This class explores the expressive and artistic realms of women's and men’s lives in cross-cultural perspective in relation to questions of politics, power, resistance, and creativity. A critical perspective examines the history and political interests of anthropology and folklore and asks whether an egalitarian, emancipatory, inclusive, and feminist anthropology/folklore is possible. Topics include pollution beliefs, life-cycle events and rituals (initiations, marriage, childbirth), motherhood and fatherhood, religion, narrative and visual arts, sexuality in its broadest framework, and gender and human rights (via case studies of marriage, sexual trafficking, and female genital cutting). We will have prominent guest speakers during the term.

I welcome questions and feedback via email, telephone, in writing, and in person during office hours. I have a comment bag available at every class for quick feedback. Your GTF, Joe Henry, is also available to help you. If you have a documented disability and need an accommodation, please contact Disability Services.

Please turn off all mobile devices during class. Please, no texting. Computer use is permitted for class related activities, such as note taking. Plagiarism is not tolerated at the UO.

Respect for the instructor, GTF, and fellow students is imperative. Some of the materials in this class may be controversial. It is important that we listen to and respond civilly to one another, even when we don’t agree. I encourage everyone to participate and express their opinions freely.

The class utilizes a Blackboard site. Under Course Documents you can find the course and section syllabi, a list of anthropological definitions, exams, and class outlines and powerpoints. Under Readings you can find most of the readings. News articles are online, urls provided.

Course Requirements:
1. Attendance at lectures is required although I will not take attendance. A great deal of material will be presented during lecture that is not in the readings.

Attendance and participation in your section comprise 25% of your grade. Further guidelines are explained in your Section Syllabus. Sections meet the first week of classes. Participation in the lecture is also encouraged and counts towards the general participation percentage of your section grade.

2. Three take-home essay exams based on readings, films, and class and section discussion comprise 25% + 25% + 25% of your grade (approximately 7 pages each). Exams are factual, interpretive and comparative. Coherent, grammatical, and concise writing is emphasized. Lateness and excessive length will be penalized. Exams are due Feb 2 (in class), Feb 23 (in class), and Friday March 20, noon. Exams are distributed at least 5 days prior to the due date.
3. The required readings consist of longer scholarly articles, short journalistic articles, and a 2-part graphic novel (illustrated autobiography):

Several recently published recommended books have been ordered for the Bookstore; their required pages are on Blackboard and they are on reserve:

**Articles are available on Blackboard unless otherwise indicated; short newspaper and magazine articles, and YouTube clips are accessed on the web via the indicated URL.**

**Films will be on reserve after we view them in class.**

**Grading Rubric:**
A  Outstanding performance relative to that required to meet course requirements; demonstrates a mastery of course content at the highest level.
B  Performance that is significantly above that required to meet course requirements; demonstrates a mastery of course content at a high level.
C  Performance that meets the course requirements in every respect; demonstrates an adequate understanding of course content.
D  Performance that is at the minimal level necessary to pass the course but does not fully meet the course requirements; demonstrates a marginal understanding of course content.
F  Performance in the course is unacceptable and does not meet the course requirements; demonstrates an inadequate understanding of the course content.

**Course Objectives**
- Identify the definitions of gender, folklore and inequality.
- Trace the study of gender in the disciplines of anthropology and folklore
- Analyze the roles and statuses of women and men in select cross-cultural locations.
- Analyze gender in cross-cultural perspective in relation to questions of politics, power, resistance, and creativity.
- Interrogate whether a critical an egalitarian, emancipatory, inclusive, and feminist anthropology/folklore is possible.
- Analyze pollution beliefs, life-cycle events and rituals (initiations, marriage, childbirth), motherhood and fatherhood, religion, narrative and visual arts, and gender and human rights (via case studies of marriage, sexual trafficking, and female genital cutting).
- Analyze sexuality in its broadest cross-cultural framework.

**Course Outline:**

2. Jan 7: Female and male initiation rituals: structure and symbols. Video excerpts: Seasons of the Navajo.


View the following advertisements and be ready to discuss them:

Serena Williams Mother Nature 2010: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HIeYV63ap20](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HIeYV63ap20)
Mother Nature 2010: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9kDT3xmj9bU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9kDT3xmj9bU)

Fake Russian Tampax ad (from Movie 43, 2013): [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wGZpWOMGJCM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wGZpWOMGJCM)

U by Kotex- Reality Check: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lpypeLL1dAs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lpypeLL1dAs)
Generation Know documentary: [https://www.ubykotex.com/](https://www.ubykotex.com/)

Tiny Tampon Queen: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0XnzfRqkRxU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0XnzfRqkRxU)

4. Jan 14: Female Circumcision/Female Genital Cutting: Human rights abuse or valid cultural practice? Cultural relativism vs. human rights.


http://www.npr.org/2014/01/02/259121408/berlin-clinic-aims-to-make-genital-cutting-survivors-feel-whole


5. Jan 21: Birthing: Ritual, gender, and politics. Film: The Business of Being Born (87 minutes, 2008, produced by Ricki Lake). Note: Please plan to arrive on time and stay until 10:05 AM if possible to watch the whole film.


Twins don’t need C-Sections: http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/02/18/twins-dont-need-c-sections/?_r=0

Are Midwives Safer than Doctors? http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/15/opinion/are-midwives-safer-than-doctors.html


7. Jan 28. Mothering, and Fathering: Instinct or Learned?


Standing up for the rights of new fathers:  

Note: Lecture by Jewish feminist Susannah Heschel, Jan 28, 7:30 PM


Malala Yousafzai UN Speech: Girl Shot by Taliban Gives Address:  
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5SClmL43dTo
Pakistani Girl, a Global Heroine After an Attack, has Critics at Home:

In a Ban, a Measure of European Tolerance:

France Moves to Clarify the Rules on Full Veil

Secular Turkish Government Permits Religious Symbol:


Saudi women-defy driving ban:
http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2013/10/shifting-gear-saudi-women-defy-driving-ban-20131027132853713829.html

Optional: Read stories in series *Generation Faithful* on the lives of young people in the Muslim world in a time of religious revival.

11. Feb 11: Honor and Gender


Optional: read other posts by Agustin on her blog: http://www.nodo50.org/Laura_Agustin/about such as The Cultural Study of Commercial Sex: http://www.nodo50.org/Laura_Agustin/sex-industry-cultures-not-just-sex-work-or-violence-or-prostitution-or-women-or-trafficking-or-rights


The Pledge of Allegiance to Partisan policy: The Supreme Court properly truck down a federal demand for an anti-prostitution vow: http://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/21/opinion/the-pledge-of-allegiance-to-partisan-policy.html

Canadian Court strikes down laws on sex trade: http://www.nytimes.com/2013/06/21/opinion/the-pledge-of-allegiance-to-partisan-policy.html
A Court that Treats Defendants as Victims

14. Feb 23: Exam due. Transgender Narratives: Film Southern Comfort (2001, directed by Kate Davis, 90 minutes). Note: Please plan to arrive on time and stay until 11:35 AM if possible to watch the whole film.


Generation LGBTQIA:
http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/10/fashion/generation-lgbtqia.html

In Colorado, A Dispute over Transgender Rights

Toward ending workplace discrimination

In Their Own Terms: The Growing Transgender Presence in Pop Culture


A Spirit of Belonging Inside and Out: An Indian identity that means more than being gay or lesbian. http://www.nytimes.com/2006/10/08/fashion/08SPIRIT.html

Easing the Law for New Yorkers Shifting Gender

16. Mar 2: Roma (Gypsies) and Gender: Stereotypes and Realities.
Europe turns blind eye to attack on Romani
http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/822733.shtml#.UsZsMfa2NBp

Read at least 3 news items from any of the 4 following websites:
European Roma Rights Center: www.errc.org/
European Roma Information Office: www.erionet.eu
European Roma and Travelers Forum, sponsored by the Council of Europe: www.ertf.org/
Roma Virtual Network, sponsored by the International Romani Union:
http://groups.google.com/group/romano_liloro?hl=en

17. Mar 4: Roma (Gypsies) and Gender: Stereotypes and Realities. Excerpts from the film American Gypsy (Jasmine Delall, 1999).


Look at the website of the TV show American Gypsy and watch a video clip:
http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/channel/american-gypsies/


Silverman, Carol. Romani Routes: Cultural Politics and Balkan Music in Diaspora (Oxford, 2014), Chapter 4 (pp. 59- 81) and Chapter 5 (pp. 83- 99). As you read, make sure to look at some of the accompanying videos and photos, and listen to the music on the website that is referenced on these pages: www.oup.com/us/romaniroutes. The username is Music1 and the password is Book5983. Also read text supplement 4.1 on the website.

19. Mar 11: Balkan Roma: Gender and Education


Explore this website, especially the videos:
http://www.romawoman.org/

March 11-13, Gender Studies Symposium, Lewis and Clark, Portland: http://go.lclark/gender/call

Final Exam due Friday, March 20, noon.