

**UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY-AFRICA**  
**COURSE SYLLABUS**  
**CREDIT: 3 UNITS**  
**GNS 3001: WOMEN AND MEN IN CROSS-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES**  
**LECTURER: LUCY NDEGWA**

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Men and women from an anthropological perspective; changing gender roles in various contemporary cultures, including industrial democracies and developing nations.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The course seeks to:

- Introduce students to ways societies view men and women and how this impacts on individual men and women.
- Address the processes that are used by society to ensure the sustenance of these perspectives.
- Sensitize students to gender roles in various contemporary cultures
- Study men and women from anthropological and historical perspectives.

**COURSE CONTENT**

***Week 1***

Introduction- background to the course

- Definition of gender concepts (gender, sex) what is gender? **(3) students**
- Gender roles; What roles were men, women, children assigned?
- Historical perspectives of changing gender roles

***Week 2***

Men and women in culture

- Rites of passage and impact on gender roles in African culture and religion
- (3) students**
- *Presentation:* Discuss some rites of passage showing whether they observe gender parity: **Group 1**

***Week 3***

Men and women in religion

- The role and position of men and women in major world religions (Islam, Christianity and others)

***Week 4 - 3 students***

Social mythology

- Myths of origin
- Proverbs and narratives
- *Presentation:* What significance is placed on the role of woman in mythology?  
**Group 2**

### ***Week 5***

Social construction of gender **(3) students**

- Socialization and formation of gender roles

### ***Week 6***

Gender division of labour **(3) students**

- Role of men in public and private sphere

### ***Week 7***

Women and men in political participation

- Power and decision making
- *Presentation:* Discuss power and decision making in Things Fall Apart **Group 3**

### ***Week 8***

Ownership and control of property and its implications on men and women **(4) students**

- Customary and contemporary laws
- Property rights
- Effects on men and women
- The Sexual offences Bill,2006

### ***Week 9***

Effects of colonialism on gender roles of men and women **(3) students**

- Migration
- Urbanization
- Introduction of money economy
- Forced labour
- *Presentation:* What would you see as the major gender issue impacted by colonialism? **Group 4**

### ***Week 10***

Patriarchy

- Definition of patriarchy **(3) students**
- Roots of patriarchy
- Effect on roles of men and women
- *Presentation:* Discuss the role of proverbs in enhancing patriarchy **Group 5**

### ***Week 11***

The western Feminist Movement **(3) students**

- Historical perspective
- Impact on the status of women

### ***Week 12***

Effects of industrialization and globalization on gender roles among western societies.

- Technological advancement and effects on gender roles

- Global economy (3) students

**Week 13**

Revision

**Week 14**

**FINAL EXAMINATION**

**TEACHING METHODOLOGY**

Lectures, Group presentations and debates

Research and presentation of case studies

Use of audio-visual material

**COURSE TEXT**

Chinua Achebe, Things Fall Apart (Nairobi: EA Pub)

Kenyatta Jomo, Facing Mt. Kenya (Nairobi: Kenway, 1978) – Short Loan

Selection of proverbs

Kipury Naomi, Maasai Oral Literature (Nairobi: Heinemann, 1983)

The Sexual offence Bill, 2006- Extracts

**COURSE EVALUATION**

Attendance	10%
Participation	5%
Term Paper	15%
Group Presentation	15%
Assignment	15%
Mid-quarter Exams	20%
Final Exams	20%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

**GRADING**

90 - 100 A	70 - 73 C
87 - 89 A-	67 - 69 C-
84 - 86 B+	64 - 66 D+
80 - 83 B	62 - 63 D
77 - 79 B-	60 - 61 D-
74 - 76 C+	0 - 59 F