“Family and kinship” was long a centrally important research domain in sociocultural anthropology, and has recently sparked renewed interest among new generations of anthropologists. In this course, we will survey some classical concepts developed for kinship analysis, and explore their usefulness for grasping some contemporary quandaries of family life. Our discussions will be largely organized around several central issues in social analysis: how do people use cultural models of “what should be” and navigate the inevitable discrepancies between these and the realities of everyday life? How do people conceptualize and manage reproduction, both as a biological process and as a social one?

Written Course Requirements
1. Genealogy exercise, due Fri. Feb. 8
2. Vocabulary quiz, Mon. Feb. 25
3. In-class mid-term essay exam Wed. Mar 13
4. At least one book review, due Wed. Mar 6 (Ahearn), Wed Apr 24 (Modell)
5. At least one fieldwork paper, due Wed Mar 27 (marriage proposal) or Fri Apr 19 (parent/child bonds)
6. In-class final essay exam Mon May 13

Final Grade Calculation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ethnography paper</td>
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<td>Fieldwork paper</td>
<td>15 %</td>
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<td>Midterm exam</td>
<td>25 %</td>
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<td>Final exam</td>
<td>25 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10 %</td>
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Books Ordered at NYU Bookstore:

Required:
L. Ahearn: Invitations to Love: Literacy, love letters & social change in Nepal (2001)

Recommended:
Course Outline and Assignments

Jan 28 Introductions

I. FORMAL KINSHIP STRUCTURES AND RULES OF RELATEDNESS

*The grammar of kinship and organization of society*

Jan 30
Stone: Kinship and Gender 4th edition
Chap. 1 Gender, reproduction and kinship, pp. 1-25

Feb 4, 6
Stone: Chap. 3 The power of patrilines, pp. 69-116
Chap. 4 Through the mother, pp. 117-157

**Genealogies due by Friday 2/8, 4:30 pm**

Feb 11, 13
Stone: Chap. 6 Marriage, pp. 189-226

February 18: Happy Presidents Day (no class)

*Social persons, autonomous individuals, and relatives*

Feb 20
Janet Carsten: The person, chap. 4 of After Kinship, pp. 83-108 (+ p 1-6)
Barbara Bondenhorn: He used to be my relative: exploring the bases of relatedness among Inupiat of northern Alaska IN Carsten (ed): Cultures of Relatedness, pp 73-89 (2000)

*Family and kinship in practice: a Nepalese example*

Feb 25, 27
Ahearn: Invitations to love, chaps 1 – 5, 10 (pp. 3-118, 245-60)

** Vocabulary quiz Feb 25**

Mar 4, 6
Ahearn: Invitations to love, chaps 6 – 10 (pp. 119 - 260)

** Ahearn book review due Mar 6 **

Mar 11, 13
Midterm exam Mar 13

SPRING BREAK
II. AMERICAN MODELS?

Mar 25, 27
David Schneider: *American Kinship: A cultural account*, 2nd edition
Skim chap. 1 (pp. 1-20); Read carefully chap. 2 (pp. 21-29)

**Fieldwork option #1 due by Wed. Mar 27**

Apr 1, 3
Schneider: *American Kinship*
Chaps 3 - 6 (pp. 30-117)

III. SOME FAMILIAR QUANDARIES

*True love and gay marriage*

Apr 8, 10
Kath Weston: Forever is a long time: Romancing the real in gay kinship ideologies, IN Yanagisako and Delaney (eds): *Naturalizing Power*, Routledge (1995), pp. 87-110

*Adoption: Euro-American experience in cross-cultural perspective*

Apr 15, 17
Modell, chaps 1-3, pp. 1-123

**Fieldwork option #2 due by Fri. April 19**

Apr 22, 24
Modell, chaps 4-5, pp. 124-200
Claudia Fonseca: Patterns of shared parenthood among the Brazilian poor, IN Volkman (ed): *Cultures of Transnational Adoption* (2005), pp. 142-161

**Modell book review due by Wed April 24**
Assisted Reproductive Technologies and Kinship Models

April 29, May 1

May 6, 8

May 13 Final exam