

KINSHIP, CITIZENSHIP, AND BELONGING

Anthropology 1988 / Fall 2014

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Class meets Wednesdays 1:00 to
3:15pm in Tozzer Anthropology
Building, Room 416.

Office Hours: Tuesdays 1pm to
3pm (please sign up in advance) or
by appointment

The domains of family life, kinship, and intimacy represent central sites for the construction and contestation of social and political belonging. This course introduces students to classic and contemporary theories of society, kinship, and citizenship by way of theorizing how economic production, sovereignty, and everyday life emerge, in part, through the regulation of relatedness. Anthropologists of the late nineteenth century and of the first half of the twentieth century turned kinship into a key domain for understanding social cohesion and political organization. In the past three decades – following feminist, Marxist, and queer critiques – anthropologists explored how discourses about kinship and the family anchored the ideologies and practices of modernity, colonialism, nationalism, and globalization. In this course, we ask: What can various forms of kinship teach us about the politics of social reproduction and the making of citizenship – its modes of belonging and exclusion – in the contemporary world? Why do national and transnational institutions care about how we relate to each other, how we build families, and whether we reproduce? Why do we desire that our intimate lives be recognized by the state and by the agents of the global market? And, can our ways of crafting relatedness in everyday life transform how we come to belong to larger political institutions?

Course Requirements

Grades will reflect the student's level of engagement with the readings, lectures, and other assignments of the course as well as the extent to which the student acquired critical knowledge and analytical skills throughout the semester.

- ❑ *Attendance and participation (20%).* Attendance is mandatory. Please note that more than two absences will result in the loss of 5% from the final grade, more than four absences in the loss of 10%, etc. Students are expected to participate in class discussions by formulating questions, responses, and critiques relevant to the assigned readings. To make your time in class a productive and pleasant experience for everyone, please do not use phones, laptops, or tablets.
- ❑ *Review Questions (20%).* To help you participate actively in class discussions, I would like you to write as you read. For each class, please type a 150-word review question. Questions should be well-formulated, clear, and should add a critical component to the class discussion. A good review question should very briefly sum up a selected argument of the reading(s). Then, it should unpack the argument critically, either by treating it on its own terms or by comparing it to issues emerging in discussions, lectures, and other readings covered for this class. Print your question and bring it to class. Then, please try to find the right moment to ask your question in class. I will also collect questions at the end of each session.

- ❑ *Written Assignment(s) (60%).* Students may choose one out of two kinds of written assignments in consultation with the professor.

Option A: Mid-term (30%) and Final (30%) Take-Home Exams. For each exam, students are required to respond to one out of a choice of two essay questions. The essay must draw on the readings, discussions, lectures, and films of the course exclusively. It must have a clear thesis statement, a well-constructed line of argumentation, and sufficient evidence to support the author's position. Essays must be no more than 5 or 6 pages long. The mid-term take-home exam is due **October 15** and the final take-home exam is due **December 3**.

Option B: Research Paper (60%). In exceptional circumstances, when students have well-formulated ideas and questions that they wish to research throughout the semester and explore in an extensive research paper, they may choose this option. Research papers must be based on original, in-depth ethnographic or library research. They must address current conceptual concerns and reflect a strong engagement with the readings and other materials for this course. Papers must be between 12 to 15 pages long. Students interested in writing a research paper must submit a 250-word proposal with a potential bibliography by **September 24**. Students who do not submit proposals or whose proposals are not sufficiently well framed, will have to use *Option A* for written assignments. Research papers are due **December 3**.

Please drop off all assignments in the professor's mailing box in Tozzer Anthropology Building, Room 205. Note that late submissions will result in the loss of 5% per day from the final grade for the course.

Required Texts

The following texts are available for purchase at the Coop Bookstore and for consultation on a three-hour reserve at the Tozzer Library.

- ❑ Coe, Cati. 2013. *The Scattered Family: Parenting, African Migration, and Global Inequality*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- ❑ Butler, Judith. 2000. *Antigone's Claim: Kinship between Life and Death*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- ❑ Evans-Pritchard, Edward E. 1951. *Kinship and Marriage among the Nuer*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- ❑ Hutchinson, Sharon E. 1996. *Nuer Dilemmas: Coping with Money, War, and the State*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- ❑ Stoler, Ann Laura. 2002. *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Race and the Intimate in Colonial Rule*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

All other readings will be available on the course website.

To familiarize yourself with kinship charts and kinship terminology in classic anthropology, please consult the following link: <http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/anthropology/kintitle.html>

Weekly Schedule

WEEK 1 INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

September 3

No readings

WEEK 2 WHAT IS KINSHIP? WHAT IS CITIZENSHIP?

September 10

- ❑ Sahlins, Marshall. 2013. "What Kinship Is (Part One)." *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, 17:2-19.
- ❑ McKinnon, Susan and Fenella Cannell. 2013. "The Difference Kinship Makes." In S. McKinnon and F. Cannell (eds) *Vital Relations: Modernity and the Persistent Life of Kinship*. Pp. 3-38. Santa Fe: School of Advanced Research Press.
- ❑ Ong, Aihwa. 1996. "Cultural Citizenship as Subject-Making: Immigrants Negotiate Racial and Cultural Boundaries in the United States." *Current Anthropology*, 37(5): 737-751.
- ❑ Sheller, Mimi. 2012. "History from the Bottom(s) Up." In M. Sheller, *Citizenship from Below: Erotic Agency and Caribbean Freedom*. Pp. 19-47. Durham: Duke University Press.

PART I CLASSIC DEBATES IN THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF KINSHIP

WEEK 3 FORGET KINSHIP? AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL DILEMMA

September 17

- ❑ Fox, Robin. 1967. "Kinship, Family, and Descent." In Fox, R. *Kinship and Marriage: An Anthropological Perspective*. Pp. 27-53. Baltimore: Penguin.
- ❑ Needham, Rodney. 1971. "Remarks on the Analysis of Kinship and Marriage." In Needham, R. *Rethinking Kinship and Marriage*. Pp. 1-34. Edinburgh: T & A Constable Ltd.
- ❑ Schneider, David. 1968. "Relatives." In Schneider, D. *American Kinship: A Cultural Account*. Pp. 21-29. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- ❑ Schneider, David. 1984. "The Fundamental Assumption in the Study of Kinship." In Schneider, D. *A Critique of the Study of Kinship*. Pp. 165-177. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

WEEK 4 DESCENT, DOMESTICITY, & THE POLITICAL DOMAIN: THE BRITISH SCHOOL

September 24

- ❑ Evans-Pritchard, E. E. 1951. *Kinship and Marriage among the Nuer*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

WEEK 5
October 1

INCEST, ALLIANCE, & AFFINAL KIN: THE FRENCH SCHOOL

- ❑ Lévi-Strauss, Claude. 1969. "The Universe of Rules," "Endogamy and Exogamy," and "The Principle of Reciprocity." In C. Lévi-Strauss, *The Elementary Structures of Kinship*. Pp. 29-68. Boston: Beacon Press.
- ❑ Dumont, Louis. [1953] 1983. "The Dravidian Kinship Terminology as an Expression of Marriage." In L. Dumont, *Affinity as Value: Marriage Alliance in South India, with Comparative Essays on Australia*. Pp. 3-35. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

PART II

POLITICIZING KINSHIP: RELATEDNESS, IDEOLOGY, AND POWER

WEEK 6
October 8

GENDER, EXCHANGE, & DOMINATION: FEMINIST CRITIQUES

- ❑ Rubin, Gayle. 1975. "The Traffic in Women: Notes on the 'Political Economy' of Sex." In Reiter, R. (ed.). *Towards an Anthropology of Women*. Pp. 157-209. New York: Monthly Review Press.
- ❑ Strathern, Marilyn. 1988. "Cause and Effect" and "Domination." In Strathern, M. *The Gender of the Gift*. Pp. 268-339. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- ❑ Weiner, Annette B. 1992. "Introduction." In Weiner, A. *Inalienable Possessions: The Paradox of Keeping-While-Giving*. Pp. 1-19. Berkeley: University of California Press.

WEEK 7
October 15

CAPITAL, IDEOLOGY, & REPRODUCTION: MARXIST CRITIQUES

- ❑ Goody, Jack. 1983. "Church, Land, and Family in the West." In Goody, J. *The Development of the Family and Marriage in Europe*. Pp. 103-156. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- ❑ Meillassoux, Claude. 1984. "Introduction" and "Locating the Domestic Community." In Meillassoux, C. *Maidens, Meat and Money: Capitalism and the Domestic Community*. Pp. xi-xiv, 8-32, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Mid-term take-home exam is due in class.

WEEK 8
October 22

SEXUALITY, DESIRE, & NORMATIVITY: QUEER CRITIQUES

- ❑ Weston, Kate. 1997. "Exiles From Kinship" and "Families We Choose." In Weston, K. *Families We Choose: Lesbians, Gays, Kinship*. Pp. 21-41, 103-136. New York: Columbia University Press.
- ❑ Reddy, Gayatri. 2005. "Our People: Kinship, Marriage, and the Family." In Reddy, G. *With Respect to Sex: Negotiating Hijra Identity in South India*. Pp. 142-185. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

**PART III KINSHIP AND CITIZENSHIP:
BELONGING, BIOPOLITICS, AND GLOBAL CAPITALISM**

- WEEK 9 RACE, CITIZENSHIP, & THE INTIMATE POLITICS OF COLONIALISM
October 29
- ❑ Stoler, Ann Laura. 2002. *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Race and the Intimate in Colonial Rule*. Berkeley: University of California Press. (Chapters 1, 3, 4 & 5).
- WEEK 10 KINSHIP, LAW, & THE POETICS OF STATE RECOGNITION
November 5
- ❑ Butler, Judith. 2000. *Antigone's Claim: Kinship between Life and Death*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- WEEK 11 MONEY, MATERIALITY, & VIOLENCE IN THE POSTCOLONY
November 12
- ❑ Hutchinson, Sharon E. 1996. *Nuer Dilemmas: Coping with Money, War, and the State*. Berkeley: University of California Press. (Chapters 2, 3, 4, & 5)
- WEEK 12 TRANSNATIONAL KINSHIP AND GLOBAL (NON)CITIZENSHIP
November 19
- ❑ Coe, Cati. 2013. *The Scattered Family: Parenting, African Migration, and Global Inequality*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- November 26 *No Class - Thanksgiving Recess*
- WEEK 13 CONCLUSION: THE DIALECTICS OF KINSHIP AND CITIZENSHIP
December 3
- ❑ No readings.
- Final take-home exam or research paper due.*

Recommended Readings:

- ❑ Boellstorff, Tom. 2007. "When Marriage Falls: Queer Coincidences in Straight Time." *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian & Gay Studies* 13(2/3):227-248.
- ❑ Buggenhagen, Beth. 2012. *Muslim Families in Global Senegal: Money Takes Care of Shame*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- ❑ Butler, Judith. 2002. "Is Kinship Always Already Heterosexual?" *differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies* 13(1): 14-44.
- ❑ Comaroff, John. 1987. "Sui Generis: Feminism, Kinship Theory, and Structural "Domains." In J. F. Collier and S. J. Yanagisako (eds) *Gender and Kinship: Essays Towards a Unified Analysis*. Pp. 53-85. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- ❑ Cussins, Charis M. 1998. "Quit Sniveling Cryo-Baby. We'll Work Out Which One's Your Mama!" In R. Davis-Floyd and J. Dumit (eds) *Cyborg Babies: From Techno-Sex to Techno-Tots*. Pp. 40-66. New York: Routledge.
- ❑ Engels, Friedrich. [1877] 1972. *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*. New York: International Publishers.
- ❑ Franklin, Sarah. 2001. "Biologization Revisited: Kinship Theory in the Context of the New Biologies." In S. Franklin and S. McKinnon (eds) *Relative Values: Reconfiguring Kinship Studies*. Pp. 303-325. Durham: Duke University Press.
- ❑ Leinaweaver, Jessaca B. 2008. *The Circulation of Children: Kinship, Adoption, and Morality in Andean Peru*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- ❑ McKinnon, Susan. 2000. "Domestic Exceptions: Evans-Pritchard and the Creation of Nuer Patrilineality and Equality." *Cultural Anthropology* 15(1):35-83.
- ❑ McKinnon, Susan. 2001. "The Economies of Kinship and the Paternity of Culture: Origin Stories in Kinship Theory." In S. Franklin and S. McKinnon (eds) *Relative Values: Reconfiguring Kinship Studies*. Pp. 277-302. Durham: Duke University Press.
- ❑ Pelez, Michael G. 1995. "Kinship Studies in Late Twentieth-Century Anthropology." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 24: 343-372.
- ❑ Povinelli, Elizabeth A., 2002. *The Cunning of Recognition: Indigenous Alterities and the Making of Australian Multiculturalism*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- ❑ Robcis, Camille. 2013. *The Law of Kinship: Anthropology, Psychoanalysis, and the Family in France*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- ❑ Strathern, Marilyn. 1992. *Reproducing the Future: Essays in Anthropology, Kinship, and the New Reproductive Technologies*. Manchester: Manchester University Press.
- ❑ Zelizer, Viviana A., 2005. *The Purchase of Intimacy*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.