

KIN, KITH & COMMUNITY: THE ANTHROPOLOGY OF SOCIAL ORGANIZATION

Instructor: Dr. Sandra Cate
Office Location: Clark 463
Telephone: 408-924-5714
Email: Sandra.cate@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: TR 1030-1130, 1330-1430 or by appointment
Class Time/Location: Section 1: TR 1500-1615, CL 204
Prerequisites: Upper division standing

Faculty Web Page and MYSJSU Messaging

You can find course materials such as the syllabus, major assignment handouts, and study guides on **Sandra Cate's web page at <http://www.sjsu.edu/people/sandra.cate>**. You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through MySJSU. I use it a lot, so please be sure MySJSU has your correct e-mail address.

Course Description

This course presents an overview of social organization focused on local forms of human relationship: kinship, non-kin relations such as friendship and networking, and community. We will consider the impacts of globalization and technology on these social relationships. The course will explore the dynamic principles of kinship and community-building from an anthropological perspective and how people use those concepts to organize their social lives. We will rely on examples from small-scale, complex and intentional societies.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

- Be able to think critically, especially using comparative frameworks, analyze processes and discover assumptions.
- Be able to recognize and analyze the interaction of social institutions, culture, and environment with individual and collective behavior.
- Be able to recognize and analyze the forces that foster social cohesion and fragmentation.
- Be able to identify and analyze processes of social change.
- Understand the complexities of social life both globally and in the Santa Clara Valley as they reflect different points of view.
- Gain a working knowledge of how cultural anthropologists conduct field research through completing a class project.

Goals of the Anthropology Department (* relevant to this course)

Knowledge

- Understanding culture as the distinguishing phenomenon of human life, and the relationship of human biology and evolution.
- Awareness of human diversity and the ways humans have categorized diversity.*
- Knowledge of the significant findings of archaeology, cultural anthropology, and physical anthropology, and familiarity with the important issues in each sub-discipline.
- Comprehension of migration, colonialism, and economic integration as significant phenomena shaping global society.*

Skills

- Ability to access various forms of anthropological data and literature.*
- Awareness of importance and value of anthropological knowledge in contemporary society, and the ability to apply it to social issues.*
- Knowledge of the research methods of cultural anthropology.
- Ability to present and communicate anthropological knowledge and the results of anthropological research to different audiences.*

Professional Values

- Knowledge of political and ethical implications of social research.*

Dropping and Adding

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drops, academic renewal, etc. Information on add/drops are available at <http://info.sjsu.edu/web-dbgen/narr/soc-fall/rec-324.html>. Information about late drop is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/sac/advising/latedrops/policy>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for adding and dropping classes.

Required Texts/Readings

Kinship and Gender: An Introduction by Linda Stone, 4th edition (2010) (e-book in King Library)

The Gift of a Bride: Anthropology, Matrimony and Murder by Serena Nanda and Joan Gregg (2009)

Busier than Ever! Why American Families Can't Slow Down! C.N. Darrah, J.M. Freeman and J.A. English-Lueck (2007) (e-book in King Library)

Class website: additional readings, in pdf format, password-protected

Schwimmer's Kinship Tutorial

<http://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/anthropology/tutor/kinmenu.html>

Workload – Credit Hours

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of forty-five hours over the length of the course (for this 3-unit course, 9 hours per week including class time) for preparation, reading course assignments, studying, writing and instruction .

Writing Activities

Students will engage in original ethnographic research and analysis for this class, i.e., “doing anthropology.” Projects include a kinship diagram and analysis of your own family, a social media inventory and analysis of a classmate or colleague, and a study of family and technology based on

observations and interviews. I will provide comprehensive prompts for each assignment.

Ethics

All ethnographic data must conform to the University's and the discipline's code of research ethics. All participation by informants must be voluntary and confidential. Minors will not directly participate in this project. All written material must be original, and based on both ethnographic observations and appropriately cited written resources.

Deadlines

Plan on turning in your papers on time. You must submit a hard copy; I will not print out e-mails for grading. If you arrange with me in advance, extensions are possible. Otherwise, you will lose 2 points for each class day the paper is late.

Format

All papers should be typed and fully referenced, with numbered pages. AAA style can be found at <http://www.aaanet.org/publications/guidelines.cfm>. Writing should be clear and correct. All papers should be proof-read. I suggest reading the draft aloud to catch errors and unwieldy writing. Each assignment uses certain analytical skills and requires comprehension of cultural themes. Your grade will depend on your accuracy, originality, depth of understanding and overall effort. Spelling and correct grammar count! See class website for further details on assessment.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism occurs when you use the words of another author – a phrase, sentence, or paragraph -- without giving credit to that author with quotation marks and a citation. This practice misrepresents your writing. SJSU policy forbids plagiarism. It will be punished. If found plagiarizing, you WILL receive a zero for your assignment and I WILL report you. Please read the [Statement on Academic Integrity](#) and consult me if you have questions on this issue.

Exams

You will complete two take home exams, based on questions provided in advance. These exams will emphasize the readings and class discussions, so completing the assigned reading is both required and essential to your success in the class. In addition, we'll have an in-class kinship terminology quiz, based on a list of kinship terms provided in advance.

Grading

Kinship diagram, analysis (25+25)	50 points
Terminology Quiz	20
Midterm (take home)	80
Social Media Inventory	50
Final Exam (take home)	100
Ethnographic project	150
Participation	<u>50</u>
Total possible points	400 total points

[Participation points based on attendance, class discussion, and participation in group work]

A+ = 392 - 400 points
A = 372 - 391.5
A- = 360 – 371.5
B+ = 348 – 359.5
B = 332 – 347.5
B- = 320 – 331.5
C+ = 308 – 319.5
C = 292 – 307.5
C- = 280 – 291.5
etc.

Disability Accommodations

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with DRC to establish a record of their disability.

Classroom Protocol

No texting and no surfing the internet during class, be on time, don't slam the door if you are late. Please. Also, please do not leave the classroom unless it is an emergency.

Classroom Recording

Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor-generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.

Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's oral permission to make audio recordings in this class, which will be valid for the semester. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.

Course Schedule

Aug. 23 Course Introduction: Why study kinship?

PART ONE: THEORIES OF FAMILY

Aug. 28 Classic approaches to kinship (descent, marriage)
Readings: Stone, Chapter 1: Gender, Reproduction and Kinship, Chapter 2: The Evolution of Kinship and Gender, pp. 27-34, 56-61.

Aug. 30 How to construct a kinship diagram
Review Schimmer's Kinship Tutorial (see above link)

Sept. 4 Group work: diagram analysis
DUE: Assignment: do kinship diagram of own family

- Sept. 6** Marriage and its functions
Readings: Stone, Chapter 6, Marriage
Video: *Big Love*, Episode 1 (57 minutes)
Handout: Kinship terms
- Sept. 11** Lineage and Descent
Readings: Stone, Chapter 3: The Power of Patriline
Due: Kinship diagram, 2-pp. analysis
- Sept. 13** Descent, Residence, Inheritance
Readings: Goldstein, “When Brothers Share a Wife” (class website)
- Sept. 18** Video: *Ladies of the Lake* (43 minutes)
QUIZ: Kinship terms
- Sept. 20** Contemporary revisions to classical kinship theory: theories of personhood
Readings: Stone, Chapter 7, A history of Euro-American Kinship and Gender and Kinship
- Sept. 25** Contemporary revisions to classical kinship theory: theories of substance
Readings: Carsten, “The Substance of Kinship and the Heat of the Hearth: Feeding, Personhood and Relatedness among Malays of Pulau Langkawi” (class website)
- Sept. 27** Contemporary revisions to classical kinship theory: power of metaphor
DUE: 1 paragraph proposal of Ethnographic Research Project (see website for Assignment prompt)
- PART TWO: GENDER AND KINSHIP**
- Oct. 2** Video: *Dadi’s Family* (59 min.)
- Oct. 4** Globalization and Its Impact on the Family
Readings: Nanda & Gregg, *The Gift of a Bride*, Chapters 1-7
- Oct. 9** Workshop on Ethnographic Project
- Oct. 11** Caste: Issues of Ascribed Identities and Social Mobility
Readings: Nanda & Gregg, *The Gift of a Bride*, Chapters 8-15
- Oct. 16** Class: Issues of Social Networks and Social Mobility
Excerpts: *People Like Us* (30 min.)
Readings: *New York Times*, “Two Classes, Divided by ‘I Do’” (on class website)
- Oct. 18** Discussion: “So-called Honor Killings”
Readings: Stone, Case 12, pp. 267-276; Nanda & Gregg, *The Gift of a Bride*, Chapters 16-25
- Oct. 23** Discussion: *The Gift of a Bride*
Readings: Nanda & Gregg, *The Gift of a Bride*, Chapter 26-Epilogue
Handout: Midterm questions
- Oct. 25** **DUE: MIDTERM**

- Oct. 30** Kinship on the Road I
Video: *Daughter from Danang*
- Nov. 1** Kinship on the Road II
Reading: Nicole Constable, "Conclusion" (pp. 210-225), *Romance On A Global Stage: Pen Pals, Virtual Ethnography, and 'Mail-Order' Marriages*, e-book at King Library:
<http://mill1.sjlibrary.org/search/aConstable%2C+Nicole./aconstable+nicole/-3,-1,0,B/browse>

PART THREE: SOCIAL NETWORKS

- Nov. 6** Family and networks
Readings: Bott, *Conjugal Roles and Social Networks* (on class website)
- Nov. 8** Friendships, Weak Ties and Fictive Kin
Readings: Williams, "Friends of a Certain Age" (class website);
[Jstor] "The Strength of Weak Ties: A Network Theory Revisited," Mark Granovetter. *Sociological Theory*, Vol. 1, (1983), pp. 201-233. Stable URL:
<http://www.jstor.org.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/stable/202051>
- Nov. 13** Mapping networks, an introduction
Class exercises
Readings: Darrah, et al, *Busier Than Ever!* Part 1: pp. 3-80
- Nov. 15** Fieldwork slides: Transnational and Connected Iu Mien Families
- Nov. 20** Family and Community in an age of consumerism
Reading: Darrah, et al, *Busier Than Ever!* Part 2, pp. 81-155
Due: Social Media Inventory and Analysis
- Nov. 22** **THANKSGIVING!**
- Nov. 27** Managing the Family
Readings: Darrah, et al, *Busier Than Ever!* Part 3-4, pp. 156-263
- Nov. 29** Technology and the Future of the Family
Readings: Gerson, "Email my heart: Remediation and romantic break-ups" (class website)
- Dec. 4** The Future of the Social I
Readings: Stone, Chapter 9, "Kinship, Gender and New Reproductive Technologies: The Beginning of the End"
Handout: Final Exam Questions
- Dec. 6** The Future of the Social II
Due: Ethnographic Project Papers

FINAL EXAMINATION: Thursday, December 13: 1445-1600, Final exams due in my office (no e-mail exams accepted).