Course Description: The purpose of this course is to provide an overview of the field of social organization as studied by anthropologists. This entails looking at questions of gender, descent, unions, alliance, family, hierarchy, social inequality, social networks and residence patterns from a comparative, cross-cultural perspective. After introducing students to basic terms and concepts, we will explore evolutionary approaches to the study of social organization, as well as primate studies. We will then summarize the comparative approach to kinship and social organization and review what anthropologists have identified as the major forms of descent and marriage organization. We will also discuss a number of representative ethnographic cases. The class will also deal with issues concerning the study of kinship, power and gender, as well as the implications of emerging reproductive technologies for how we understand human kinship and social organization.

Core Objectives:

CO 11 - Students will apply and evaluate modes of academic inquiry, creative expression, or results of research to problems in historical and contemporary global contexts. Students will articulate connections among local, national, and international contexts and evaluate the ways that historical and contemporary global influences affect their current situations.

This course embraces an historical and comparative approach to social organization, examining the early foundations of anthropological thought regarding kinship and reproductive strategies. As such, students will examine some of the studies regarding non-human primate social organization and draw parallels with human societies, past and present. This discipline also examines these issues from a sociocultural perspective, noting the internal logic that traditional and modern societies use to justify their own patterns of social organization and network structures.
Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1) Describe the various forms of marriage practices encountered in the human experience, past and present.
2) Articulate the different forms of kinship organization encountered in human societies, past and present.
3) Demonstrate the evolution of social complexity of human societies.
4) Explain how different forms of marriage and kinship networks emerged.
5) Show the impacts that globalization has on human social organization and anticipate ongoing forms of social networks.

Requirements and Grading Criteria: Grades will be determined as follows:

Midterm exam: 30%
Assignments: 60% (3 will be given, worth 20% each)
Class presentation: 10%

The midterm exam will be given at the end of the 8th week.

The first assignment is a report based on the structural rules for family formation. Instructions for this exercise and the following ones will be handed out in class and this first assignment will be due by the 7th week of class.

The second assignment is a report on an ego-centered social network. Again, instructions for this exercise will be handed out in class. It will be due on the 12th week of class.

The third assignment will be diagramming a kinship structure. As with the previous two exercises, instructions will be handed to you in class. This will be due on the 16th week of class.

Class presentations will entail reading an assigned article and presenting it in class using Power Point. Presentations should be about 10-12 minutes in length, with an extra 5 minutes for questions and discussion.

Note: there will be no make-ups for exams or assignments unless you have a valid, well-documented, medical excuse.

Class Attendance is a must in this course and will decide borderline cases. Students are expected to attend class, and on time.

Webcampus: The course syllabus, study guides for exams, instructions for assignments, articles and other relevant information will be available online through WebCampus.
Books and Reading Assignments: Available for purchase in ASUN Bookstore:


Most other reading material will be available on Electronic reserve or on Webcampus. Articles for class presentations will either be online or given as handouts.

Additional readings:
The readings below are available through our course WebCampus account in PDF format.


Course Schedule:

Week 1 – Jan. 19
Course objectives discussed, syllabus reviewed.
View Film, *Faces of Culture* series

Week 2 – Jan. 24 & 26
Stone, Chapter 1
View Film, *Faces of Culture* series
Week 3 – Jan. 31 & Feb. 02
Stone Chapter 2
Rodseth & Wrangham
**Class presentations begin**

Week 4 – Feb. 07 & 09
Stone Chapter 3
Hutchinson

Week 5 – Feb. 14 & 16
Stone Chapter 4
Witherspoon, Gough

Week 6 – Feb. 21* & 23
Stone Chapter 5
Bowie, Clark
*President’s Day – No classes

Week 7 – Feb. 28 & March 02
Stone Chapter 6
1st Assignment due

Week 8 – March 07 & 09
Stone Chapters 7, Review
**Midterm**

Week 9 – March 12 - 20
Spring Break – no classes

Week 10 – March 21 & 23
Stone Chapter 8

Week 11 – March 28 & 30
Stone, Chapter 9

Week 12 – April 04 & 06
Davies, Chapters 1 & 2
2nd Assignment due
  Watch Film: Two Views on Feminism

Week 13 – April 11 & 13
Davies, Chapters 3 & 4
Ashikari
Week 14 – April 18 & 20
Davies, Chapters 5 & 6

Week 15 – April 25 & 27
Davies, Chapters 7 & 8

Week 16 – May 02
Patterson, Chapter 11, Gilbert

3rd Assignment due

Final Day – Thursday, May 09 (Noon – 2pm)
Course Wrap-up

Grading Scale: The grading scale for the course will be as follows:

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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78-79</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>59 and below</td>
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</tbody>
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Important Dates:

Jan. 17: Martin Luther King Day, no classes
Feb. 21 – President’s Day, no classes
March 02: 1st Assignment due
March 09: Midterm Exam (in class)
March 12 – 20: Spring Break
April 06: 2nd Assignment due
May 02: 3rd Assignment due
May 04: Prep Day, no classes
May 09: Scheduled Final (noon – 2pm)
May 11: Spring Term Ends

Academic Dishonesty includes cheating on exams, plagiarism on papers, and signing the role sheet for another student. None of these will be tolerated and any can result in a failing grade for the course and the implementation of other university disciplinary procedures.

Office Hours, Phone Calls and Email: I will be in my office during the hours indicated above. You do not need to make an appointment during these hours and are welcome to come in about anything. If you need to see me but cannot do so during these times, we can try to arrange an appointment for another time. If you wish to telephone, please do so but do not leave a message unless it is really important. I am usually in my office every day during normal working hours (9-5) so you can call me any time during that
period. In general, e-mail is preferred over phone calls (I usually check my e-mail several times a day) but I would prefer to handle anything that requires discussion in person. Please do not leave phone messages requesting me to phone you (I usually get a machine when this happens) unless it is very urgent and alternatives such as coming in to office hours and e-mail will not work.

**Special Needs or Disabilities or Other Problems:** The department of anthropology is committed to equal opportunities in education for all students, including those with physical or learning disabilities. If you have a disability for which you will need to request accommodations, please contact me or the Disability Resource Center (Thompson Building, Suite 100, tel. 748-6000) as soon as possible to arrange for appropriate accommodations. In addition, students who anticipate other problems involving work or family that might affect attendance or completion of any of the other requirements of the course are strongly encouraged to discuss them with me at the beginning of the semester.

**Statement on Audio and Video Recording:** Surreptitious or covert video-taping of class or unauthorized audio recording of class is prohibited by law and by Board of Regents policy. This class may be videotaped or audio recorded only with the written permission of the instructor. In order to accommodate students with disabilities, some students may be given permission to record class lectures and discussions. Therefore, students should understand that their comments during class may be recorded. I also ask that you turn off all cell phones and electronic devices before coming to class. You can use your laptop and iPads as long as they are for taking notes or making a quick consultation on an issue we are discussing in class.

**Extra Credit:** There is an opportunity to gain extra credit. If you attend any campus lecture, which I announce in class, you can give me a brief 1-2 page write-up of this event. You can score up to 3 points on your write-up, depending on how well you prepare it. In this manner you can earn a total of 12 extra points. This total will be added on to the total number of points summed up in your tests and term paper. After adding on this extra credit to your total number of points, I will then figure your average.