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  
TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

Schedule of Readings

Through the Eyes of Anthropologists: Marriage and Family

1. Marriage and Family Practices in Cultural Context


2. The Anthropological Study of Marriage


3. Variation in Families -- and Cultural Ideologies

Encountering Japan

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


5. Family Structure and Ideology


6. Contemporary Marriage and Wedding Symbolism


7. Marriage Variation and Meanings: Spirit Marriage


8. In Global Perspective: Marriage and Family in Japan


Changing Marriage and Family in China: Then and Now

9. Marriage and Family: Village Lives Then


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


11. Han Chinese Marriage and Family Practice: PRC Now


12. PRC Marriage – and Matchmakers


Southeast Asia: Diversity in Marriage and Family Forms

Vietnam

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


14. Marriage and Family Change in Contemporary Vietnam

15. Children and Change

**Peoples of Burma**

16. Diversity in Kinship and Marriage

17. Marriage and Family: Karens and Kachins in Burma

**South Asia**

**India**

17. Cultures, Castes, and Marriage in India


18. Marriage Variation: The Nayar

*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
Lives and Families in Transition in Southern Africa

South Africa

20. Ethnicities, Cultures, and Marriage Now


21. Cultures and Marriage, cont.


22. Migration and Family Change


Marriage and Family in West Africa:

Ghana

23. Factors in Marriage Change in Ghana: The Fante


24. The Fante, cont.


25. Migration and Change


Marriage Practice and Change in North Africa:

Morocco and Egypt

26. Marriage and Family: Morocco Then

27. – And in Transition


28. Changing Bedouin Marriage and Family: Egypt


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 port of call – or require a comparative analysis of one aspect of culture across several ports 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
*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)

Meskell, Lynn.
[chapter]
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*, 2nd ed.
Belmont, CA:  Wadsworth
1999

Njokły, 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
“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
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*. 
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].”