

IDEAS AND METHODS IN THE STUDY OF GENDER

WAGS 300

Tuesday 2:00- 4:00 pm

Professor Basu
301 Cooper House
Office hours: Wednesdays 2-4 pm
Email: abasu@amherst.edu
Phone: x 2942

Course Materials:

The following books should be purchased from the Food for Thought Bookshop in Amherst:

Brooke Ackerly and Jacqui True, *Doing Feminist Research in Political and Social Science*, (2010)

Joey Sprague, *Feminist Methodologies* (2005)

Alison Jaggar ed., *Just Methods: An Inter-Disciplinary Feminist Reader* (2008)

All the other readings have been placed on E-Reserve. If you would like to purchase a hardcopy of the e-reserve readings, please fill out the online form:

https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/womens_gender_studies/forms/multilithorderform by Friday, February 3rd. Please note: you will be charged a fee for this service that is separate from the copyright fee for the course.

Course Requirements:

- Regular attendance (please inform me by email if you have to miss a class)
- Informed class participation
- Response papers on the talks and readings by guest speakers and on two other classes should be submitted on the Monday after the class at which they speak.
- Research proposals, papers and presentations. The due dates are as follows:

Feb. 20th research paper proposals

April 24th drafts of research papers

May 1st, May 8th class presentations on research

May 14th final papers

Your final grade will be determined by:

50% Research paper

10% presentation of research in class

20% class participation
20% response paper

Course Outline

1. **January 24th Introduction**

Joan Scott, "Gender: A Useful Category of Analysis" (E)
Anne Fausto-Sterling, "The Bare Bones of Sex" (E)

2. **Jan. 31st Feminist Epistemologies**

Sprague, *Feminist Methodologies*, chapters 1, 2, 3 (P)

Harding, "Borderland Epistemologies," Haraway, "Situated Knowledge," Scott, "Experience," Smith, "Women's Perspective as a Radical Critique of Sociology," and Collins, "Black Feminist Epistemology," in Jaggar ed., *Just Methods* (P)

Uma Narayan, "The Project of Feminist Epistemology, Perspectives from a Non Western Feminist," in Narayan and Bordo ed., *Feminist Perspectives on Being and Knowing* (E)

3. **February 7th Feminist Methods**

Sprague, *Feminist Methodologies*, chapters 4, 5 (P)

Fonow and Cook, "Feminist Methodology: New Applications in the Academy and Public Policy," *Signs*, Summer 2005 (E)

Meeting with Gretchen Gano, Research Librarian

4. **Feb. 14th Research Design**

Brooke and True, *Doing Feminist Research*, chapters 1, 3-5, 7-10, 13 (P)

Library visit

5. **Feb. 21st Interviewing and Field Work**

Sprague, *Feminist Methodologies*, chapter 6 (P)

Devault, "Talking and Listening," in *Feminist Perspectives on Social Research* (E)

McGuire, "Feminist Participatory Research," Thorne, "Field Work and Informed Consent," Islam, "Research as an Act of Betrayal," and Alcoff, "The Problem of Speaking for Others," in Jaggar ed. *Just Methods* (P)

6. **Feb. 28th Film**

Film screening: Alfred Hitchcock, *Vertigo*

Guest Speakers: Amelie Hastie and Krupa Shandilya

Laura Mulvey “Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema” *Feminist film Theory* (ed.) Susan Thornham (E)

"Feminism and Film: Critical Approaches," *Camera Obscura*, Fall 1976 (E)

Sigmund Freud, “Female Sexuality” *Sexuality and the Psychology of Love*, 184-201(E)

7. **March 6th Literature**

Guest Speaker: Bidy Martin, Amherst College

Readings TBA

8. **March 13th History**

Guest Speaker: Margaret Hunt, Amherst College

Kathleen Blee, *Women of the Ku Klux Klan* (E)
Old Bailey Online (oldbaileyonline.org)

9. **March 27th Science**

Guest Speaker: Banu Subramaniam, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Banu Subramaniam, “Moored Metamorphoses: A Retrospective Essay on Feminist Science Studies,” *Signs* Vol. 34, 4: 951-980 (2009) (E)

Deboleena Roy, “Asking Different Questions: Feminist Practices for the Natural Sciences,” *Hypatia* (E)

Banu Subramaniam and Michael Witmore, “Cross-Pollinations: Tropes and Consequences in Scientific Writing.” In *Feminist Revisions of the Subject: landscapes, ethnoscapes, and theoryscapes*, Gail Currie and Celia Rothenberg, eds. (E)

Karen Cardozo and Banu Subramaniam, “Genes, Genera, and Genres: The NatureCulture of BioFiction in Ruth Ozeki’s *All Over Creation*,” In *Tactical BioPolitics: Art, Activism, and Technoscience*, Beatriz da Costa and Kavita Philip eds. (E)

Helen Verran, “Postcolonial Moment in Science Studies,” *Social Studies of Science*, (E)

10. **April 3rd Ethnography and Oral History**

Guest Speaker: Kirin Narayan, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Ravina Aggarwal, Traversing Lines of Control: Feminist Anthropology Today. *Annals, AAPSS* 571:14-21 (E)

Lila Abu-Lughod, *Writing Women's Worlds*, pp. Xi-viii, 1-42 (E)

Kirin Narayan, "Ethnography and Fiction: Where is the Border?," *Anthropology and Humanism* (E)

Kirin Narayan, "Singing and Retelling the Past," In *Living with Stories*, William Schneider, ed. (E)

Kirin Narayan, "Stella Stories," in *The Folklore Muse: Poetry, Fiction and Other Reflections by Folklorists*. Frank de Caro ed. (E)

11. April 10th Economics

Guest Speaker: Nancy Folbre, University of Massachusetts at Amherst

Folbre, "*The Rise and Decline of Patriarchal Capitalism*," (E)

Strassman, "Not a Free Market," Beneria, "Paid and Unpaid Labor," and Waring, "Counting for Something," in Jaggar ed., *Just Methods*, (P)

12. April 17th Political Science

Tickner, "Gendering a Discipline: Some Feminist Methodological Contributions to International Relations" *Signs*, 2005 (E)

"Contributions of Women Political Scientists to a More Just World," *Politics & Gender* (E)

13. April 24th Dilemmas and Challenges of Feminist Research

Presser, "Negotiating Power and Narrative in Research: Implications for Feminist Methodology," Khan, "Reconfiguring the Native Informant: Positionality in the Global Age," and Taylor and Rupp, "When the Girls are Men," *Signs* 2005 (E)

14. May 1st Student Presentations

15. May 8th Student Presentations