

## SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

**Voyage: Spring 2013**

**Discipline: Anthropology**

**ANTH 2210: Marriage and Family Across Cultures and Histories**

**Lower Division**

**Faculty Name: Dr. Janice E. Stockard**

**Pre-requisites:** An introductory sociology or anthropology course.

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

This anthropology course offers students the opportunity to explore cross-cultural similarity and difference in marriage and family practices. Students will have the opportunity to focus in-depth on several cultural cases, most relating to major ports of call on our trip itinerary. For each cultural case, we will use anthropological perspectives to analyze how marriage, family, and kinship practices reflect different understandings about the roles and status of men and women in society.

In addition, this course seeks to achieve the following objectives:

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

By focusing on specific cultural cases (based on our ports of call), this course poses several fundamental questions about the universality of marriage and specific family forms:

- 1) Why is it important to understand “kinship” in society in order to understand cross-cultural marriage and family practices and meanings?
- 2) What is the role of marriage in reproducing family and kinship forms and ideologies across the generations? – How does marriage reproduce distinctive cultures and societies -- and identities?
- 3) How are family practices (and cultural ideologies about “family”) linked to the larger economy and national politics and policies?
- 4) Finally, this class seeks to provide new perspectives on EuroAmerican marriage and family practices by placing them within the context of cross-cultural practices and meanings.

### REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Lundgren, Nancy

*Watch and Pray: A Portrait of Fante Village Life in Transition* [Ghana]

Belmont, CA: Wadsworth

ISBN: 0-15-505933-5

2002

Mernissi, Fatima  
*Dreams of Trespass*  
Basic Books  
ISBN: 0201489376  
1995

Stockard, Janice E.  
*Marriage in Culture: Practice and Meaning Across Diverse Societies*  
Belmont, CA: Wadsworth  
ISBN: 13 978-0155063860  
2001

Yan, Yunxiang  
*Private Life Under Socialism: Love, Intimacy, and Family Change in a Chinese Village 1949-1999*  
Stanford: Stanford University Press  
ISBN: 0-8047-4456-4  
2003

## TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

### Schedule of Readings

#### Through the Eyes of Anthropologists: Marriage and Family

##### 1. Marriage and Family Practices in Cultural Context

\*Stockard, Janice E. 2001. *Marriage in Culture: Practice and Meaning Across Diverse Societies*: Introduction, Chapter 1

##### 2. The Anthropological Study of Marriage

Stockard, Janice E. and Evelyn Blackwood. [2015, forthcoming.] "Marriage and Residence Practices." In *Cultural Anthropology: Mapping Cultures Across Space and Time*. Cengage Learning/Wadsworth [e-chapter]

##### 3. Variation in Families -- and Cultural Ideologies

Stockard, Janice E. and Evelyn Blackwood. [2015, forthcoming.] "Kin and Families: Forms of Relatedness." In *Cultural Anthropology: Mapping Cultures Across Space and Time*. Belmont, CA: Cengage Learning/Wadsworth [e-chapter]

## **Encountering Japan**

### **4. Marriage and Family in Cultural Context: Japan ~ Then**

Embree, John F. (John Fee). 2002(1964). *Suye Mura: A Japanese Village*. Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press [Chapter 1]

### **5. Family Structure and Ideology**

Nakane, Chie. 1970. *Japanese Society*. Harmondsworth: Penguin [Chapter 1]

Goodman, Roger. 2005. "Making Majority Culture." In *A Companion to the Anthropology of Japan*, ed. Jennifer Robertson, pp. 59-72. Oxford: Blackwell

### **6. Contemporary Marriage and Wedding Symbolism**

Goldstein-Gidoni, Ofra. 1997. "Bridal Dresses as Carriers of 'Tradition'." In *Packaged Japaneseness: Weddings, Business, and Brides*, pp. 79-107. Surrey: Curzon

Dunn, Cynthia Dickel. 2004. "Cultural Models and Metaphors for Marriage: An Analysis of Discourse at Japanese Wedding Receptions." *Ethos* 32, 3: 348-373

### **7. Marriage Variation and Meanings: Spirit Marriage**

Schattschneider, Ellen. 2001. "Buy me a Bride": Death and Exchange in Northern Japanese Bride-Doll Marriage." *American Ethnologist* 28, 4: 854-880

### **8. In Global Perspective: Marriage and Family in Japan**

Ochiai, Emiko. 2005. "The *Ie* (Family) in Global Perspective. In *A Companion to the Anthropology of Japan*, ed. Jennifer Robertson, pp. 355-379. Oxford: Blackwell

## **Changing Marriage and Family in China: Then and Now**

### **9. Marriage and Family: Village Lives Then**

\*Stockard, Janice E. 2001. *Marriage in Culture: Practice and Meaning Across Diverse Societies*. Chapter 2

Wolf, Margery. 1972. "Uterine Families and the Women's Community (Chapter 3)." In *Women and the Family in Northern Taiwan*, pp. 32-41. Stanford: Stanford University Press

## **10. Family and Marriage Practice among Non-Han Chinese: PRC Now**

Gladney, Dru. 2007. "The Rising Politics of Ethnic Difference." In *Globalization and Change in Fifteen Cultures*, ed. G. Spindler and J. Stockard, pp. 53-71. Belmont CA: Cengage Learning/Wadsworth

Shih, Chuan-kang. 2010. "Tisese: The Primary Pattern of Institutionalized Sexual Union" (Chapter 3). *Quest for Harmony: The Moso Traditions of Sexual Union and Family Life*. Stanford: Stanford Univ. Press

## **11. Han Chinese Marriage and Family Practice: PRC Now**

\*Yan, Yunxiang. 2003. *Private Life Under Socialism: Love, Intimacy, and Family Change in a Chinese Village 1949-1999*: Begin reading

Davis, Deborah and Julia Sensenbrenner. 2000. "Commercializing Childhood: Parental Purchases for Shanghai's Only Child." In *The Consumer Revolution in Urban China*, ed. D. Davis, pp. 54-79. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press

## **12. PRC Marriage – and Matchmakers**

\*Yan, Yunxiang. 2003. *Private Life Under Socialism: Love, Intimacy, and Family Change in a Chinese Village 1949-1999*: Continue reading

Larmer, Brooke. 2013. "The Price of Marriage in China." [on match-making services] *New York Times*, March 9 [e-resource]

## **Southeast Asia: Diversity in Marriage and Family Forms**

### **Vietnam**

## **13. Ethnicities and Diversity in Marriage and Family Practices: Overview**

Keyes, Charles F. 1984. "Tribal Ethnicity and the State in Vietnam." *American Ethnologist* 20, 1: 178 – 182.

Malarney, Shaun K. 2002. *Culture, Ritual, and Revolution in Vietnam*. Univ. of Hawaii [Chapter 1]

## **14. Marriage and Family Change in Contemporary Vietnam**

Luong, Hy V. 2003. *Post-War Vietnam: Dynamics of a Transforming Society*, ed. Hy V. Luong. Rowan and Littlefield [Chapter 1]

## **15. Children and Change**

Burr, Rachel. 2006. *Vietnam's Children in a Changing World*. Rutgers NJ: Rutgers University Press [Chapter 1]

## **Peoples of Burma**

### **16. Diversity in Kinship and Marriage**

Spiro, Melford. 1986. *Kinship and Marriage in Burma*. Berkeley: Univ. of California Press [Chapter 1]

### **17. Marriage and Family: Karens and Kachins in Burma**

Marshall, Henry I. 2012(1923). *The Karen People of Burma*. Ulan Press [Chapter 1]

## **South Asia**

### **India**

### **17. Cultures, Castes, and Marriage in India**

Bayly, Susan. 2001. *Caste, Society, and Politics in India*. London: Cambridge Univ. Press [Chapter 1]

Nanda, Serena. 2000. "Arranging a Marriage in India." In *Stumbling Towards Truth: Anthropologists at Work*, ed. P. R. DeVita, pp. 196-204. Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland

### **18. Marriage Variation: The Nayar**

Moore, Melinda. 1988. "Symbol and Meaning in Nayar Marriage Ritual." *American Ethnologist* 15, 2: 254-73

\*Stockard, Janice E. *Marriage in Culture: Practice and Meaning Across Diverse Societies*, Chapter 4 (Comparative South Asian case: Tibetans)

### **19. Diversity in Gender: The Hijras**

Nanda, Serena. 1999. *Neither Man nor Woman: The Hijras of India*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth [Chapter 1]

## **Lives and Families in Transition in Southern Africa**

### **South Africa**

#### **20. Ethnicities, Cultures, and Marriage Now**

Meskeil, Lynn. 2012. *The Nature of Heritage: The New South Africa*. New York: Wiley Blackwell. [chapter selection]

#### **21. Cultures and Marriage, cont.**

Meskeil, Lynn. 2012. *The Nature of Heritage*, continue reading selection (above)

#### **22. Migration and Family Change**

James, Deborah. 1999. "bagagesu (those of my home): Women Migrants, Ethnicity, and Performance in South Africa. *American Ethnologist* 26, 1: 69-89

### **Marriage and Family in West Africa: Ghana**

#### **23. Factors in Marriage Change in Ghana: The Fante**

\*Lungren, Nancy. 2002. *Watch and Pray: A Portrait of Fante Village Life in Transition*. Begin reading

#### **24. The Fante, cont.**

\*Lungren, Nancy. 2002. *Watch and Pray: A Portrait of Fante Village Life in Transition*. Continue reading

#### **25. Migration and Change**

Coe, Cati. 2005. "The Structuring of Feeling in Ghanaian Transnational Families." *City and Society* 20, 2: 222-50

### **Marriage Practice and Change in North Africa: Morocco and Egypt**

#### **26. Marriage and Family: Morocco Then**

\*Fernea, Elizabeth Warnock. 1994. *The Harem Within: Tales of a Moroccan Girlhood*. New York: Doubleday. Begin reading

## **27. – And in Transition**

\*Fernea, Elizabeth Warnock. 1994. *The Harem Within: Tales of a Moroccan Girlhood*. New York: Doubleday. Continue reading

Njoky, Raphael Chijoke. 2005. “Gender Roles, Marriage, and Family.” In *Culture and Customs of Morocco*. Greenwood Press [Chapter 4]  
ISBN

## **28. Changing Bedouin Marriage and Family: Egypt**

Abu-Lughod, Lila. 1993. “Patrilineal Parallel-Cousin Marriage.” In *Writing Women’s Words: Bedouin Stories*, pp.167-202. Berkeley: UC Press

## **FIELD WORK**

***FIELD LAB*** (At least 20 percent of the contact hours for each course, to be led by the instructor.)

The Field Lab for “Marriage and Family Across Cultures and Histories” will entail a full day of visiting a combination of marriage bureaus, family planning or counseling centers, adoption agencies – and matchmaking services, preferably at two or three ports of call, (depending on availability).

Each student will keep close notes on her/his observations at each site, as well as on the specific information dispensed by representatives at each of the Field Labs and sites (family planning consultants or bureau spokespersons, professional or other local matchmakers, etc.). (The preferred ports of call are Japan, Vietnam, Ghana, and India, are best represented in syllabi readings.)

The observations and notes from the Field Labs will be integrated into the class essay assignment (see below) as well as class participation – and on the final exam.

## ***FIELD ASSIGNMENTS***

In addition to the 2 Field Labs, at additional ports of call, students will attend scheduled events, tentatively titled “Elders Talk Culture: Marriage Customs” (or “Elders Talk Culture: Wedding Ceremonies” – or “Marriage Celebrations and Music,” “Families and Households,” “Non-Marriage Customs,” “Marriage Customs Then ~ and Now.”

The information that students collect through the talks themselves (plus through

observations, questions and answers) will be recorded in their journals – and later integrated into their Class Essay assignment (below), Class Participation, and Final Examination.

## **METHODS OF EVALUATION / GRADING RUBRIC**

In this class, students will be evaluated on the basis of the following:

- **Mid-Term Examination.** The in-class mid-term exam is based on course reading, lectures, and discussion. The mid-term will test student's comprehension of anthropological concepts, methods, and terminology: **25%** of final grade
- **Class Essay.** An 8 – 10 page class essay assignment will be based on an essay topic (or question) selected from a list distributed by the instructor. Topics will focus either on cultural change and/or cultural variation at one point of call – or require a comparative analysis of one aspect of culture across several points of call: **25%** of course grade
- **Class Participation.** Class participation, including completion of homework before class, participation in class discussion, introducing one reading assignment in class – plus keeping a detailed course journal of field lab and assignments: **20%**
- **Final Examination.** The final (cumulative) examination will cover course readings and lab assignments, in addition to class lectures and discussions: **30%**

## **ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS**

Abu-Lughod, Lila  
“Patrilateral Parallel-Cousin Marriage” [chapter]  
*Writing Women's Words: Bedouin Stories*  
Berkeley: UC Press  
1993  
pp. 167-202

Bayly, Susan  
[Chapter 1]  
*Caste, Society, and Politics in India*  
London: Cambridge Univ. Press  
2001

Burr, Rachel. 2006.  
[Chapter 1]  
*Vietnam's Children in a Changing World*  
Rutgers NJ: Rutgers University Press  
2006

Coe, Cati



“The Structuring of Feeling in Ghanaian Transnational Families”  
*City and Society* 20, 2  
2005  
pp. 222-50

Dunn, Cynthia Dickel  
“Cultural Models and Metaphors for Marriage: An Analysis of Discourse at Japanese Wedding  
Receptions.”  
*Ethos* 32, 3  
2004  
pp. 348-373

Embree, John F. (John Fee)  
[chapter 1]  
*Suye Mura: A Japanese Village*  
Chicago: Univ. of Chicago Press  
2002(1964)

Gladney, Dru  
“The Rising Politics of Ethnic Difference”  
In *Globalization and Change in Fifteen Cultures*, ed. G. Spindler and J. Stockard,  
Belmont CA: Cengage Learning/Wadsworth  
2007  
pp. 53-71

Goldstein-Gidoni, Ofra  
“Bridal Dresses as Carriers of ‘Tradition’” [chapter excerpt]  
In *Packaged Japaneseness: Weddings, Business, and Brides*  
Surrey: Curzon  
1997  
pp. 79-107

Goodman, Roger.  
“Making Majority Culture.”  
In *A Companion to the Anthropology of Japan*, ed. Jennifer Robertson  
Oxford: Blackwell  
2005  
pp. 59-62

James, Deborah  
“bagagesu (those of my home): Women Migrants, Ethnicity, and Performance in South Africa.  
*American Ethnologist* 26, 1  
1999  
pp. 69-89

Keyes, Charles F.

“Tribal Ethnicity and the State in Vietnam”  
*American Ethnologist* 20, 1  
1984  
pp. 178 – 182

Larmer, Brooke  
“The Price of Marriage in China.”  
*New York Times*  
March 9, 2013

Luong, Hy V.  
[Chapter X]  
*Post-War Vietnam: Dynamics of a Transforming Society*, ed. Hy V. Luong  
Rowan and Littlefield  
2003

Malarney, Shaun K.  
[Chapter X]  
*Culture, Ritual, and Revolution in Vietnam*.  
Honolulu: Univ. of Hawaii Press  
2002

Marshall, Henry I.  
[Chapter 1]  
*The Karen People of Burma*. Ulan Press  
2012(1923)

Meskill, Lynn.  
[chapter]  
*The Nature of Heritage: The New South Africa*.  
New York: Wiley Blackwell.  
2012

Moore, Melinda  
“Symbol and Meaning in Nayar Marriage Ritual.” *American Ethnologist* 15, 2  
1988  
pp. 254-73

Nakane, Chie  
[Chapter 1]  
*Japanese Society*  
Harmondsworth: Penguin  
1970

Nanda, Serena  
“Arranging a Marriage in India.”

In *Stumbling Towards Truth: Anthropologists at Work*, ed. P. R. DeVita  
Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland  
2000  
pp. 196-204

Nanda, Serena  
[Chapter 1]  
*Neither Man nor Woman: The Hijras of India*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.  
Belmont, CA: Wadsworth  
1999

Njoky, Raphael Chijoke  
“Gender Roles, Marriage, and Family” [chapter]  
In *Culture and Customs of Morocco*.  
Greenwood Press  
2005

Ochiai, Emiko  
“The *Ie* (Family) in Global Perspective.  
In *A Companion to the Anthropology of Japan*, ed. Jennifer Robertson  
Oxford: Blackwell  
2005  
pp. 355-379

Schattschneider, Ellen  
“Buy me a Bride”: Death and Exchange in Northern Japanese Bride-Doll Marriage”  
*American Ethnologist* 28, 4  
2001  
pp. 854-880

Shih, Chuan-kang  
“Tise: The Primary Pattern of Institutionalized Sexual Union” (Chapter 3)  
*Quest for Harmony: The Moso Traditions of Sexual Union and Family Life*  
Stanford: Stanford Univ. Press  
2010  
pp. 73-100

Spiro, Melford  
[Chapter 1]  
*Kinship and Marriage in Burma*.  
Berkeley: Univ. of California Press  
1986

Stockard, Janice E. and Evelyn Blackwood.  
Chapter 5: “Marriage and Residence Practices”  
In *Cultural Anthropology: Mapping Cultures Across Space and Time*.

Cengage Learning/Wadsworth

[2015, forthcoming]

[\*Note: The text *Mapping* goes into IP September 2013; that copy will be provided by author for reserve.]

Stockard, Janice E. and Evelyn Blackwood

Chapter 6: “Kin and Families: Forms of Relatedness”

In *Cultural Anthropology: Mapping Cultures Across Space and Time*. Belmont, CA: Cengage Learning/Wadsworth

[2015, forthcoming]

[\*Note: The text *Mapping* goes into IP September 2013; that copy will be provided for reserve.]

Wolf, Margery. 1972.

“Uterine Families and the Women’s Community” (Chapter 3)

In *Women and the Family in Northern Taiwan*

Stanford: Stanford University Press

1972

pp. 32-41

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

[No, I do not anticipate they will require additional resources in order to complete the course and its assignments.]

## **HONOR CODE**

Semester at Sea students enroll in an academic program administered by the University of Virginia, and thus bind themselves to the University’s honor code. The code prohibits all acts of lying, cheating, and stealing. Please consult the Voyager’s Handbook for further explanation of what constitutes an honor offense.

Each written assignment for this course must be pledged by the student as follows: “On my honor as a student, I pledge that I have neither given nor received aid on this assignment.” The pledge must be signed, or, in the case of an electronic file, signed “[signed].”