

UMBC UGC New Course Request: The Anthropology of Gender, ANTH 367

Date Submitted: 1/17/12

Proposed Effective Date: 6/1/12

	Name	Email	Phone	Dept
Dept Chair or UPD	Sarah Chard	schard@umbc.edu	53380	SOCY/ANTH
Other Contact	Elise Bruner	elise3@umbc.edu	53979	SOCY/ANTH

COURSE INFORMATION:

Course Number(s)	ANTH 367
Formal Title	The Anthropology of Gender
Transcript Title (≤24c)	Anth of Gender
Recommended Course Preparation	
Prerequisite	Anth 211 or Socy 101 or consent of the instructor
Credits	3
Repeatable?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Max. Total Credits	3
Grading Method(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reg (A-F) <input type="checkbox"/> Audit <input type="checkbox"/> Pass-Fail

PROPOSED CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

The Anthropology of Gender concerns the wide range of meanings given to gender and sexuality in different settings. In exploring how gender and sexuality are culturally constructed the course does not focus on the biology of gender and sexuality *per se*. Rather, the course explores distinctive peoples' understandings of gender and sexuality. Lectures focus on basic principles by which to examine gender in cross-cultural perspective. Readings focus on detailed and complex examples of distinctive gender and sexuality systems.

RATIONALE FOR NEW COURSE:

- a) This course investigates a core area of anthropology. It has been frequently offered as a selected topics course and is quite popular which suggests that students are interested in the subject matter. Furthermore, with its global perspective on gender and sexuality the class contributes to UMBC's global studies offerings.
- b) The course will be taught regularly, either annually or biennially.
- c) Anthropology of Gender fits directly into our department's curriculum. Our department has a core interest in issues of gender and sexuality. We currently have courses on gender and sexuality from a Sociological perspective; these courses would be augmented by an Anthropological perspective.
- d) The course will serve undergraduate Anthropology and Sociology majors as an elective course. In addition, based upon the enrollment for the special topics course, the course also will serve students from other majors who need upper level credits.
- e) The course will be offered as a 300 level since it is currently taught as a 300 level selected topics course and it requires considerable reading.

f) The course prerequisite is Anth 211 or Socy 101 or consent of the instructor. This prereq. will help ensure that the majority of students bring to the course an understanding of basic social science concepts.

g & h) Consistent with our other upper level courses Anth of Gender will have a regular grading method, and is not repeatable for credit.

ATTACH COURSE OUTLINE (mandatory):

**Anthropology of Gender
Anthropology 397
Spring, 2012**

Dr. Bob Rubinstein
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Public Policy 214
rrubinst@umbc.edu

Class meets in
Fine Arts 015
Tuesday, Thursday, 1:00-2:15

Tentative Schedule:

January 26, Thursday: Orientation. Review of syllabus. Genders as cultures. "Sex and gender"

January 31, February 2: Continuing introduction. Societies and gender. Violence towards women. Structural inequality. Feminism and the men's movement

February 7, 9 Gilbert Herdt book (The Samia) due, plus a 5-6 page critique. Class discussion about the book

February 14, 16: Discussion of Malo, Vanuatu. Features of male dominance

February 21, 23: Class discussion. Lecture on Hua notions of male pregnancy. Hierarchy and complementarity.

February 28, March 1: Serena Nanda book (Neither man nor woman) due, plus a 5-6 page critique. Class discussion about the book.

March 6, 8: List of independent reading books handed out about here. Lecture.

March 13, 15: Don Kulick book (Travesti) due, plus a 5-6 page critique. Class discussion about the book

March 20, 22: SPRING BREAK!

March 27, 29: Midterm around here. Discussion of forms of women's power. Discussion of the Trobriand Islands

April 3, 5: Katrina Karkazis, Fixing sex due, plus a 5-6 page critique. Class discussion about the book.

April 10, 12: Discussion of FGM or "female circumcision"

April 17, 19: Du book due (Chopsticks), plus a 5-6 page critique. Class discussion about the book.

April 24, 26: Book reports begin.

May 1, 3: Book reports continue

May 8, 10: Final book reports and summary lectures

Books for the course:

Check out *bookfinder.com* and *addall.com* for the best prices

Gilbert Herdt, *The Sambia*
Don Kulick, *Travesti*
Serena Nanda, *Neither man nor woman*
Katrina Karkazis, *Fixing sex*
Shanshan Du, "Chopsticks only work in pairs"

Written critiques: The course will have no term paper or library research assignment. Instead, I am requesting written critiques of the books that you will read this term. Each written critique should be 5-6 pages in length. A critique is an evaluative essay. In the critique, you should address at least the following questions: What is the book about? What does it say about gender? Who is the author and what was the nature of the field work she or he undertook? How is the book organized? And, was the book good or bad did you like it? -- What were its strengths and weaknesses in your opinion?

Class presentations: Towards the end of the term, I would like each of you to make an in-class presentation. The subject matter of the presentation is a book you have selected from the reading list. The presentation should be informal and should last about 20 minutes. I will make every effort to accommodate as comfortably as possible those of you who are shy or nervous (as I am) about such things. Each student will select a book from the reading handout. Many of the books are available at the Albin O. Kuhn library, or I might have them, and represent a wide range of topics in and around gender. I can certainly help you select a book from the list that might be of particular interest to you. Alternatively, you are free to visit the library and examine the books from the list yourselves. Presenters will prepare a 1-2 page handout, Xeroxed, for all class members to receive. I will describe what is to be on the handout as we approach the time of the presentations. Please let me know which book you've selected as soon as possible, so I can keep the class informed as to which have been selected by others. There should be only one person per book.

I would also ask this: that each of you be courteous in your examination of possible books so that you do not hold on to several when you need only one and that you return the ones you have examined, but have not selected, to their appropriate place in the stacks so that other may have access to them.

For your class presentation, I would ask you to address the following questions: Who is the author? What approach did she or he take? What was the nature of the fieldwork or research? What is the content of the book? What is it about? What is the central question or questions addressed? What does the book tell us about gender? What I would like you to do will be explained in a handout to be distributed later this semester.

Midterm and final: There will be a midterm. The class will decide (vote on) the specific date, based on their workloads. The midterm will last about 45 minutes to 1 hour, but you will have the whole period to complete it. Later on, we will describe in detail what the exam will consist of. Also, we will decide on the form of the final together later in the semester.

Absences: In this class there is no such thing as an unexcused absence. Please let me know when you will not be here. Please email me if you know you have to miss class. Deciding to blow off class for no reason is not an option. **Three unexcused absences will lead to the student receiving an "F" for the class.**

Plagiarism: Acts of plagiarism will lead to immediate failure in this class. Acts of plagiarism include but are not limited to the following: Failure to cite quoted text; failure to cite paraphrase; failure to site Internet sources, if any; using another student's work as the basis for yours; failure to identify the source of any text that is not originally

yours. Plagiarism is a serious problem at the university. Do not do it! If you are having a problem with an assignment, email me or speak to me!

Grading:

Attendance and participation = 10 points (the difference between an A and a B)

Each critique: 12 points = 60 points

Class presentation = 10 points

Midterm = 10 points

Final = 10 points

Grading philosophy: The point of coming to the University is to learn. If anyone does work that is clearly not at the collegiate level, the work will be sent back to them and redone as many times as it takes to get it right.