



KIIS Prague Program, Summer 2024

ANTH 366 Topics: Sex, Gender & Culture¹

Instructor: Prof. Dike

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Instructor's office hours: on site and by appointment

Syllabus subject to change

1. Course Description: This course uses a cross-cultural perspective to examine the interactions among sex, gender, and culture. Topics covered include feminist/gender theory, anthropology of gender, gender vs. Sex, intersex, masculinity studies, sexuality, gender and the family, decolonialization, and transnational feminisms, with emphasis on US and non-US cultures.

2. Overall KIIS Program Student Learning Outcomes:

KIIS Study Abroad Mission Statement:

KIIS provides high-quality education abroad programs for students from all diverse backgrounds that promote deep international learning, are integrated into the curriculum, and encourage critical and creative thinking. Our goal is to help students understand the wider world and develop personal and professional skills for lifelong enrichment. We strive to go beyond generalizations and cultural stereotypes to help foster a nuanced appreciation of the world in which we live.

Students participating on KIIS study abroad programs aim to:

- 1) Understand contemporary issues of their host country/countries (i.e. KIIS program location).
- 2) Develop skills to interact comfortably in a global setting.
- 3) Understand other cultures.

Prior to your KIIS study abroad program, and again at the conclusion of your program, KIIS will ask each student to a) answer a few multiple-choice questions, and b) write a short reflective essay (two paragraphs in length) related to the elements detailed above. There is no right or wrong answer, and your responses will not affect your grade in any way. The purpose of the exercise is to help KIIS measure the effectiveness of its study abroad programs.

¹ This course is the equivalent to ANTH 309 Sex, Gender & Society and WGST 300 Sex, Gender, & Society at the University of Louisville.

3. Course Objectives and Specific Learning Outcomes: Taking "Sex, Gender & Culture" will provide students with the ability to:

- Distinguish and provide examples of the intersections among sex, gender, and culture
- Problematize male/female sex and gender binaries
- Define and provide examples of feminism, feminist anthropology, masculinity studies, decolonial feminism, and transnational feminism

In addition, students will acquire skills in:

- Careful reading and critical thinking
- Expressing their critical thinking in analytical writing as well as group discussions and debate

4. Major Topics covered in the Course:

Week 1: Early Feminist Anthropology & Critiques, Defining Feminism, Gender & Sex

Week 2: Intersectionality, Masculinities Studies, Gender & the Family

Week 3: Theorizing Power & Resistance, Decolonizing Anthropology & Feminism

Week 4: Transnational Feminisms & Conclusions

5. Required Readings and Materials:

1. hooks, bell. 2015. *Feminism is For Everybody: Passionate Politics*. New York, NY: Routledge. Any edition. 120 pages. (Can buy used for \$5)

Articles: A series of articles are required. Most are accessible on-line. Those that aren't have been placed on Blackboard.

6. Graded Assignments:

Course Engagement (20%)

Students will be responsible for actively participating in the course by showing up to class in person, having read required course materials PRIOR to class meeting, and actively engaging in course content. To receive full credit for course engagement, you must be fully present, and you must not distract other students.

Beginning Reflection (5%)

The beginning reflection is going to provide the context for you and me to evaluate your work throughout the semester. Take a moment and think before you write the reflection. This exercise will set your goals for the semester about what you want to get out of this class. This should be 300-500 words and answer all of the questions asked.

Participant Observation Assignments (10%)

You will complete two participant observation assignments studying gender in Prague. The first will be in a public informal location (café, bar, casual restaurant) for 30 minutes and the second will be in a public formal location (formal restaurant, museum, government building) for 1 hour. You can examine courtship practices, gender roles (Who talks more? How do they talk? Who has which types of jobs?), LGBTQ+ culture, etc. What differences do you note between this place and back home? Students will turn in their detailed notes from participant observation (at least 2 pages handwritten or typed, can be bullet points) and a short 250-300 word reflexive essay on their experience.

Reading Quizzes (15%)

There will be short reading quizzes over assigned required course materials throughout the semester. These will ensure comprehension and completion of assigned articles, book chapters, podcasts, and videos.

Reading Responses (15%)

Students will need to complete reading response answering discussion questions on course content. The responses should be approximately 250-500 words long and answer all of the questions provided in the prompt. The papers must demonstrate that the student has read/watched course materials. Prompts will be posted on Blackboard. The goal of these questions is not to measure your knowledge or expect you to know a ton about feminist theory that we will discuss. Instead, the questions are meant to encourage you to read the text with an awareness of major arguments and to guide our in-class discussion. In other words, as long as you provide a genuine, articulate response, you should receive full points. If you are confused about a question, explain your confusion and do your best to respond.

Midterm Reflection (5%)

The point of the midterm check-in is to revisit the goals in your beginning reflection, to reflect on what you have done so far and what you need to from now and to tell me how you think you are doing so far. This should be 250-500 words.

Interview Assignment (20%)

Students will be required to imagine, propose, formulate and execute original research on the anthropology of gender. The student will use ethnographic methods to interview 1 person about a gender-related topic. The student will need to focus both the interview questions and analysis around specific course concepts. This large assignment will be divided up into several parts.

Week 1: Interview Topic, Possible Interviewees & Ethics: 40 points

Week 1: 10 Interview Questions: 35 points

Week 3: Interview Transcript: 50 points

Week 4: Interview Analysis: 75 points

Total Points: 200 points

Final Reflection (10%)

The goals of this final reflection are twofold: 1) to take a step back from the class, think and discuss what you actually learned 2) to evaluate your overall work based on your beginning and midterm reflections and your general circumstances. This should be 500-750 words.

7. Attendance Policy:

KIIS program participants are expected to be punctual to and in attendance at all classes, presentations, meetings and required excursions, and to remain with the program for the full academic period. Unexcused absences from classes and/or mandatory meetings will result in a lowering of the student's final grade, as will excessive tardiness. Multiple unexcused absences could result in expulsion from the program. Any absence from an academic class session must be excused for medical reasons.

8. Disability Accommodation:

KIIS will make every reasonable effort to provide accommodations for program participants with special needs or disabilities, but we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. Be aware that many foreign countries do not have comprehensive legislation comparable to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As a result, businesses and other establishments operating in foreign countries may not be able to provide accommodations.

If you have a disability accommodation need, we recommend you contact your KIIS Campus Representative, <https://www.kiis.org/about-kiis/contact-us/campus-representatives/> early in your program selection process so that s/he has time to discuss any specific needs, including which KIIS programs may be best suited. You also are welcome to contact KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning, maria.canning@wku.edu, to discuss your disability accommodation needs (e.g. housing, transportation, excursions, class schedule, etc.).

Immediately after acceptance, notify KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, haley.mctaggart@wku.edu, if you have a special need or disability that might require any form of accommodation abroad. Failure to notify KIIS may prevent you from participating on your KIIS program.

If you require any accommodations abroad, you must provide KIIS Admissions and Enrollment Specialist, Haley McTaggart, an accommodation letter from your home campus' disability accommodation office that lists the accommodations you are eligible to receive. Please do not request accommodations directly from your KIIS Program Director or other KIIS Faculty; the KIIS Office will notify your KIIS Program Director and/or Faculty after we have received your above accommodation letter.

In some cases, you may need to make arrangements for a caregiver to join you on your KIIS program, should your physician, campus disability accommodation office, or KIIS make such a recommendation or require it.

9. Title IX / Discrimination & Harassment:

Recent attention to gender discrimination and sexual harassment at colleges and universities reminds us of the importance of adhering to standards of ethical and professional behavior. KIIS Study Abroad is committed to supporting and encouraging safe and equitable educational environments for our students, faculty, and program directors. Students, faculty, and program directors are required to be civil and treat each other with dignity and respect. As such, harassment and/or discrimination of any kind will not be permitted or tolerated.

Sexual misconduct (sexual harassment, sexual assault, and sexual/dating/domestic violence) and sex discrimination are violations of KIIS policies. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to a) KIIS Assistant Director, Maria Canning (+1-859-200-1000) or KIIS Executive Director, John Dizgun (+1-270-227-2288), b) WKU's Title IX Coordinator, Ena Demir (270-745-6867 / ena.demir@wku.edu) or WKU's Title IX Investigator, Michael Crowe (270-745-5429 / michael.crowe@wku.edu). Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a KIIS program director and/or faculty member, KIIS program directors and faculty are considered "Responsible Employees" of Western Kentucky University and MUST report what you share to

WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator.

If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center, <https://www.wku.edu/heretohelp/> at 270-745-3159.

For more information on KIIS Title IX, see <https://www.kiis.org/students/health-safety/title-ix-clery/>; additional Title IX resources can be found here <https://www.wku.edu/eeo/titleixbrochure2020.pdf>.

Everyone should be able to participate on a KIIS program, attend a KIIS event, or work in a KIIS environment (e.g. KIIS office) without fear of sexual harassment or discrimination of any kind. Be respectful of each other.

10. Course Schedule

Week 1: Early Feminist Anthropology & Critiques, Defining Feminism, Gender & Sex

1. Read hooks, bell. 2015 Intro, Chapters 1-5, *Feminism is for Everybody* p.xi-30.
2. Listen to McGuirk & Craven. 2018. "[Feminist Anthropology](#)" AnthroBites. ~15 min.

Week 2: Intersectionality, Masculinities Studies, Gender & the Family

1. Read hooks, bell. 2015. Chapters 6-10 *Feminism is for Everybody* p.31-60.
2. Read Combahee River Collective. 1977. "The Combahee River Collective Statement." *Ms 2* (1): 1-8.

Week 3: Theorizing Power & Resistance, Decolonizing Anthropology & Feminism

1. Read hooks, bell. 2015. Chapters 11-15 *Feminism is for Everybody* p.61-92.
2. Read Ghannam, Farha. 2013. "Chapter 3 Women and the Making of Proper Men." *Live and Die Like a Man*. p.85-105.

Week 4: Transnational Feminisms & Conclusions

1. Read hooks, bell. 2015. Chapters 16-19 *Feminism is for Everybody* p.93-118.
2. Read Abu-Lughod, Lila. 2002. "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving? Anthropological Reflections on Cultural Relativism and its Others." *American Anthropologist* 104(3): 783-790.