MARRIAGE SYSTEMS IN AFRICA AND THE DIASPORA

The relations between individuals and social groups established through marriage are a central aspect of African life, at once the foundation and complement to relations between kin. This course allows students to deepen their understanding of African societies by analyzing the range and complexity of African and Afro-american marriage systems. The importance of marriage to pastoral and farm production, social and political organisation and even chiefly bureaucracies will be explored in detail. These systems anchored a variety of indigenous societies, but also adapted vigorously to radical changes, whether from captivity in the Americas or economic and political transformations in Africa. Readings will consider the effects of cash crops, individual land tenure, labor migration, urbanisation, capitalist and socialist development, colonisation, Western education, Christianity and Islam, apartheid, war, and economic crisis on relations between the sexes. Class format will be agreed on, considering students' numbers and background.

Course Outline

Topic: Week Beginning:
Marriage and the Lineage Jan. 12
Cattle and Bridewealth Jan. 19
Farmers Jan. 26
Marriage Politics Feb. 2
Sex and/or Marriage Feb. 9
Slavery and Trade Feb. 16
Islam and Christianity Mar. 1
Commercialisation and Development Mar. 8
Urbanization and Education Mar. 15
Colonialism and Apartheid Mar. 22
Captivity and Freedom in the USA Mar. 29
The Caribbean Experience Apr. 5
War, Famine and Poverty Apr. 12

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11-12 (LSA).
Anthropology Office: 2040I LSA Bldg.
CAAS Office: 205A W. Engineering

Farmers: The Majority


Marriage Politics


Sex and/or Marriage


**Slavery and Trade**


Islam and Christianity


