

Feminism and Anthropology

T/TH: 10-11:30 OA2019

Instructor: Melinda Vandenbeld Giles

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Course Description:

This course will explore the intersections between feminist thought, gender and anthropology in a variety of historical, social, political, economic, spatial and cultural contexts. By detaching gender from a strictly biological derivation, we can begin to see gender as it informs and is informed by such concepts as the family, marriage, mothering, reproduction, sexuality, race, class, science and domestic relations. Through an examination of how gender configurations vary cross-culturally and across time, we will come to question the extent to which male and female can be taken as ‘natural’ categories, and also see how feminist thought has informed anthropological exploration.

Course Requirements:

1. A one-page term paper proposal outlining concepts and references to be used. This will be worth 20% of final grade and due **Feb 9** on D2L at 11:59pm.
2. 5-7 page term paper based on topic of choice related to feminism and anthropology and pre-arranged through paper proposal. Three course references and two outside references are required at minimum. Term paper will be worth 40% of final grade and due **March 9** on D2L at 11:59pm.
3. Take-home final exam. Questions will be posted on D2L on **March 23** and students will have two weeks to complete. Exam will be worth 40% percent of final grade and due by 11:59pm on D2L on **April 6**.

Required Texts:

Readings will be made available as PDFs on D2L.

WEEK 1: Jan 10

Introduction

Steinem, Gloria. "If Men Could Menstruate". MS. Magazine, Oct. 1978.

Constance Sutton. "Creating a Public Feminist Anthropology" American Anthropologist, SEPTEMBER 2012, New Series, Vol. 114, No. 3 (SEPTEMBER 2012), pp. 524-525

WEEK 2: Jan 17 and 19

Analyzing and Deconstructing Popular Gendered Perceptions

Roughgarden, Joan. "Sex versus Gender" from Roughgarden, Evolution's Rainbow: Diversity, Gender, and Sexuality in Nature and People. Berkeley: U of California Press, 2004. P. 22-29.

Video: Joan Roughgarden, TED talk

WEEK 3: Jan 24 and 26

Science, Reproduction and the Construction of Gender

Martin, Emily. 1991. "The Egg and the Sperm: How Science Has Constructed a Romance Based on Stereotypical Male-Female Roles." Signs, 16 (3): 485-501.

Sperling, Susan. 1991 (1997). "Baboons with Briefcases vs. Langurs with Lipstick" in Roger N. Lancaster and Micaela di Leonardo (eds) The Gender/Sexuality Reader: Culture, History, Political Economy. NY: Routledge, 249-64.

WEEK 4: Jan 31 and Feb 2

Feminisms and Situated Knowledges

Lynn Walter. Feminist Anthropology? Gender and Society, Jun., 1995, Vol. 9, No. 3 (Jun., 1995), pp. 272-288

Mikki Kendall. Hood Feminism. 2020. Introduction. Solidarity Is Still for White Women.

WEEK 5: Feb 7 and 9 PROPOSAL DUE

De-Constructing Maternal Instinct

Shulamith Firestone. *The Dialectic of Sex: The Case for Feminist Revolution*. The Dialectic of Sex. The Ultimate Revolution: Demands and Speculation.

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy.

1985. "Culture, Scarcity, and Maternal Thinking: Maternal Detachment and Infant Survival in a Brazilian Shantytown." *In Ethos* 13, no. 4:291-317.

WEEK 6: Feb 14 and 16

Re-Conceiving Reproduction

Meigs, "Male Pregnancy and the Reduction of Sexual Opposition in a New Guinea Highlands Society", in *ETHNOLOGY* xv 1976 p. 393-407.

Regina Smith Oboler. "Is the Female Husband a Man?" *Ethnology*, Jan., 1980, Vol. 19, No. 1 (Jan., 1980), pp. 69-88

WEEK 7: Feb 28 and March 2

Family, Women and Property

Collier, Jane, Michelle Rosaldo, Sylvia Yanagisako. 1981 (1997). "Is There a Family? New Anthropological Views" in Roger Lancaster and Micaela di Leonardo (eds) *The Gender/Sexuality Reader: Culture, History, Political Economy*. NY: Routledge, P. 71-81.

K. Sacks, "Engles Revisited: Women, the Organization of Production, and Private Property" in M. Rosaldo & L. Lamphere (eds) *Woman, Culture and Society*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1974. P. 207-222.

WEEK 8: March 7 and 9 TERM PAPER DUE

Domestic Relations

M. Rosaldo, "Woman, Culture, and Society: A Theoretical Overview", in M. Rosaldo & L. Lamphere (eds.), *WOMAN, CULTURE AND SOCIETY* Stanford: Stanford U Press 1974 p. 17-42.

L. Lamphere, "Strategies, Cooperation, and Conflict Among Women in Domestic Groups", in M. Rosaldo & L. Lamphere (eds.), *WOMAN, CULTURE AND SOCIETY* Stanford: Stanford University Press 1974 p. 97-112.

WEEK 9: March 14 and 16

Re-Conceiving Sexualities

Butler, Judith. 1993 (1997). "Excerpt from "Introduction" to Bodies That Matter" in Roger N. Lancaster and Micaela di Leonardo (eds.) *The Gender/Sexuality Reader: Culture, History, Political Economy*. NY: Routledge, P. 531-542.

Jennifer Hirsch and Holly Wardlow. *Modern Loves*. Chapter 8: The Bonds of Love: Companionate Marriage and the Desire for Intimacy among Hijras in Hyderabad

Movie: Paris Is Burning

WEEK 10: March 21 and 23

Science, Sex, Race and Power

Somerville, Siobhan. 1994 (1997). "Scientific Racism and the Invention of the Homosexual Body" in Roger N. Lancaster and Micaela di Leonardo (eds). *The Gender/Sexuality Reader: Culture, History, Political Economy*. NY: Routledge. P. 37-52.

Foucault, Michel. 1978. "The Incitement to Discourse" from Foucault, *The History of Sexuality: Vol 1: An Introduction*, NY: Vintage, P. 17-36.

WEEK 11: March 28 and 30

Feminisms and Activism: The Personal and Political

Chelliah, Jane. *Austerity and Gender Neutrality: The Excluding of Women and Mothers from Public Policy in the UK*, in Melinda Vandenberg Giles (ed) *Mothering in the Age of Neoliberalism*. Bradford: Demeter Press, 2014. P. 185-195.

Green, Fiona Joy and May Friedman. "Introduction" from *Chasing Rainbows: Exploring Gender Fluid Parenting Practices*. Bradford: Demeter Press, 2014. P. 1-19.

WEEK 12: April 4 and 6 FINAL ASSIGNMENT DUE
Transnational Feminisms and Radical Self-Love

Jan Jindy Pettman. "Global Politics and Transnational Feminisms." *Feminist Politics, Activism, and Vision. Local and Global Challenges*. 2004.

Sonya Renee Taylor. "Making Self-Love Radical". *The Body Is Not an Apology. The Power of Radical Self-Love*. 2021.