

## Marriage Systems in Africa and the Diaspora

AAS. 358, Section 001

Anthropology 458, Section 004

Gracia Clark

Tuesday/Thursday, 1:30-3:00

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 organization 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, urbanization, capitalist and socialist development, colonization, Western education, Christianity and Islam, apartheid, war, and economic crisis on relations between the sexes.