OWL.
Email: Lindsay.bell@uwo.ca

Social Media: @drlibertybell

Teaching Assistant: TBD

Credit value: 0.5 credit
Prerequisites: None.
Antirequisites: None.

Course Description

This course is an exploration of anthropological approaches to gender. As we will immediately learn, gender means far more than thinking about “women,” or “women plus men”. Gender, as we will understand it in this class, is the name we give to a certain exercise of subject formation in which bodies materialize and fail to materialize in their sexed relationship to others. We will understand this process as fluid and multiple, and we will understand terms such “men” and “women” and “trans” as always insufficient terms of socio-political contrivance. That said, gender matters in very specific, visceral, exhilarating, and sometimes violent ways. Using anthropology as a lens, you will engage with those multiple meanings in their
specific social and historical contexts. Of critical importance is the intersectionality of gender and sexuality with other processes of social differentiation, such as race, ethnicity, socio-economic class, and nation. We will cover topics such as gender and work, love and marriage, sexuality, reproduction, globalization and gender and language.

The course is reading intensive and rooted in the anthropological tradition of ethnographic research and writing. The course is based around a set of exciting readings meant to spark discussion and collective thinking. Each week there will be a short reading quiz to help everyone to arrive prepared. In this course, you will be introduced to a key research method from anthropology: participant observation. To provide you with hands-on practice, you will complete two brief field assignments in the local community. There will be a midterm and final exam which will help to consolidate your learning.

A full course schedule including a week-by-week breakdown of topics and assigned readings will be available on the course’s OWL site before the first day of class.

**Learning Outcomes:**
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Define the terms sex and gender.
- Describe how and why anthropologists study sex, gender and sexuality. Explain how gender and sexuality intersect with race, class and place.
- Analyze how ideologies of sex and gender underlie social institutions and practices like schooling, marriage and work.
- Demonstrate how ideas of sex, gender and sexuality are at once local and global.
- Illustrate how ideas of sex, gender and sexuality are created, maintained and/or challenged through every day actions and words.
- Analyze how ideas of sex, gender and sexuality are connected to power and inequality.
Course Materials:
Required book available at the Western Bookstore:

All other required materials will be posted to OWL under Course Readings.

Evaluation:

Reading Quizzes 20% (Weekly at the start of class)
Each week, class will begin with a brief quiz to test for reading completion. There will be five multiple choice questions. There will be a quiz the week of the midterm. There are a total of twelve quizzes, however your ten best quizzes will be used to calculate your final score. Each individual quiz is worth 2%. All quizzes will be given at the start of class. As you can miss two quizzes without penalty, make ups will only be granted in extraordinary circumstances. Students who notify me a week in advance of a planned absence (school trip, sports team travel) can write a 500-word review of the reading in lieu of the quiz.

Midterm Test – 25%
The midterm test will be given in class. The midterm will be a blend of multiple choice, short answer and a single essay. Use of electronic devices will not be allowed during midterm. You will be given 90 minutes to complete the test.

Fieldnotes on Gender and Sexuality 20%
This assignment will ask you to be highly attuned to a community of gendered and gendering beings. You will be asked to observe this group of people from an anthropological perspective and take fieldnotes. The group can be any social community that has a clear bond (a sorority, a knitting group, international student association, a bar on a specific night, a video game club, etc). What are the everyday acts through which your selected community construct themselves as gendered persons? Why do they perform these acts? What would it mean for a member of the group to perform acts that undermine this particular construction? And most critically: how would you analyze all of this as an anthropologist of gender? The fieldnotes will be the basis for an essay question on the final exam. More information will be made available to students on the course OWL site.
Late fieldnotes will lose 2% of the assignment grade a day (including weekends). Papers that are more than three days late will not be accepted. Anyone requiring an extension should speak to me 24 hours before the deadline to arrange a mutually agreeable solution.

**Final Exam – 35%**

The final exam will take place during the designated exam period for this course. It will cover all of the course material. Use of electronic devices will not be allowed during the final exam. Your fieldnotes will be provided to you in the exam.

END
Course Specific Statements and Policies:

Communication Best Practices:

Email should not be seen as an alternative to meeting with me during office hours; it should be used primarily for administrative purposes, e.g. informing me of prolonged illness, etc. Please take advantage of office hours. It is the best way for me to attend to your queries. All e-mail correspondence with me must be sent with the course number mentioned in the subject line. Your full name should also be included in the body of the text. I will not respond to anonymous messages or those missing a salutation (Dear/ Hello/ Good afternoon + Dr. Bell).

Sometimes you may be confused about an idea or an assignment. No problem! Here is what to do:

Start by asking a colleague. You should have the email addresses for at least two of them.

If your two course colleagues don’t have the answer, email your TA.

If the TA does not know, they will pass along the message to me.

If there is an urgent matter, I will do my best to respond to e-mails within 72 hours. I do not answer email on weekends or holidays. If your query is such that I can more efficiently answer it in person, I will ask you to make an appointment to see me.

Statement on Seeking Special Accommodations:

No accommodations will be granted retroactively more than 10 days after an assignment’s due date or a missed quiz or test. Please see your academic counsellor immediately if you will be seeking accommodations based on medical or compassionate grounds.

Statement on Plagiarism:

Students must write their assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing. It is also a scholastic offence to submit the same work for credit in more than one course. Plagiarism is a major scholastic offence.
**Policy on Laptops and Cellphones in Class:**

Laptops are permitted for note-taking in class but if it is observed that students are on social networking sites, they will be asked to close the laptop and will not be permitted to use it for the remainder of the class. Be sure that all cellphones are turned off at the beginning of class.

**Institutional Statements and Policies**

All students should familiarize themselves with Western's current academic policies regarding accessibility, plagiarism and scholastic offences, and medical accommodation. [These policies are outlined with links to the full policies on the Anthropology website.](#)