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CURRICULUM PROPOSAL FORM  
University-Wide Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

UWUCC USE ONLY

Number \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Action \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

I. TITLE/AUTHOR OF CHANGE

COURSE/PROGRAM TITLE: Anthropology of Women  
DEPARTMENT: Sociology and Anthropology  
CONTACT PERSON Dr. Miriam Chaiken or Dr. Sarah Neusius

II. APPROVALS

_____	_____
Department Curriculum Committee	Department Chairperson
_____	_____
College Curriculum Committee	College Dean
_____	_____
Director of Liberal Studies (where applicable)	Provost (where applicable)

\*COLLEGE DEAN MUST CONSULT WITH PROVOST BEFORE APPROVING CURRICULUM CHANGES. APPROVAL BY COLLEGE DEAN INDICATES THAT THE PROPOSED CHANGE IS CONSISTENT WITH LONG RANGE PLANNING DOCUMENTS, THAT ALL REQUESTS FOR RESOURCES, MADE AS PART OF THE PROPOSAL, CAN BE MET, AND THAT THE PROPOSAL HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION.

III. TIMETABLE

Date submitted to UWUCC 11-1-88	Semester/Year to be implemented Fall 1989	Date to be published in catalog: 1990
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#### IV. DESCRIPTION OF CURRICULUM CHANGE

##### 1. Catalogue Description

AN 350 Anthropology of Women

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Prerequisites: None

Course Description: This course is designed for any student with an interest in the lives of women around the world, regardless of whether they have a strong background in anthropology. The course will examine the social roles, rights, and responsibilities of women cross-culturally, viewing both women's productive (economic) functions as well as reproductive functions. Reading will expose you to the position of women in technologically simple societies as well as addressing the comparative position of women in the industrialized socialist and capitalist countries. The central theme of the course will be an examination of how the position of women has changed in the 20th Century.

COURSE ANALYSIS QUESTIONNAIRE  
ANTHROPOLOGY OF WOMEN

SECTION A - DETAILS OF THE COURSE

A1 This course will add to the diverse offerings in the anthropology curriculum and would be appropriate as an elective for students in either the general or applied anthropology tracks. The course will also be appropriate for students with interests in Sociology, Political Science, International Studies, Women's Studies, Nursing, Home Economics, Education, or Geography. Students need not be majors nor have a comprehensive background in anthropology to profit from this class.

This course is proposed for inclusion in the Liberal Studies course list as a course which will fulfill Non-Western requirements.

A2 The inclusion of this course in the anthropology curriculum will not necessitate changes in any other courses, in this department or any other. This course will be promoted by the Women's Studies program in addition to our department as it is viewed as a welcome addition to the nucleus of courses which deal with gender studies.

A3 This course is consistent with a traditional course in that it includes lectures and reading from a textbook, but it can also be viewed as an innovative course as students will be assigned readings which were intended for a scholarly social science audience and there will be an opportunity for experiential learning when they conduct interviews with women about their perceptions of the changing status of gender relations. In this regard the course will be more challenging for students and will hopefully have a stronger impact as they learn by doing, not just by passive participation.

A4 The course is being taught in Fall 1988 as a Special Topics course.

A5 This course will not be a dual level course.

A6 This course will not be offered for variable credit.

A7 Courses on the Anthropology of Women have been offered at many of the colleges and universities which offer degrees in Anthropology. In many instances the course is offered jointly in Anthropology and Women's Studies.

A8 This course is not required for accreditation or by any professional society.

#### SECTION B - INTERDISCIPLINARY IMPLICATIONS

B1 At the current time there are no plans to team teach the course, however local specialists and colleagues in other fields might be invited on occasion to deliver guest lectures.

B2 No corollary or additional courses will be needed.

B3 This course is inherently anthropological in content, in that the position of women is examined in a cross-cultural perspective and the source materials for student reading assignments and for lecture preparation have been prepared by anthropologists and incorporate an anthropological framework. However, the course is complementary to several courses in Sociology and Women's Studies which also examine the position of women in the contemporary world. We do not envision any conflict or undue repetition in the course contents as this course will concentrate on Non-western societies and the evolution of women's contemporary roles. The course will be part of the Women's Studies curriculum as it is anticipated that it will complement, not conflict with, other courses which deal with gender issues.

B4 Two to three seats in the course could be made available to the School of Continuing Education.

#### SECTION C - IMPLEMENTATION

C1 The resources necessary to teach this course are already available in the University. Appropriately trained faculty, classroom space, and audio-visual equipment are already available in the Department of Sociology-Anthropology. Library collections in Women's Studies/Anthropology of Women are surprisingly complete, for example the great majority of the references included in the enclosed bibliography are currently available in the library. Indeed, it could be argued that adding this course will ensure optimum use of existing library resources by exposing students to the substantial literature currently available. There will be no need for specialized equipment such as laboratories, unusual supplies, or travel funds.

C2 No special resources have been provided to make this course possible.

- C3 This course will be taught approximately once every two years unless demand and enrollments warrant more frequent offerings. This course will not necessarily be linked with one season or semester.
- C4 We anticipate teaching a single section of this course each time it is offered.
- C5 For a course such as this which involves high levels of student interaction and which will require each student to write several short papers it is necessary to restrict enrollments to approximately 25 students.
- C6 There are no professional societies in Anthropology or Women's Studies which establish parameters for undergraduate courses.
- C7 This course will be an elective for Anthropology majors and open to non-majors as well. Adding this course to the Anthropology curriculum will not necessitate changes in the program requirements.

**COURSE SYLLABUS:  
ANTHROPOLOGY OF WOMEN**

Instructor: Dr. Miriam Chaiken

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is designed for any student with an interest in the lives of women around the world, regardless of whether or not they have a strong background in anthropology. The course will examine the social roles, rights, and responsibilities of women cross-culturally, viewing both women's productive (economic) functions as well as reproductive functions. Reading will expose you to the position of women in technologically simple societies as well as socialist and capitalist countries. The central theme of the course will be an examination of how the position of women has changed in the 20th Century.

**REQUIRED READING** - Both books are available at the Co-op bookstore

1. O'Kelly, Charlotte, and Larry S. Carney Women and Men in Society 1980 (or later edition).
2. Reiter, Rayna, ed. Toward an Anthropology of Women, 1987.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

This class will combine lecture, class discussions, student presentations, guest lectures, and films in an effort to examine the position of women in society. I encourage active class discussion and participation and I hope that the students will learn as much from each other and from independent reading as they will from formal class lectures.

Your grade will be based upon examinations, written assignments, and oral presentations. Examinations will cover course lectures, assigned readings, and the material presented by your peers in the student presentations. Written and oral assignments will be based on reading of your choice and original research. Each of the following assignments will be described in greater detail later in the semester.

1. Examinations - two hour long examinations will be based on course material, assigned reading, and student presentations. Each exam will consist of short answer questions and longer essay questions.

2. Book Review - each student will prepare a book review during the course of the semester, selected from a list of books which will be provided by the instructor. In addition to the written review, each book will be reported orally in class so that each student has an opportunity to learn about a wide range of literature. Oral presentations should be 10-15 minutes in length and should summarize the contents of the book as well as evaluating the book in light of the course content. The objective of this exercise is not to put students on the spot or make anyone uncomfortable, but to encourage information sharing and healthy debate.

3. Final Research Projects - will be handled independently, but with substantial cooperation between members of the class. As the theme of this course will be the changing position of women cross-culturally, part of our goal will be to scrutinize the status of women in our own society. Working as a group, students will develop a questionnaire examining women's perception of the changes in the 20th Century. Each student will conduct several interviews with women in their own community and then analyze his/her own data and prepare an essay which summarizes the findings of the original research. I hope this exercise will provide a challenge, give you an opportunity to try a new type of research, and foster greater understanding of your own community.

The assignments will be weighted as follows in the computation of final grades.

	Percent of Grade
Book Review (written assignment)	20
Oral Report of Book Review	5
Midterm Examination	25
Final Project	25
Final Examination	25

I will not assign a grade for class participation, but students who consistently contribute to class discussions may receive a "bonus" at the end of the semester equivalent to 5% of grade points for positive contributions to class activities.

## COURSE OUTLINE

TOPIC	ASSIGNED READING
I. Introduction - Is there gender bias in social theory? (one and one half weeks) Traditional anthropological views of women (Cultural evolution, Marxist Cultural Materialist, etc.) Women as anthropologists, an extension of anthropological holism	Text - Ch. 1 Reiter - Reiter, Rubin & Sacks
II. Biology and Psychology of Gender and sexuality (one week) Evolution and Gender/Male Foraging Model and other views of evolution Biology and sexuality/ How do those hormones work?? Sex-linked behavior Psychology of men/psychology of women The Myth of Matriarchy? Motherhood - a biological imperative?	Reiter - Liebowitz
III. Women, Men and Families (one week) Rites of Passage and initiation Cross-cultural views of marriage Marriage patterns, matrilineal vs. patrilineal systems Pollution, taboo, and purdah	Reiter-Gough, Webster
One Class - STUDENT PRESENTATIONS	
IV. Women in Traditional Forager Societies (one and one half weeks) Hunting and gathering as a force in human evolution/Mobility vs. Maternity Man the Hunter/Woman the Hunter? What is the division of labor Who provides the calories? Ethnographic examples: The Mbuti Pygmies, the Agta of the Philippines, Australian Aborigines, the Kung San of Kalahari	Text - Ch. 2 Reiter-Slocum, Draper Rohrich-Leavitt



one class - STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

one class - MIDTERM EXAMINATION

- V. Women in Traditional Agrarian Societies (two weeks) Text - Ch. 3 & 4  
Division of labor/time allocation Reiter-Faithorn,  
Women as farmers J.K. Brown  
Expansion of sexual inequality and  
class  
Ethnographic examples: Asian  
peasants, African agriculturalists

one class - STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

- VI. Women in International Development (one week) Text - Ch. 8  
Fertility control and Maternal/Child Health in Egypt and India Reiter - S.E. Brown,  
Rubbo, Remy  
Food Security/Food Marketing in Africa  
Employment opportunities/International Labor Organization

one class - STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

one class - DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH INSTRUMENT

- VII. Women in Complex Capitalist Societies (two weeks) Text - Ch. 9  
North America vs. Northern Reiter-Reiter, Harding,  
Europe/Structural differences and Silverman  
opportunity for women  
The "Poorest of the Poor"  
Social policy and feminism/  
Influencing the vote

one class - STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

VIII. Women in Complex Socialist Societies  
(one and one half weeks)

Text - Ch. 9  
Reiter-Diamond

Soviet Union - Women's Labor and  
domestic responsibilities

China - traditional family and  
contemporary socialism

Israeli kibbutz - utopian communities  
and women's participation

Women in revolutionary movements

one class - STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

IX. Conclusions and setting an agenda for  
the future (one class)

Text - ch. 10

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Journals Consulted

SIGNS

Human Organization