

WOMEN IN CONTEMPORARY SOCIETIES

Arizona State University
WST 300 (70907) – Fall 2006
Monday & Wednesday 1:40-2:55
Location: SCOB 228

Instructor

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Office Hours: Monday: 3:00-4:00
Wednesday: 12:30-1:30
Other: By appointment

COURSE SYLLABUS

Course Description

This course will examine such topics as the development of contemporary gender roles and stereotypes, women and work, sexuality, politics, health, and law. Through critical thinking about the world, our goals are to achieve some understanding of the ways that gender shapes experience in contemporary societies, to uncover our own hidden assumptions about gender, and to become aware of the complex interactions of gender with other variables, such as nationality, race, class, age, sexual preference, etc. This course emphasizes a sociological approach to women and gender studies with readings and discussions focusing on both American and international communities.

Ground Rules

Out of respect for your classmates and yourself and in order for you to get the most from the course, please: 1) do all of the readings; 2) come to class promptly and attend regularly; 3) be courteous and respectful to one another, even in cases of disagreement; and 4) keep a sense of humor!

Disclaimer

This course deals with subjects that many people find sensitive and highly charged. Some of the readings contain strong language and graphic descriptions of violence and sexual situations, and many of the authors take political stances with which you might personally disagree. Please keep an open mind both to the readings and to the views of your classmates with whom you might have differences. I don't expect you to agree with the authors we read, your classmates, or me, but I do expect you to be respectful of opinions that differ from your own. Also, please remember that in a university classroom, you must be able to differentiate between emotions and personal opinions, on one hand, and reasoned analysis of the course material, on the other. This means that it is not enough simply to disagree with opinions you hear during this course; instead, you must explore the reasons why you disagree.

Academic Honesty

There is no tolerance for academic dishonesty in this course. Any instance of plagiarism or cheating on quizzes, tests, and other assignments can be grounds for failure of the entire course or expulsion from the university.

Gender-Fair Language

Language structures thought and action. Biases in language can (and do) naturalize inequities. Imprecise language also signifies un-interrogated values and sloppy thinking. For all of these reasons, the use of gender-fair language is expected in this course. For example, do not use words like "mankind" or "men" when referring to people in general; alternate between "she" and "he" instead of always using "he", or construct sentences in the plural instead of the singular so you can use "they" or "them" and avoid the problem altogether.

ESL/LD Students

Course requirements can be adjusted to serve the needs and capabilities of ESL and LD students. Please speak with the instructor during the first two weeks of class to make any necessary arrangements. Students may be advised to attend additional sessions during the instructor's office hours so they can draw comparable value from the course.

Course Content

Required Texts:

- Grewal & Kaplan (2005). *An Introduction to Women's Studies: Gender in a Transnational World, Second Edition.*
- Course Reader. Available at The Alternative Copy Shop (715 S. Forest Ave., 480-829-7992)

Reading

Complete all readings (and other assignments) **prior** to the class meeting for which they are scheduled. The readings will be drawn from the required texts for the course. You must bring readings (or copies of them) to class for the dates they are assigned. In some cases, I may distribute photocopied readings to you in class. See the course outline below for details.

Participation

Through communication, ideas are formed, revised, borrowed, and developed. It is through argument, description, explanation, and improvisation – within a community – that individual learning flourishes. This course requires full participation (including active listening, note-taking, and question-asking) to create an environment of open and shared learning. An effective participant is not someone who simply talks frequently, but someone who reliably offers thoughtful insights that help others to learn.

Course Assignments & Grading

Tests: There will be three tests in this course. Tests will consist of multiple-choice questions from the readings, lectures, and films. Makeup tests will only be allowed with a medical excuse for a **documented** illness or family emergency. Makeup tests will not be the same test taken by the rest of the class. There will be no exceptions to this policy. Students not taking the test will receive a 0.

Participation: Part of your final grade will be based on your participation in class. This portion of your grade will consist of in-class exercises, like worksheets, writing assignments, and group activities. These activities will occur regularly throughout the course with opportunities for participation credit most weeks. Each in-class exercise will be worth 1 or 2 points (for a total of 30). If you miss an in-class exercise due to illness, family emergency, or a sports-related absence, please come and talk with me during my office hours or after class. I will do my best to accommodate you, but please note that there will be some activities, like group work, that are impossible to make up. All missed work must be made up within one week of the original assignment.

Grading

Test #1	20%
Test #2	25%
Test #3	25%
Participation	<u>30%</u>
	100%

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

Week One: Introductions

August 21: Introductory Lecture: What is Women and Gender Studies?

August 23: Social Construction

Readings:

- Judith Lorber, “The Social Construction of Gender” (Reader)
- Joan Wallach Scott, “Gender & the Politics of History” (Text, p.19)
- Carole S. Vance, “Social Construction Theory” (Text, pp.29-32)

PART ONE: SOCIAL & HISTORICAL CONSTRUCTIONS OF GENDER

Week Two: Challenging Sex & Gender

August 28: Patriarchy and Feminisms

Readings:

- Allan Johnson, “Patriarchy, the System” (Reader)
- Lisa Maria Hogeland, “Fear of Feminism” (Reader)
- Michael Kimmel, “Real Men Join the Movement” (Reader)

August 30: Gendered Biology

Readings:

- Introduction to Part One (Text, pp.1-5)
- Nelly Oudshoorn, “Sex & the Body” (Text, pp.6-9)
- Emily Martin, “The Egg & the Sperm” (Text, pp.10-15)
- Anne Fausto-Sterling, “The Five Sexes” (Reader)

Week Three: The Politics of Knowledge

September 4: **NO CLASS** (Labor Day)

September 6: Rise of Western Science

Readings:

- Linda Gordon, “Magic” (Text, pp.33-35)
- Sheila Rowbotham, “Feminist Approaches to Technology” (Text, pp.35-40)
- Anne Fausto-Sterling, “The Biological Connection” (Text, pp.41-42)
- Stephen Jay Gould, “Women’s Brains” (Text, pp.43-46)
- Schuklenk et al., “Ethics of Genetic Research on Sexual Orientation” (Text, pp.47-51)
- Ian F. Haney Lopez, “The Social Construction of Race” (Text, pp.52-57)

Week Four: Medicine and Reproduction

September 11: Medicine in a Historical Perspective

Readings:

- Barbara Ehrenreich & Dierdre English, “Exorcising...” (Text, pp.77-80)
- Ben Barker-Benfield, “Sexual Surgery...” (Text, pp.85-91)
- Rogaia Abusharaf, “Unmasking Tradition” (Text, pp.91-98)

September 13: Population Control & Reproductive Rights

Readings:

- Susan Davis, “Contested Terrain” (Text, pp.99-103)
- Angela Davis, “Reproductive Rights” (Text, pp.103-107)
- Betsy Hartmann, “Family Matters” (Text, pp.107-112)
- Committee on Women, Population, and the Environment, “Call for a New Approach” (Text, pp.112-114)

Week Five: Health Issues in a Globalizing World

September 18: Strategizing Health Education and Advocacy I

Readings:

- Maureen Larkin, “Global Aspects...” (Text, pp.119-129)
- Sandra Morgen, “Conceiving History” (Text, pp. 129-132)
- Nadia Farah, “Egyptian Women’s Health Book Collective” (Text, pp.133-135)

September 20: Strategizing Health Education and Advocacy II

Readings:

- Kathryn Carovano, “More than Mothers and Whores” (Text, pp.138-141)
- Sabine Russell, “The Role of Prostitution...” (Text, pp.142-144)
- National Latina Health Organization, “Norplant” (Text, 144-147)

Week Six: Test # 1

September 25: Pharmaceuticals

Readings:

- Nathan Greenslit, “Pharmaceutical Branding” (Reader)
- Jennifer Fishman, “Sex, Drugs, and Clinical Research” (Reader)
- Pamela Sankar & Jonathan Kahn, “BiDiI” (Reader)

September 27: **TEST # 1**

PART TWO: GENDERED IDENTITIES IN NATIONS AND STATES

Week Seven: Citizenship & the Responsibilities of the State

October 2: Citizenship & Equality

Readings:

- Introduction to Part Two (Text, pp.149-154)
- Carole Pateman, “Feminist Critiques of the Public/Private...” (Text, pp.155-160)
- Geoffry Ponton & Peter Gill, “Paradigms, Models, & Ideologies” (Text, p.156)
- Jan Jindy Pettman, “Women & Citizenship” (Text, pp.167-170)
- Athalia Molokomme et al., “Citizenship” (Text, pp.170-173)

October 4: Gender & the Rise of the Modern State

Readings:

- Jan Jindy Pettman, “Women, Gender, & The State” (Text, pp.174-181)
- Jeffrey Weeks, “Power & The State” (Text, pp.181-184)
- Margot Badran, “Competing Agenda” (Text, pp.185-189)
- Gail Bederman, “Remaking Manhood...” (Text, pp.190-194)

Week Eight: Social Movements and the Cross-Cultural Feminist Identities

October 9: Communities & Nations / Feminist Organizing

Readings:

- Nira Yuval-Davis, “Gender & Nation” (Text, pp.217-221)
- Cynthia Enloe, “Nationalism & Masculinity” (Text, pp.222-228)
- Winnie Woodhull, “Global Feminisms...” (Text, pp.254-260)
- Farida Shaheed, “Controlled or Autonomous” (Text, pp.245-248)
- Laura Hershey, “Disable Women...” (Text, pp.260-263)

October 11: New Social Movements & Identity Politics

Readings:

- Kathryn Woodward, “Concepts of Identity & Difference” (Text, pp.195-197)
- Kimberle Crenshaw, “Mapping the Margins” (Text, pp.200-206)
- Alma Garcia, “Development of Chicana...” (Text, pp.207-211)
- Lisa Duggan, “Making It Perfectly Queer” (Text, pp.211-216)

PART THREE: REPRESENTATIONS, CULTURES, MEDIA, & MARKETS

Week Nine: Consumption and Gender

October 16: Consumer Culture & the Business of Advertising

Readings:

- Introduction to Part Three (Text, pp.265-268)
- Robert Babcock, “Gender & Consumption” (Text, pp.329-331)
- Elaine Abelson, “Urban Women...” (Text, pp.331-338)
- Amy Gluckman & Betsy Reed, “Gay Marketing Moment” (Text, pp.342-344)

October 18: Ways of Seeing

Readings:

- John Berger, “Ways of Seeing” (Text, pp.269-273)
- Suzanne Lustig, “Guerilla Girls...” (Text, pp.276-281)
- Rosalind Petchesky, “Fetal Images” (Reader)

Week Ten: Body Image and Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Beauty

October 23: Consumer Beauty Culture

Readings:

- Rosalind Coward, “The Body Beautiful” (Text, pp.345-348)
- Roland Marchand, “Grotesque Moderne” (Text, 356-359)
- Celestine Bohlen, “Italians...” (Text, pp.359-360)
- Barry Bearak, “Ugliness in India...” (Text, pp.361-362)

October 25: Representing Women in Colonial Contexts

Readings:

- Erica Goode, “Study Finds TV Alters Fiji Girls' View of Body” (Reader)
- William Wresch, “World Media” (Text, pp.307-312)
- Judith Williamson, “Woman is an Island” (Text, 314-316)
- Catherine Lutz & Jane Collins, “National Geographic” (Text, pp.317-321)
- Sarah Graham-Brown, “Images of Women” (Text, pp.324-328)

Week Eleven: Test #2

October 30: Cyberculture

Readings:

- Sandy Stone, “End of Innocence, Part II” (Reader)
- Juana Maria Rodriguez, “Welcome to the Global Stage” (Text, pp.371-374)
- Vernadette Gonzalez & Robyn Rodriguez, “Filipina.com” (Text, pp.375-381)

November 1: **TEST #2**

PART FOUR: GENDERING GLOBALIZATION AND DISPLACEMENT

Week Twelve: Women & Work (U.S. focus)

November 6: Women, Work, and the U.S.

Readings:

- “Work, Wages, and Welfare” (Reader)
- “Why Women Can’t Win For Trying” (Reader)

November 8: Domestic Labor in the U.S.

Readings:

- Explore website: www.mothersoughttohaveequalrights.org including the survey on the value of women’s work within the home
- Crittenden / Holcomb articles (Reader)

Week Thirteen: Women & Work (International focus)

November 13: Women, Work, and Immigration

Readings:

- Introduction to Part Four (Text, pp.383-387)
- Evelyn Nakano Glenn, “Women & Labor Migration” (Text, pp.444-449)
- Leslie Salzinger, “Maid By Any Other Name” (Text, pp.449-453)
- Satoko Watenabe, “From Thailand to Japan” (Text, pp.458-462)

November 15: Gender Politics of Economic Globalization

Readings:

- Augusta Dwyer, “Welcome to the Border” (Text, pp.463-466)
- Human Rights Watch, “Sex Discrimination...” (Text, pp.467-468)
- Amber Ault & Eve Sandberg, “Our Policies...” (Text, pp.469-473)
- Faye Harrison, “Gendered Politics and Violence...” (Text, pp.474-478)

Week Fourteen: Women & Relationships

November 20: Marriage & Consumption

Readings:

- Emma Goldman, “Marriage & Love” (Reader)
- “Relationships, Families, and Households” (Reader)
- Naomi Wolf, “Brideland” (Reader)
- “For Richer or Poorer” (Reader)

November 22: Sexuality

Readings:

- “Sex, Power, & Intimacy” (Reader)
- Pepper Schwartz & Virginia Rutter, “Sexual Desire & Gender” (Reader)

Week Fifteen: Women & Relationships Continued

November 27: Domestic Violence

Readings:

- Mother Jones articles (Reader)

November 29: Current Ambivalence about Marriage

Readings:

- Jaclyn Geller, “The Marriage Mystique” (Reader)
- Amy Benfer, “I do – Kind of” (Reader)
- Laurie Essig, “Same Sex Marriage” (Reader)
- Anndee Hochman, “What We Call Each Other” (Reader)

Week Sixteen: Test #3

December 4: **Test #3**