

American University of Beirut
Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences

SBHS 228, Family and Kinship

1. Course learning outcomes

The course offers an introduction to anthropological approaches to the study of kinship, especially of the non-Western world. Kinship studies have always been at the heart of anthropology and are now combined with the study of how gender roles are constructed in different cultures. The course thus concerns basic units of society (family, household, lineage) and basic social processes (reproduction, socialization, authority). In the first half of the semester the key terms and concepts will be covered by reading a textbook. In the second half we shall be reading in class two ethnographies, one of Amazonia, the other of India, in order to see how kinship and gender are studied in particular cases. At the end of the course a student will have greater understanding both of how kinship and the family are studied and of the role they play in quite different cultures from those of the Middle East.

2. Resources available to students

Basic Text:

Linda Stone, 2000 (2nd ed.), *Kinship and gender: an introduction*, Westview Press.

Ethnographies:

Christine Hugh-Jones, 1979, *From the Milk River: spatial and temporal processes in Northwest Amazonia*, Cambridge University Press.

Cecilia Busby, 2000, *The performance of gender: an anthropology of everyday life in a South Indian fishing village*, London: Athlone Press.

Additional readings may be placed on the reserve shelf of Jafet library.

Note: Anthropological knowledge is built up from case studies (ethnographies) of different societies. Students are encouraged to browse through the main anthropology journals which are kept in Jafet library: *American Anthropologist*, *American Ethnologist*, *Current Anthropology*, *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, and *Man*. The *Annual Review of Anthropology* every year reviews the state of different fields within anthropology. A useful companion is the *Encyclopedia of Social and Cultural Anthropology*, 1996, edited by Alan Barnard and Jonathan Spencer, London & New York: Routledge (305.8:E56b).

3. Grading criteria

In addition to two one-hour quizzes and a final exam, students will be expected to make one short class presentation (either of a case study from Stone's book or of an assigned article or chapter) and to write three one-page summaries of chapters of the ethnographies during the second half of the semester. The final grade will be made up as follows:

5 % Class attendance and participation

20 % First Quiz
20 % Second Quiz
10 % Class Presentation
10 % Summaries
35 % Final examination

4. Schedule

<u>Week</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
1	Stone, Chapter 1
2	Stone, Chapter 3 + Cases 2 & 3
3	Stone, Chapter 4 + Cases 4 & 5
4	Stone, Chapter 5 + Cases 6, 7 & 8

Quiz-1

5	Stone, Chapter 6 + Cases 9 & 10
6	Stone, Chapter 7 + Case 11
7	Stone, Chapter 8 + Case 12

Quiz-2

8	Hugh-Jones, Chapter 1 + pp. 40-53 of Chapter 2
9	Hugh-Jones, Chapter 3 + pp. 76-93 of Chapter 4
10	Hugh-Jones, Chapter 5
11	Hugh-Jones, Chapter 6
12	Busby, Chapters 1-3
13	Busby, Chapters 4-6
14	Busby, Chapters 7-9

Final Exam

5. Course policy

More than one-fifth absences without a valid excuse will lead to being dropped from class. No make-up quizzes will be permitted without a note from the infirmary. Any kind of cheating will result in a grade of zero and referral to the disciplinary committee.