

# Enquire Teaching Timetable

[Return](#)

## Course Outcome

### ANTH 1310 - Marriage, Family and Kinship

#### Learning Outcome

- 1) To become familiar with concepts and theories relating to marriage, family and kinship
- 2) To become familiar with contemporary issues relating to family and kinship
- 3) To gain appreciation for the cultural diversity of family and kinship
- 4) To understand the practice of kinship for establishing social relations and for performing economic activities

#### Course Syllabus

This course introduces the basic concepts and major issues in kinship study. Issues to be explored include the institution of the family in cross-cultural perspective, descent and kinship, incest taboo, marriage, kinship and social relations, homosexuality, gender and kinship, new reproductive technologies and kinship, and biology, culture and kinship. Some other related issues such as adoption, single parenthood, and fictive kinship will also be discussed. Overall the course encourages reflection on the origin and nature of human social organization.

Participation: 10%  
Final Paper: 40%  
Final Class Quiz: 20%  
Midterm Test: 30%  
Updated assessment will be announced in class.

#### Assessment Type

	Assessment Type	Current Percent
1	Essays	40
2	Homework or assignment	30
3	Participation	10
4	Short answer test or exam	20

#### Feedback for Evaluation

Course Evaluation Questionnaire

#### Required Readings

(Updated reading list will be announced in class.)

There are no standard texts, although the following two books will be used fairly frequently:

- 1) Stone, Linda 2006 *Kinship & Gender: An Introduction*. 3rd ed. Boulder, Col.: Westview Press.
- 2) Pasternak, Burton; Carol R. Ember, and Melvin Ember 1997 *Sex, Gender, and Kinship: A Cross-cultural Perspective*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall.

Topics and Readings (\* indicates compulsory reading)

Introduction: Concepts, Abbreviations and Symbols

- 1) Freeman, J. D. 1961 "On the Concept of Kindred," *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 91: 192-220.
- 2) Parkin, Robert 1997 *Kinship: An Introduction to the Basic Concepts*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers. Ch. 1, "Introductory".
- 3) \*Stone, Linda 2006 *Kinship & Gender: An Introduction*. 3rd ed. Boulder, Col.: Westview Press. Ch. 1: "Gender, Reproduction, and Kinship".

Unilineal Descent: Patrilineal

- 1) Fox, Robin 1983 *Kinship and Marriage: An Anthropological Perspective*. First published in 1967. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. \*Ch. 1, "Kinship, Family, and Descent". Ch. 4, "Unilineal Descent Groups".
- 2) Pasternak, Burton; Carol R. Ember, and Melvin Ember 1997 *Sex, Gender, and Kinship: A Cross-cultural Perspective*. New Jersey: Prentice Hall. Ch. 12, "Descent Groups: Kinship Beyond the Family".
- 3) \*Stone, Linda 2006 Ch. 3, "The Power of Patrilineal".

Unilineal Descent: Matrilineal

Video: "Ladies of the Lake" (on Mosuo marriage) (20 minutes)

- 1) Kuwahara, Sueo 1998 "A Study of a Matrilineal Village in Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia". *Senri Ethnological Series*, no. 48, pp. 27-52.
- 2) \*Menon, Shanti 1996 "Male Authority and Female Autonomy: A Study of the Matrilineal Nayars of Kerala, South India". In *Gender, Kinship, Power: A Comparative Interdisciplinary History*, eds. Mary Jo Maynes, et.al. pp. 131-146. Boulder, Cal.: Westview Press.
- 3) \*Stone, Linda 2006 Ch. 4, "Through the Mother".
- 4) Walsh, Eileen R. 2001 "Living with the Myth of Matriarchy: The Mosuo and Tourism." In *Tourism, Anthropology and China*, eds., Tan Chee-Beng, Sidney C.H. Cheung and Yang Hui, pp. 93-124. Bangkok: White Lotus.

Cognatic Descent

- 1) Leach, E. R. 1973 "Complementary Filiation and Bilateral Kinship." In: Goody, J., ed., *The Character of Kinship*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- 2) Fox, Ch. 6, "Cognatic Descent and Ego-centered Groups".
- 3) \*Stone, 2000. Ch. 5, "Double and Cognatic Descent".
- 4) Sutlive, Vinson H. Jr. 1988 *The Iban of Sarawak: Chronicle of a Vanishing World*, Prospect Heights, Ill.: Waveland Press, c1978 Ch. 3, "Social Organization". Ch. 8, "A World Inside Out".

Marriage

Video: "Marriages in Heaven" (on Indian marriage)

- 1) Constable, Nicole 2005 *Cross-Border Marriages: Gender and Mobility in Transnational Asia*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania.
- 2) Pasternak, Ember, and Ember, Ch. 4, "Marriage and Other Mated Relationships", Ch. 7, "Getting Married".
- 3) Siu, Helen F. 1993 "Reconstituting Dowry and Brideprice in South China". In *Chinese Families in Post-Mao Era*, eds., Deborah Davis and Steven

Harrell, pp. 165-188. Berkeley: University of California Press.

4) \*Stone, 2000. Ch. 6, "Marriage". Week VI (February 22) Incest and Marriage-related Issues (Teenage Pregnancy, Extra Marital Sex, Divorce and Remarriage, etc.)

#### Incest

- 1) Chapais, Bernard 2008 *Primeval Kinship: How Pair-Bonding Gave Birth to Human Society*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press. Ch. 5, "The Incest Avoidance Legacy"
- 2) Evans-Pritchard, E.E. 1951 *Kinship and Marriage among the Nuer*. Oxford University Press. Ch. 2, "Marriage Prohibitions and Incest".
- 3) \*Fox, Ch. 2, "The Incest Problem".
- 4) Pasternak, Ember, and Ember, Ch. 5, "Marriage and "the Incest Taboo", Ch. 6, "Extension of Incest Taboo", Ch. 8, "The Marital Relationship", \*Ch. 9, "Divorce and Remarriage".
- 5) Wolf, Arthur P. 1995 *Sexual Attraction and Childhood Association: A Chinese Brief for Edward Westermarck*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, Ch. 30, "Westermarck and the Incest Taboo".

#### Gender, Homosexuality and Kinship

- 1) Blackwood, Evelyn 1986 "Breaking the Mirror: The Construction of Lesbianism and the Anthropological Discourse on Homosexuality". In *The Many Faces of Homosexuality: Anthropological Approaches to Homosexual Behavior*, ed., Evelyn Blackwood, pp. 1-17. NY: Harrington Park Press.
- 2) \*Chou, Wah-shan 2001 "Homosexuality and the Cultural Politics of Tongzhi in Chinese Society". In *Gay and Lesbian Asia: Culture, Identity, Community*, eds., Gerard Sullivan and Peter A Jackson, pp. 27-46. NY: The Haworth Press, Inc.
- 3) Hayden C. 1995 "Gender, Genetics Generation: Reformulating Biology in Lesbian Kinship". *Cultural Anthropology* 10: 41-63.
- 4) \*Siu, Helen F. 1990 "Where were the Women? Rethinking Marriage Resistance and Regional Culture in South China". *Late Imperial China* 2(2): 32-62.
- 5) Stafford, Charles 2000 *Separation & Reunion in Modern China*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Ch. 6, "Women and the Obligation to Return"

#### Family in Cross-cultural Perspective

- 1) \*Bott, Elizabeth 1971 (1957) *Family and social network: roles, norms, and external relationships in ordinary urban families*. London : Tavistock Publications. Ch. 3, "Conjugal Roles and Social Networks".
- 2) Cohen, Myron L. 1970 "Development Process in the Chinese Domestic Group". In *Family and Kinship in Chinese Society*, ed., Maurice Freedman, pp. 21-36. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- 3) \*Pasternak, Ember, Ember, Ch. 11, "Family and Household".
- 4) Sorensen, Clark. W. 1993 "Asian Families: Domestic Group Formation". In *Asia's Cultural Mosaic: An Anthropological Introduction*, ed., Grant Evans, pp. 89-117. N.Y.: Prentice Hall.
- 5) Ueno, Hiroko 1994 "Daughters and the Natal Family in Taiwan: Affinal Relationships in Chinese Society". In *Perspectives on Chinese Society: Views from Japan*, eds., Suenari Michio, J.S. Eades, Christian Daniels, pp. 44-62. Tokyo: Tokyo University of Foreign Studies.

#### Family-related Issues: Adoption, Fictive Kinship, Single-Parenthood, etc.

- 1) Bargach, Jamila 2001 "Personalizing It: Adoption, Bastardy, Kinship, and Family". In *The Ethics of Kinship: Ethnographic Inquiries*, ed., James D. Faubion, pp. 71-97. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.
- 2) Frechette, Ann 2004 "Sexuality, the Media, and Intercountry Adoption: Recent Changes in China-US Adoption Policy." *Asian Anthropology* 3: 129-151.
- 3) \*Howell, Signe 2007 "Imagined Kin, Place and Community: Some Paradoxes in the Transnational Movement of Children in Adoption." In *Holding Worlds Together: Ethnographies of Knowing and Belonging*, eds., Marianne Elisabeth Lien and Marit Melhuus, pp. 17-34. NY: Berghahn Books.
- 4) \*Mintz, S.W. and E.R. Wolf 1971 "Ritual Co-Parenthood Coompradrazo". In *Kinship: selected readings*, ed., J. Goody, pp. 346-361. Penguin Books.

#### New Reproductive Technologies and Kinship

- 1) Lundin, Susanne 2001 "The Threatened Sperm: Parenthood in the Age of Biomedicine". In *New Directions in Anthropological Kinship*, ed., Linda Stone, pp. 139-155. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.
- 2) \*Robert Parkin and Linda Stone, eds. 2004 *Kinship and Family: An Anthropological Reader*. Oxford: Blackwell Pub. Ch. 18, "Surrogate Motherhood and American Kinship" by Helena Ragoné, Ch. 20, "Gender, Genetics, and Generation: Reformulating Biology in Lesbian Kinship"
- 3) \*Stone, Ch. 8, "Kinship, Gender, and the New Reproductive Technologies: The Beginning of the End?"
- 4) Strathern, Marilyn 2005 *Kinship, Law and the Unexpected: Relatives Are Always a Surprise*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Ch. 1, "Relatives Are Always a Surprise: Biotechnology in an Age of Individualism"

#### Quiz !!! Kinship, Social Relations, and Economy

Video: "Brides go North" (on Hong Kong women marrying mainland men)

(25 minutes)

- 1) Alexander, Jennifer, and Paul Alexander 2000 "From Kinship to Contract: Production Chains in the Javanese Woodworking Industries". *Human Organization* 59(1): 106-116.
- 2) Schweitzer, Peter P., ed. 2000 *Dividends of Kinship: Meanings and Uses of Social Relatedness*. London: Routledge. Ch.5 "Kinship, Reciprocity and the World Market," by Jenny B. White.
- 3) \*Yan, Yunxiang 2001 "Practicing Kinship in Rural North China". In *Relative values : reconfiguring kinship studies*, eds., Franklin and McKinnon, pp. 224-244.

#### Conclusion: Biology, Culture and Kinship

- 1) \*Chapais, Bernard 2008 *Primeval Kinship: How Pair-Bonding Gave Birth to Human Society*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press. Ch. 7, "Lévi-Strauss and the Deep Structure of Human Society"
- 2) Schneider, David M. 2004 "What Is Kinship All About?" In *Kinship and Family: An Anthropological Reader*, eds., Robert Parkin and Linda Stone, pp. 257-274. Oxford: Blackwell Pub.
- 3) \*Stone, Linda, ed., 2001 *New Directions in Anthropological Kinship*. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. Ch.5, "Neoevolutionary Approaches to Human Kinship" by Barry S. Hewlett; Ch.4, "Ties that Bond: The Role of Kinship in Private Societies" by Joan B. Silk.

#### Recommended Readings