

KINSHIP, CITIZENSHIP, AND BELONGING

Anthropology 1988 / Fall 2018

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Class meets Mondays from 12:00 to
2:45pm in Tozzer 203;
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:00 to
3:00pm (please sign up in advance)

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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 understanding 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.* 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. You 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 100 to 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. Every class, I will call on two students to read their questions, by way of opening discussion. I will collect questions at the end of class.

- ❑ *Mid-term (30%) and Final (30%) Take-Home Exams.* For each exam, you 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 5 pages long. The mid-term take-home exam is due *October 29* and the final take-home exam is due *December 10*. (In exceptional circumstances, when students have well-formulated ideas and questions that they wish to research throughout the semester they may opt to write an extensive research paper instead of the exams. Research papers must be based on original, in-depth ethnographic or library research that pertains directly to the subject of kinship and citizenship. Papers must be 15 pages long. Students interested in writing a research paper must submit a 150-word proposal with a potential bibliography by *September 24*. Research papers are due *December 10*.)
- ❑ *Response Paper (20%).* From the first week of classes, you should begin reading Joseph Cassara's novel, *The House of Impossible Beauties*, in addition to the assigned weekly readings. You are expected to finish reading the novel by week 8. In no more than 2-3 double-spaced pages, reflect on how kinship and belonging figure in the novel in light of discussions and readings in this course. Response papers are due *November 9* at our film viewing session.

Please drop off all written assignments in class or in the professor's mailing box in Tozzer 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.

- ❑ Butler, Judith. 2000. *Antigone's Claim: Kinship between Life and Death*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- ❑ Cassara, Joseph. 2018. *The House of Impossible Beauties*. New York: Harper & Collins.
- ❑ Deomampo, Daisy. 2016. *Transnational Reproduction: Race, Kinship, and Commercial Surrogacy in India*. New York: New York University Press
- ❑ Evans-Pritchard, Edward E. 1951. *Kinship and Marriage among the Nuer*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- ❑ Geschiere, Peter. 2009. *The Perils of Belonging: Autochthony, Citizenship, and Exclusion in Africa and Europe*. Chicago: University of Chicago 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 on Canvas.

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

Weekly Schedule

WEEK 10 INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

September 10

No readings.

WEEK 2 WHAT IS KINSHIP? WHAT IS CITIZENSHIP?

September 17

- ❑ 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 24

- ❑ 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, & POLITICAL SYSTEMS – *the British School*

October 1

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

WEEK 5
October 15

INCEST, ALLIANCE, & AFFINITY – *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*. Pp. 3-17 (18-35, optional) Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

PART II

POLITICIZING KINSHIP: CRITIQUES OF RELATEDNESS

WEEK 6
October 22

MARXIST CRITIQUES – *capital, reproduction, ideology*

- ❑ 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, Meal and Money: Capitalism and the Domestic Community*. Pp. xi-xiv, 8-32, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- ❑ Yanagisako, Sylvia J. 2002. “Patriarchal Desire.” In Yanagisako S. J., *Producing Culture and Capital: Family Firms in Italy*. Pp. 70-109. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

WEEK 7
October 29

FEMINIST CRITIQUES – *gender, exchange, domination*

- ❑ 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.” In Strathern, M. *The Gender of the Gift*. Pp. 268-305. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- ❑ Weiner, Annette B. 1992. “Introduction.” In Weiner, A. B. *Inalienable Possessions: The Paradox of Keeping-While-Giving*. Pp. 1-19. Berkeley: Univ of California Press.
- ❑ Nzegwu, Nkiru Uwechia. 2006. “Family Politics: Making Patriarchy in a Patrilineal Society.” In Nzegwu, N.U. *Family Matters: Feminist Concepts in African Philosophy of Culture*. Pp. 23-62. New York: SUNY Press.

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

- WEEK 8
November 5
- QUEER CRITIQUES – *sexuality, desire, normativity*
- ❑ 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.
 - ❑ Cassara, Joseph. 2018. *The House of Impossible Beauties*. New York: Harper & Collins. [Start reading this novel early in the semester]
- November 9
(3-5pm)
- FILM VIEWING & DISCUSSION
“Paris Is Burning” (1990); directed by Jennie Livingston (1h20)
- Response paper is due in class.*

PART III BELONGING, POWER, AND GLOBAL CAPITALISM

- WEEK 9
November 12
- RACE & THE INTIMATE POLITICS OF COLONIALISM
- ❑ 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
November 19
- LAW & THE POETICS OF STATE RECOGNITION
- ❑ Butler, Judith. 2000. *Antigone’s Claim: Kinship between Life and Death*. New York: Columbia University Press.
- Nov. 21-25 *Thanksgiving Recess*
- WEEK 11
November 26
- BELONGING, CITIZENSHIP & AUTOCHTHONY
- ❑ Geschiere, Peter. 2009. *The Perils of Belonging: Autochthony, Citizenship, and Exclusion in Africa and Europe*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (Chapters 1, 2, 3, and pp. 190-224)
- WEEK 12
December 3
- TRANSNATIONAL KINSHIP & GLOBAL RACIALIZATION
- ❑ Deomampo, Daisy. 2016. *Transnational Reproduction: Race, Kinship, and Commercial Surrogacy in India*. New York: New York University Press (Introduction, Chapters 2, 4, and 7).
- December 10 *Final take-home exam or research paper due.*