SYLLABUS
ANT 3930 Social Relations
Tuesday, Period 9 (4:05-4:55pm)
Thursdays, Periods 9-10 (4:05-6:00pm)
MAT 0018

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Course Description and Objectives

Interpersonal relations constitute the cement of society. What does it mean to be a sibling, a friend, a spouse or a lover? Why do we make kin out of strangers? Every time two persons have a face-to-face interaction and adjust their behavior to one another, the result is a relationship. But how are Facebook, Twitter and other social networks changing the way we relate to each other? This course examines social relations from an cross-cultural perspective. We will explore social relations in the American and other cultures, how these relations contribute to the reproduction of society, and how they are being affected by contemporary social, cultural and technological changes.

By the end of the course, students will be able to:
• understand the basic characteristics of social relations and their significance for society and culture
• understand cultural variations in social relations
• have the ability to rethink some of their cultural assumptions about social relations

Class Format

This class is a combination of lectures, class discussion, and documentary screening.

Course Requirements and Grading

1. Exams (30%)

There will be two exams, one in the middle of the semester and the other at end of the semester. Both exams will test your knowledge about material covered in lectures (including guest speakers) and assigned readings. The exams will include 30 multiple-choice questions and will be noncumulative.

2. Ethnographic research project (50%)

Students are required to design and conduct an ethnographic research project. The research project will be carried out in three stages: two research reports of 2-3 pages and one final paper
of 8-10 pages. The first research report focuses on the research problem and background research. Students will choose one of the weekly topics that will be covered in class as the topic for their ethnographic research project. The second research report should include a reflection on the research process and preliminary results. The final paper present the research results. Data for this project should be collected through in-depth ethnographic interviews, which are open-ended conversations designed to gather information on daily activities and world views. No Internet, telephone or messenger service interview will be allowed.

3. Reading, participation in class and attendance (20%)

Students must finish the readings assigned for each week before the first class of the week meets. Students are also required to attend and participate with questions and comments in all lectures.

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<thead>
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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Percent</th>
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<tr>
<td>Exams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam 1</td>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>Exam 2</td>
<td>Week 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethnographic research report</td>
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<td>Research report 1</td>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research report 2</td>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>Final paper</td>
<td>Week 13</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>Reading, attendance and participation</td>
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Letter grades will be assigned based on the total percent of points according to the following scale:

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<th>A = 90 or above</th>
<th>B- = 77-79</th>
<th>D+ = 64-66</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A- = 87-89</td>
<td>C+ = 74-76</td>
<td>D = 60-63</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+ = 84-86</td>
<td>C = 70-73</td>
<td>D- = 57-59</td>
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<tr>
<td>B = 80-83</td>
<td>C- = 67-69</td>
<td>E = 56 or below</td>
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Course Schedule, Readings and Assignments

Week 1 (Jan. 7, 9): Course Introduction
Week 2 (Jan. 14, 16): Gift Exchange: The Morality of Social Ties

Required readings:
• Aafke Komter: Social Solidarity and the Gift. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2005 (Ch. 1: The Social Meanings of Things)

Week 3 (Jan. 21, 23): Kinship: The Basic Social Ties

Required readings:

Week 4 (Jan. 28, 30): Marriage

Required readings:
• Stephanie Koontz: Marriage, a History: From Obedience to Intimacy or How Love Conquered Marriage. New York: Viking Penguin. 2005 (Ch. 2: The Many Meanings of Marriage)

Research report 1 is due: Jan. 30 by the end of class (6:00pm)

Week 5 (Feb. 4, 6): Other Forms of Relatedness

Required readings:

Week 6 (Feb. 11, 13): Fictive Kinship

Required readings:
• Kath Weston: Families We Choose: Lesbians, Gays, Kinship. New York: Columbia University Press. 1997 (Ch. 5: Families We Choose)

Week 7 (Feb. 18, 20): Friends and Acquaintances

Required readings:

First exam: Feb. 18

Week 8 (Feb. 25, 27): Love, Intimacy and Sex

Required readings:

Research report 2 is due: Feb 27, by the end of class (6:00pm)

Mar. 4, 6 (Spring Break): No classes

Week 9 (Mar. 11, 13): Sociality: Conviviality and Predation

Required readings:

Week 10 (Mar. 18, 20): Patrons and Clients

Required readings:
• S.N. Eisenstad and L. Roniger: Patrons, Clients and Friends: Interpersonal Relations and the Structure of Trust in Society. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1994 (Ch. 7: Variations in Patron-Client Relations)

**Week 11 (Mar. 25, 27): Gender and Social Relations**

**Required readings:**

**Week 12 (Apr. 1, 3): Social Relations as Social Capital**

**Required readings:**

**Week 13 (Apr. 8, 10): Social Relations, Social Media and Technology**

**Required readings:**

**Final paper is due: Apr. 10, by the end of class (6:00pm)**

**Week 14 (Apr. 15, 17): Brotherhods and Sisterhods: Fraternities, Sororities and Secret Societies**

**Required readings**

**Week 15 (Apr. 22, 24): Course Wrap-Up**

**Second exam: Apr. 24**

**Policy on Late Assignments and Make-Up Work**

You should complete all required assignments by the stated due dates. Research reports will lose five percent of their grade for each day they are late. No late final papers will be accepted. There will be no extensions for papers or make-up exams unless documentation for university-approved excuses is provided at least 24 hours in advance to the deadline. University-approved excuses include cases of incapacitated illness, death of a family member, and religious holiday.

**Classroom Behavior**

Any kind of disruption, including but not limited to talking, listening to an audio device, reading newspapers, updating Facebook or twitting, will not be tolerated and the student will be asked to leave the class. You must turn cell phones off or set them to silent mode before class begins. The use of personal computers, smartphones, tablets and other electronic devices can be used in class only as learning tools. Students are expected to behave in a responsible and mature manner in class, helping to create an environment of respect and tolerance.

**Academic Honesty and Plagiarism**

All written assignments must be original and the result of individual work, unless it has been specified as a collective work by the instructor. If there is evidence of collusion (receiving help from someone not connected to the class or assignment), plagiarism (use someone else’s work without properly citing the source) or multiple submission of the same paper, the student will receive a 0 for the assignment and be reported to the Dean of Students Office for academic dishonesty. For more information about student responsibilities, please see the following web page: [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx#honesty](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx#honesty)

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

Students in need of classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office and provide the resulting documentation to the instructor at least by the second week of class. For more information about services available to University of Florida students, please contact the Disability Resource Center, Dean of Students Office, 0001 Building 0020 (Reid Hall), Ph.: (352)392-8565, [http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/).
Counseling and Mental Health Services

The university provides many resources to students having personal or academic problems:
• University Counseling and Wellness Center, 3190 Radio Road, Ph.: (352)392-1575. Open Monday through Friday, 8am-5pm (http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/).
• Student Health Care Center, Ph.: (352)392-1171 (http://shcc.ufl.edu/).
• Career Resource Center, first floor J. Wayne Reitz Union, Ph.: (352)392-1601. Open Monday through Friday, 8 am-5 pm (http://www.crc.ufl.edu/).
• Emergency services (http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Emergency-Services).