

# ARCHAEOLOGY OF GENDER

[crodning@tulane.edu](mailto:crodning@tulane.edu)

<http://www.tulane.edu/~crodning/gender/>

(504)862-3067

Class Meetings—TR 11:00-12:15 (332/732) | T 12:30-1:30 (732) Office Hours—F 10:00-12:00  
Middle American Research Institute (MARI) 1326 Audubon Street

Gender refers to the cultural norms, ideals, expectations, and rules that shape the relationships and activities of men, women, and children. People in the present and recent past have conceptualized gender in many different ways, and there is great diversity in the range of gender roles and gender relations seen in different cultures. With ethnographic and historic evidence as interpretive guides, archaeologists can offer insights into the nature of gender roles and gender relations in past societies, and into the ways that gender norms have contributed to major trends in the history and prehistory of humankind. This course is an introduction to the archaeological study of the roles of men, women, and children in past societies; the relationships among women, men, and children in past communities; and the ideologies that have legitimized and naturalized those gender roles and gender relations.

Students in this course will:

- learn why it is important for archaeologists to consider gender when describing life in the past
- learn how archaeologists can reconstruct gender roles and gender ideologies in past societies through the study of archaeological sites and artifacts
- learn how ethnographic analogy guides interpretation of archaeological evidence
- learn about the roles of men and women, and of adults and children, in past societies through case studies presented in readings and lectures

Each student—graduate and undergraduate—will attend lectures, participate in class discussions, and write a term paper on a topic of his or her choice. Graduate students will do additional readings and will also meet once each week for seminar discussions. Students will learn about gender dynamics in past societies of Africa, Asia, Oceania, Mesoamerica, South America, North America, and Europe. Topics covered in readings and lectures include rock art, metalworking, pastoralism, and hunter-gatherer lifeways in southern and eastern Africa; matrilineal kinship and third-gender groups in native societies of North America; kings, queens, weavers, warriors, and farmers in Mesoamerica; royal dynasties in ancient China; farm ownership and trade in Viking Age Europe; childhood and adulthood in ancient Athens; wealth, social status, and trade in the Phillipines; power and leadership in ancient Egypt; and the iconography and ideology of ancient civilizations in Mesopotamia.

Some tips for success in this course:

- attend every class
- complete all assigned readings before the class date for which they are assigned
- take notes on readings, class discussions, and lectures, and review those notes periodically
- submit assignments on time
- compare and contrast the different arguments made in the articles and books that you read, and decide which arguments you find convincing—or unconvincing—and why
- begin developing your ideas about your term paper early in the term, and work steadily towards finishing your paper throughout the term

The following are the **required textbooks** for all undergraduate and graduate students taking this course:

- SK *Gender in African Prehistory*, edited by Susan Kent (AltaMira Press, Walnut Creek, CA, 1998, ISBN: 0761989676)
- LS *Gender and Chinese Archaeology*, edited by Katheryn Linduff and Yan Sun (AltaMira Press, Walnut Creek, CA, 2004, ISBN: 0759104093)

TA *Ancient Maya Women*, edited by Traci Ardren (AltaMira Press, Walnut Creek, CA, 2002, ISBN: 0759100101)

The following book is **required only** for graduate students taking this course:

PC *Women and Men in the Prehispanic Southwest*, edited by Patricia Crown (School of American Research Press, Santa Fe, NM, 2001, ISBN: 0933452179)

Additional required and recommended readings will be made available at the Tulane library reserve desk and in our course documents section on Blackboard.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

M1/15 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY

### INTRODUCTION

T1/16 read the course syllabus

last day to confirm registration 1/19

### GENDER AND HUMAN EVOLUTION

R1/18 Silk 1993; Zihlman 1993

T1/23 SK Chapter 3; Roosevelt 2002  
ANTH 732—PC Chapter 1

last day to add 1/26

R1/25 read term paper and presentation handouts

class workshop at library

### AFRICA

T1/30 SK Chapters 2; ~~Parkington 2002~~  
ANTH 732—PC Chapter 2

R2/1 SK Chapters 4, 5

T2/6 SK Chapters 7, 8  
ANTH 732—PC Chapter 3

R2/8 ~~Savage 2000~~; Troy 2003

T2/13 SK Chapters 12, 13  
ANTH 732—PC Chapter 4

### OCEANIA

R2/15 ~~SK Chapter 10~~; Bacus 2002

last day to drop without record 2/16

M2/19 LUNDI GRAS

T2/20 MARDI GRAS

R2/22 **MIDTERM EXAM**

11:00AM – 12:15PM

### ASIA

T2/27 LS Chapter 2; ~~Nelson 2002~~  
ANTH 732—PC Chapter 5

R3/1 LS Chapter 4; ~~Linduff 2002~~

T3/6 LS Chapters 5, 6  
ANTH 732—PC Chapter 6

R3/8 LS Chapters 8, 10

T3/13 LS Chapters 11, 12  
ANTH 732—PC Chapter 7

term paper topic statement due

last day to drop 3/14

## MESOAMERICA

R3/15 Bell 2003; McCafferty and McCafferty 2003

S3/17-S3/25 SPRING BREAK

T3/27 TA Chapters 2, 4  
ANTH 732—PC Chapter 8

R3/29 TA Chapters 5, 9

T4/3 TA Chapter 10; ~~Brumfiel 1994~~  
ANTH 732—PC Chapter 9R4/5 TA Chapter 11; ~~Gillespie and Joyce 1997~~

F4/6-M4/9 EASTER BREAK

## SOUTH AMERICA

T4/10 ~~Hastorf 1994~~; Vogel 2003  
ANTH 732—PC Chapter 10

## NORTH AMERICA

R4/12 ~~Classen 1994~~; Hays-Gilpin 2000a; ~~Jackson 1994~~T4/17 Hollimon 2000a; Pine 2000; ~~Sullivan 2004~~  
ANTH 732—review and discussion (no reading)

## EUROPE

R4/19 Beaumont 2000; Houby-Nielsen 2000

T4/24 Graslund 2001; Stalsberg 2001  
ANTH 732—student paper presentations (no reading)

R4/26 Arnold 2002

term papers due in class

M5/7 **FINAL EXAM**

8:00AM – 10:00AM

## READINGS

Students should read articles before the class for which they are assigned. Many reading assignments, of course, are from the required course textbooks, which are abbreviated on this syllabus as TA, PC, SK, and LS. Other readings are available on Blackboard and in the main office of the anthropology department, at 1326 Audubon Street, which is open from 8AM to 4PM on weekdays.

## WRITING

Each student taking this course will write a term paper on a topic of his or her choice, 10-15 pages long for undergraduates in Anthropology 332, 15-20 pages long for graduate students in Anthropology 732. Students are welcome to consult with staff members of the writing workshop here on campus should they want feedback on approaches to writing and drafts of papers: <http://erc.tulane.edu/tutoring/writing.htm>. There are links to a variety of web pages about the mechanics of academic writing and citation at: [http://library.tulane.edu/research/research\\_help/citation\\_guide.php](http://library.tulane.edu/research/research_help/citation_guide.php).

## PRESENTATIONS

All students taking this course will give presentations in class. Undergraduates in Anthropology 332 will give presentations in class about assigned readings. Graduate students in Anthropology 732 will participate in leading once-weekly one-hour seminar discussions, and they will give brief presentations about their term papers.

## EXAMS

All students taking this course will take a midterm exam and a final exam. Undergraduates will take in-class exams. Graduate students will have take-home essay exams.

## GRADES

Students will earn points towards final grades for this course throughout the semester, according to their performance on tests and in writing assignments, and through class participation. Final grades are determined as follows.

Semester grade scores are determined by:

class participation	15%	class presentation	10%
term paper topic statement	5%	term paper	30%
midterm exam	15%	final exam	25%

Letter grades are derived as follows:

A = >94	B+ = 87-89	C+ = 77-79	D = 60-69
A- = 90-94	B = 84-86	C = 74-76	F = <60
	B- = 80-83	C- = 70-73	

## COURSE POLICIES

Students are encouraged to participate actively in class discussions and are expected to respect the thoughts and opinions shared by others taking this course. Take advantage of your chances in this course and in your other courses to read, to write, to reflect, and to learn. Attendance is mandatory, students are expected to attend and to participate in every scheduled class meeting, reading and writing assignments should be completed by the date for which they are assigned, and the exams must be taken as scheduled. Each student may be absent from two classes, after which points will be deducted from the class participation component of his or her course grade.

Students are welcome to study with each other and to talk about the material and ideas covered in the course, but exams and writing assignments must reflect individual thought and effort.

Cheating on exams, plagiarism of written material, and other forms of academic misconduct are strictly forbidden, they will lead to disciplinary action, and academic misconduct by a student may result in a failing grade for this course. Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the honor code and adhering to it—<http://college.tulane.edu/honorcode.htm>. The more general code of student conduct, which includes statements about the honor code and other university policies, is available on line at—<http://studentaffairs.tulane.edu/judicial/CodeofStudentConduct.pdf>.

In addition to consulting with the professor about issues related to coursework and their performance in this course in particular, students are welcome to consult with teachers and staff of the Center for Educational Resources and Counseling here at Tulane University (<http://www.erc.tulane.edu/>), whose web site includes pages devoted to study tips (<http://www.erc.tulane.edu/study/index.htm>), tutoring services (<http://www.erc.tulane.edu/tutoring/index.htm>), and counseling services (<http://www.erc.tulane.edu/counseling/index.htm>). Please know that those resources are there for you if you want or need them. There is nothing wrong with asking for help.

## LEARN MORE

The web page for this course includes recommended readings and links to relevant web pages. Students interested in gender are encouraged to take other anthropology courses about gender, including gender and language, the ethnography of gender, human health and evolution, and sex and reproduction in humans and other primate species.

Other archaeology courses at Tulane focus on specific areas or periods of the past. Archaeologists at Tulane have interests and expertise in the archaeology of southeastern and southwestern North America, Mesoamerica, Africa, and South America.