

ANTHROPOLOGY 3200

WOMEN'S ROLES IN CROSS-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE

Spring 2012; MWF 11:00-11:50 a.m. Dr. Holly Mathews; Flanagan 207

(no prerequisites but a previous anthropology course is helpful) mathewsh@ecu.edu



HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT:

- What gender roles are like in different societies?
- How women's lives and life stories vary across cultures?
- How human sex and gender differences evolved?
- Alternative or "third" gender categories in other cultures?
- Myths of matriarchy and the realities of life in matrilineal societies?
- The links between gender roles, family structure and personality formation?
- The rise of the state and the development of patriarchy?
- The relationship of different religions to gender roles and women's spirituality?
- Women under Communist and Socialist regimes?
- Human rights, cultural relativism, and the control of women's bodies?
- Contemporary issues facing women worldwide?

This course will focus on gender and difference in a globalizing world. Students will read women's life stories from different cultures and research a key global issue affecting women worldwide. The class will maintain a blog and students will develop op-ed pieces for the blog based on their own research.

This course counts for foundations credit in social science and is an elective for the Women's Studies major and minor and for the Ethnic Studies minor. It also counts as an upper level cultural anthropology course for the Anthropology major/minor.