

Anthropology of Gender 070:511 (Fall 2012)

Instructor: Professor Dorothy Hodgson
Office: 314 Ruth Adams, Douglass Campus
Tel: 732-932-8757
Email: dhodgson@rci.rutgers.edu
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30am

Class Time: Tuesdays, 12:35-3:35
Location: Ruth Adams 305, Douglass Campus

This course will explore the central historical and contemporary debates in the anthropology of gender, including the search for universal principles underlying male dominance (such as nature/culture; domestic/public); relationships among gender, sex, and sexuality; how gender articulates with other forms of difference such as race, class and nation; gendered perspectives on power; the interaction of agency and structure in the production of femininities and masculinities; issues of cultural representation and expression; gender and body politics; feminist positionalities, methods & ethics; feminist transnational activism; and transgender theory and activism. A key concern of the course will be to understand, discuss and debate how the primarily qualitative methods of ethnographic research can inform and further these debates.

We will first review the historiography of theoretical developments in the anthropology of gender and feminist anthropology, then read a mix of classic and contemporary ethnographies to explore how they contribute to our ability to analyze and understand gender.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: This seminar is designed to have the character of an intensive reading group. Principal emphasis will be given to detailed discussion of the texts and you should therefore come to class having read the materials and prepared to share your insights, questions, and concerns.

1) *Weekly commentaries:* All seminar participants are required to post on Sakai a commentary of 1-2 pages on the week's readings by the Monday afternoon (3:30 pm at the latest) before the Tuesday seminar meeting. This format will allow me to direct the discussion around issues you raise and to identify common issues of confusion or concern. These commentaries will not be graded individually but will be considered in arriving at your cumulative grade at the end of the semester. *You must post a minimum of 10 commentaries over the course of the semester.*

2) *Facilitators:* For the bulk of the course, one seminar participant will assist me in facilitating discussion of each text. You should therefore be prepared to serve at least once during the semester as a facilitator, both introducing and summarizing discussion of the required text.

3) *Critical Essay:* All seminar participants must write a critical essay of NO MORE THAN 25 double-spaced pages of text (not including endnotes and bibliography). The essay should develop themes related to seminar readings and discussion through critical reviews and/or comparisons of materials read for class, using additional materials where desired. Seminar participants will make short oral presentations based on work *in progress*, which means that completed research papers are not necessary to make a presentation. In the past, students have found these presentations very useful in helping them formulate and focus their papers and projects. The first draft of the essay is due in class on Tuesday, October 30th, 2012 and the final draft is due by 10am in my office on Friday December 14, 2012. No late papers will be accepted, except under the most extenuating circumstances.

Grades will be based on preparation for, and participation in, the seminar as well as timely completion of written course requirements. The essay will count for approximately 60% of your grade, with the remaining 40% determined by regular submission of your critical reviews, and your contribution to seminar discussion, both as a facilitator and a regular participant.

REQUIRED TEXTS (Available from Rutgers University Bookstore, on reserve in Douglass Library):

Ellen Lewin, ed. 2006. *Feminist Anthropology: A Reader*. Oxford: Blackwell

Matthew Gutmann. 2006. *The Meanings of Macho: Being a Man in Mexico City*, 2nd edition. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Dorothy Hodgson. 2005. *The Church of Women: Gendered Encounters between Maasai and Missionaries*. Bloomington: Indianan University Press.

Caitrin Lynch. 2007. *Juki Girls, Good Girls: Gender and Cultural Politics in Sri Lanka's Global Garment Industry*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.

Martin Manalansan. 2003. *Global Divas: Filipino Gay Men in the Diaspora*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Emily Martin. 2001 [1987] *The Woman in the Body: A Cultural Analysis of Reproduction*. Boston: Beacon Press. (Older versions are fine)

Saba Mahmood. 2005. *Politics of Piety: The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Ty P. Kāwika Tengan. 2008. *Native Men Remade: Gender and Nation in Contemporary Hawai'i*. Durham: Duke University Press.

David Valentine. 2007. *Imagining Transgender: An Ethnography of a Category*. Durham: Duke University Press.

Recommended Texts:

Henrietta Moore. 1988. *Feminism and Anthropology*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Micaela Di Leonardo, ed. 1991. *Gender at the Crossroads of Knowledge*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Irma McClaurin, ed. 2001. *Black Feminist Anthropology: Theory, Politics, Praxis and Poetics*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press

ARTICLES: Available on course Sakai website (sakai.rutgers.edu)

COURSE OUTLINE

RB = Required Book
SA = Sakai Article

Tu, 9/4: Introduction, Overview [Note – Class will begin at 1pm]

Tu, 9/11: Historiographies of Women, Gender and Feminism

Micaela di Leonardo. 1991. "Introduction: Gender, Culture and Political Economy: Feminist Anthropology in Historical Perspective." In Micaela di Leonardo, ed. *Gender at the Crossroads of Knowledge*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, pps. 1-48. (SA)

Ellen Lewin. 2006. "Introduction." In *Feminist Anthropology: A Reader*. Oxford: Blackwell, pps. 1-38 (RB)

Edwin Ardener. 2006 [1968]. "Belief and the Problem of Women and the 'Problem' Revisited." In *Feminist Anthropology: A Reader*, pps. 47-65 (RB)

Joan Scott. 1986. Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis. *The American Historical Review* 91(5): 1053-1075. (SA)

Chandra Mohanty. 1991. "Cartographies of Struggle: Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism." In *Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, pps. 1-50 (SA)

Tu, 9/18: Probing the Universal Male Dominance Debate

A. Nature-Culture:

Sherry Ortner. 2006. [1974]. "Is Female to Male as Nature is to Culture?" In *Feminist Anthropology: A Reader*, pps. 72-86. (RB)

Carol MacCormack. 1980. "Nature, Culture and Gender: A Critique." In Carol MacCormack and Marilyn Strathern, eds. *Nature, Culture and Gender*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pps. 1-24. (SA)

[skim] Olivia Harris. 1980. "The Power of Signs: Gender, Culture and the Wild in the Bolivian Andes." In Carol MacCormack and Marilyn Strathern, eds.. *Nature, Culture and Gender*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pps. 70-94 (SA)

Sherry Ortner. 1996. "So, Is Female to Male as Nature is to Culture?" In *Making Gender*. Boston: Beacon Press, pps. 173-180 (SA)

B. Domestic-Public:

Sylvia Yanagisako. 1979. "Family and Household: The Analysis of Domestic Groups." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 8:161-205 (SA)

- Michelle Z. Rosaldo. 2006 [1980]. "The Use and Abuse of Anthropology" Reflections on Feminism and Cross-Cultural Understanding." In *Feminist Anthropology: A Reader*, pps. 107-128 (RB)
- Jane Collier, Michelle Rosaldo, and Sylvia Yanagisako. 1982 [1981] "Is there a Family?: New Anthropological Views." In *Rethinking the Family: Some Feminist Questions*, Barrie Thorne and Marilyn Yalom, eds. New York: Longman, pps. 25-39. (SA)

C. The Ambiguities of "Status": Questions of Power, Dominance and Prestige

- Susan Carol Rogers. 1975. "Female Forms of Power and the Myth of Male Dominance." *American Ethnologist* 2(4):727-752 (SA)
- Niara Sudarkasa. 1987. "'The Status of Women' in Indigenous African Societies." In Terborg-Penn, Harley & Rushing, eds., *Women in Africa and the African Diaspora*. Washington: Howard University Press, pps. 25-41 (SA)
- Lila Abu-Lughod. 1990. "The Romance of Resistance: Tracing Transformations of Power through Bedouin Women." *American Ethnologist* 17(1):41-55 (SA)

Tu, 9/25: Economic Perspectives: Production, Reproduction and the Household

- Karen Sacks. 1974. "Engels Revisited: Women, the Organization of Production and Private Property." In Michelle Rosaldo and Louise Lamphere, eds. *Women, Culture and Society*, pps. 207-222 (SA)
- Judith K. Brown. 2006. "A Note on the Division of Labor by Sex." In *Feminist Anthropology: A Reader*, pps. 66-71. (RB)
- Shelle Colen. 2006. "'Like a Mother to Them': Stratified Reproduction and West Indian Childcare Workers and Employers in New York." In *Feminist Anthropology: A Reader*, pps. 380-396. (RB)
- Carla Freeman. 2006. "Femininity and Flexible Labor: Fashioning Class through Gender on the Global Assembly Line." In *Feminist Anthropology: A Reader*, pps. 397-410. (RB)

Tu, 10/2: Masculinities

- Matthew Gutmann. 2006. *The Meanings of Macho: Being a Man in Mexico City*, 2nd edition. Berkeley: University of California Press (RB)
- Andrea Cornwall and Nancy Lindisfarne. 1994. "Dislocating Masculinity: Gender, Power and Anthropology." In Andrea Cornwall and Nancy Lindisfarne, eds. *Dislocating Masculinity*. New York: Routledge, pps. 11-47 (SA)

Tu, 10/9: Intersections: Gender, Race, Ethnicity, Class & Nation

- Karen Brodtkin. 2006. "Towards a Unified Theory of Class, Race and Gender." In *Feminist Anthropology: A Reader*, pps. 129-146 (RB)
- Ty P. Kāwika Tengan. 2008. *Native Men Remade: Gender and Nation in Contemporary Hawai'i*. Durham: Duke University Press. (RB)

Recommended:

- Kimberle Crenshaw. 1993. "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color." *Stanford Law Review* 43(6): 1241-1299

Tu, 10/16: Gender, Sex & Sexuality

- Gayle Rubin. 2006. "The Traffic in Women: Notes on the 'Political Economy' of Sex." In *Feminist Anthropology: A Reader*, pps.87-106 (RB)
- Martin Manalansan. 2003. *Global Divas: Filipino Gay Men in the Diaspora*. Durham: Duke University Press. (RB)

Tu, 10/23: Bodies

- Emily Martin. 1992[1987] *The Woman in the Body*. (RB)
- Emily Martin. 1992. "The End of the Body?" *American Ethnologist* 19(1): 121-140 (SA).
- Judith Butler. 1997. "Excerpt from 'Introduction' to *Bodies That Matter*." In *Gender/Sexuality Reader*, pps. 532-542. (SA)

Tu, 10/30: Gender & Globalization

* * NOTE: 1st draft of critical essay due in class **

- Caitrin Lynch. 2007. *Juki Girls, Good Girls: Gender and Cultural Politics in Sri Lanka's Global Garment Industry*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. (RB)

Tu, 11/6: Rethinking Power

- Dorothy L. Hodgson. 2005. *The Church of Women: Gendered Encounters between Maasai and Missionaries*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press. (RB)

Tu, 11/13: Gendered Agency

Saba Mahmood. 2005. *Politics of Piety: The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. (RB)

*** NO Class on Tuesday, Nov 20 because of RU Thanksgiving week schedule – Thurs classes are taught on Tuesday***

Tu, 11/27: Transgender Theory and Activism

David Valentine. 2007. *Imagining Transgender: An Ethnography of a Category*. Durham: Duke University Press. (RB)

Tu, 12/4: Gender Justice: Dilemmas of Transnational Activism

Lynn Stephen. 2006. "Women's Rights are Human Rights: The Merging of Feminine and Feminist Interests among El Salvador's Mothers of the Disappeared (CO-MADRES)." In *Feminist Anthropology: A Reader*, pps. 311-332. (RB)

Christine Walley. 2006. "Searching for 'Voices': Feminism, Anthropology and the Global Debates over Female Genital Operations." In *Feminist Anthropology: A Reader*, pps. 333-357. (RB)

Lynn M. Morgan. 2006. "Imagining the Unborn in the Ecuadoran Andes." In *Feminist Anthropology: A Reader*, pps. 358-374. (RB)

Hodgson, Dorothy L. 2010. "'These are not our Priorities': Maasai Women, Human Rights and the Problem of Culture." In Dorothy L. Hodgson, ed., *Gender and Culture at the Limit of Rights*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. (SA)

Tu, 12/11: Final Class – Paper presentations & Wrap-up