

This is a guided self-study course aimed at enabling the student to understand, think, speak, and write critically in applying anthropological theories and approaches for interpretation of gender and sex, in sociological, socio-economic, and psycho-social contexts.

The objective includes preparing the student to be familiar with the usefulness and limitations of contemporary anthropological theories for sex & gender, and their application for social analysis in both Western and non-Western societies. Through intensive and extensive readings, including ethnographies, the student is guided towards employing ideas for answering questions on gender influence on disparities, inter-gender relations, and relations between gender and society. The studies also include developing an understanding of the distinctions between perspectives based on quantitative genetics versus social constructs. Finally, an assessment of human roles, human activities, and human imagination, relative to the delineation of gender and sex, is taken up, to understand components of analyses that are agency related versus structure related.

Reading List

(NOTE: The list below is only a suggestive one for a base on the reading; the instructor shall provide a more substantial list of papers to be read during the conduct of the course.)

1. Dave Alder-Vass, "The Reality of Social Construction", Cambridge University Press, 2013.
2. "The Gender/Sexuality Reader: Culture, History, Political Economy", eds. Roger Lancaster and Micaela di Leonardo, Routledge (1997)
3. Farmer, Paul, Margaret Connors, and Janie Simmons, "Women, Poverty, and AIDS: Sex, Drugs, and Structural Violence", 1996 by Common Courage Press (Series in Health and Social Justice)
4. Cohn, Bernard S. 1955. "The changing status of a depressed caste. In Village India: Studies in the little community", edited by McKim Marriott, 53–77, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
5. Dirks, Nicholas B. 1990. "The original caste: Power, history, and hierarchy in South Asia." In India through Hindu categories, edited by McKim Marriott, 59–77. New Delhi: Sage.
6. Karin Kapadia, "Siva and her sisters", Westview Press, 1998.
7. M.N. Srinivas, "The Remembered Village", Oxford University Press, 2012.
8. Peter Berger, "Theory and ethnography in the modern anthropology of India", HAU, Journal of Ethnographic Theory 2, (2) 325-357.