Women of the World
OLLI Boulder Fall 2019
8 Weeks - Thursdays 9:30-11:30 AM
September 19 – November 7
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Women of the World introduces students to the ethnographic study of women and gender relations cross-culturally. We will examine questions of female subordinate status, diverse patterns of love and marriage, peasants and their small businesses, inner-city single mothers, and the international challenge of educating daughters. This class is designed around participatory learning. Each class will include lecture, reflection, hands-on activities, brainstorming, and small group discussions.

The syllabus lists readings and videos that I will guide you to access on-line. Students can do as much or as little as they like of the suggested materials. All are optional.

Course Outline

Week One: Invitation to the Anthropology of Gender
Read: Mosse - Half the World, Half a Chance, Chapter 1
And/Or Ward – A World Full of Women, Chapter 1

Week Two: Hunter Gatherers and Gender Equality
Read: Patricia Draper – “!Kung Women: Contrasts in Sexual Egalitarianism in Foraging and Sedentary Contexts”
Watch: N’ai: The Story of a !Kung Woman by John Marshall

Week Three: Families and Women’s Work in Guatemala
Read: Ehlers – “Debunking Marianismo…”

Week Four: Marriage, Partnering, and Power
Read Ward – Patterns of Partnering, Chapter 5
And/Or Mosse - Mothers and Housewives, Chapter 3

Week Five: Inner-city Black Women
Read: Ehlers and Turner - Sugar’s Life in the Hood (Excerpts)

Week Six: Human Rights
Read: Kristof and WuDunn - Half the Sky (Excerpts)
And/Or Ward, Who Owns Her Body? Chapter 10
Watch: Half the Sky video OR Osama

Week Seven: Educating Girls
Read: Kristof and WuDunn – Half the Sky, Chapter 10 – Investing in Education.
AND/OR Unesco – Education Counts
Watch: CWA panel - The Girl Effect: Education results in Healthy, Empowered girls.

Week Eight: Women and Development – A Hands-on Workshop
Read: Seeds: Village Women Organize. The Mraru, Kenya Bus Service