

Women's and Gender Studies 11
The Construction of Gender
Fall, 2010
Amherst College

Prof. Margaret Hunt
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Office hours:

Monday/Wednesday 2:30pm-3:30pm

Tuesday 4:00pm-5:00pm

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Office hours:

Thursday 11:30am-1:30pm

This course aims to provide a preliminary look at debates about women, gender, feminism and sexuality in the U.S. and globally. This year the central topics are: varieties of feminism; critiquing feminism, gender in a global economy; gender and consumption; and gender, sexuality and reproduction.

WAGS 11 is one of the required courses for the Women's and Gender Studies major.

E-reserve and film streaming: CMS site

The required books are also on reserve in Frost Library for those who prefer not to purchase them. Two films that cannot be streamed are also on reserve at Frost.

Required Books (Available from Amherst Books):

Vivian Gornick, *The Solitude of Self: Thinking About Elizabeth Cady Stanton* (2005), Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Henrik Ibsen, *A Doll's House* (1879) Prestwick House, Inc.

Valerie Martin, *Property* (2003) Vintage.

Assia Djebar, *Fantasia: An Algerian Cavalcade* (1993) Heineman.

Nadine Gordimer, *The Pickup* (2001) Penguin (Non-Classics).

Amitav Ghosh, *The Hungry Tide* (2006) Mariner Books.

Manjula Padmanabhan, *Harvest* (2003) Aurora Metro Press.

Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home* (2006) Mariner Books.

Course Protocol

1. You are required to attend every class
2. Read the readings and view the films *before* class, *not* during or after class or right before the papers are due.

3. There will be three papers. The *approximate* weighting is as follows:

Paper 1: (5-7 pages) 20% of base grade
Paper 2: (5-7 pages) 25% of base grade
Paper 3: (8-10 pages) 35% of base grade
Class Attendance: 20%

4. On top of the base grade, your participation in class discussion will result in one of three adjustments, a null grade, a quarter grade increase, or a half a grade increase. You will not be graded down for anything you say (or don't say) in class. However, if you say nothing or almost nothing you will not receive any grade benefit.

5. Due dates for Papers: Paper 1: Monday October 4
Paper 2: Monday November 8
Paper 3: Friday December 17

Week 1

Tues. Sept. 7

INTRODUCTION

UNIT I: VARIETIES OF FEMINISM

Thurs. Sept 9 FEMINISM CROSSING CULTURES

Uma Narayan, "Contesting Cultures: 'Westernization,' Respect for Cultures, and Third-World Feminists" in *Dislocating Cultures: Identities, Traditions & Third World Feminism* (1997), 3-39 (e-reserve)

Week 2

Tues. Sept. 14 EQUALITY FEMINISM

Vivian Gornick, *The Solitude of Self: Thinking About Elizabeth Cady Stanton* (2005) (Buy)

Thurs. Sept. 16 BOURGEOIS FEMINISM

Henrik Ibsen, *A Doll's House* (1879) (Norway) (Buy)

Week 3

Tues. Sept. 21 RACE AND FEMINISM

bell hooks, "Sexism and the Black Female Slave Experience" in *Ain't I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism* (1981), 15-49 (e-reserve)
Valerie Martin, *Property* (2003) (set in colonial Louisiana) (Buy)

Thurs. Sept. 23 MEN, WOMEN AND ANTICOLONIAL STRUGGLES

The Battle of Algiers, (dir. Gillo Pontecorvo) (1966) (film) (Streamed from the course website)

Assia DeJbar, *Fantasia* (1993) (Part III) (Buy)

Week 4

Tues. Sept. 28 SECOND WAVE FEMINISM I
Ruth Rosen, *The World Split Open: How the Modern Women's Movement Changed America* (2006), 94-217 (e-reserve)

Thurs. Sept. 30 SECOND WAVE FEMINISM II
Gloria E. Anzaldúa, "La Conciencia de la Mestiza: Towards a New Consciousness in Carole R. McCann and Seung-Kyung Kim, eds., *Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives* (2003), 179-187 (e-reserve)
"Nopalitos"; "Cultures"; "We call them Greasers"; "Interface"; "Cihuatllyotl, Woman Alone"; "To Live in the Borderlands Means You" from Gloria E. Anzaldúa, *Borderlands / La Frontera: The New Mestiza* (1987), 134-135, 142, 156-157, 170-174, 195, 216-217 (e-reserve)

UNIT II: CRITIQUING FEMINISM

Week 5

Mon. Oct. 4 FIRST PAPER DUE (5:00 via email and in hard copy in our boxes)

Tues. Oct. 5 THE POSTCOLONIAL CRITIQUE OF FEMINISM I
Saba Mahmood, *Politics of Piety: The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject* (2005), 1-39 (e-reserve)
Nadine Gordimer, *The Pickup* (2001) (South Africa) (Buy)

Thurs. Oct. 7 THE POSTCOLONIAL CRITIQUE OF FEMINISM II
Nadine Gordimer, *The Pickup* (2001) (South Africa) (Buy)

Mid-semester Break: October 9-12.

Week 6

Thurs. Oct. 14 NEOLIBERALISM IN A WAR ZONE
Elizabeth Rubin, "Fern Holland's War" *New York Times Magazine* (Sept. 19, 2004) (e-reserve)
The Beauty Academy of Kabul, (dir. Liz Mermin) (2004) (documentary film) (to be viewed in Frost library where it is on four-hour reserve. Please do not remove it from the library)
Fluri, Jennifer L., 'The Beautiful 'Other': A Critical Examination of 'Western' Representations of Afghan Feminine Corporeal Modernity', *Gender, Place & Culture* 16/3, 241-257 (e-reserve)

Week 7

Tues. Oct. 19 AFGHAN WOMEN MAKE MOVIES

Afghanistan Unveiled, (dir. by Brigitte Brault and Aina Women Filming Group)
(2003) (film) (streamed from course website)

Martha Nussbaum, "Veiled Threats" *New York Times* (July 11, 2010) (e-reserve)

UNIT III: GENDER IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY

Thurs. Oct. 21: GENDER AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Amitav Ghosh, *The Hungry Tide* (India) (Buy)

Bina Agarwal, "Gender Inequality, Cooperation and Environmental Sustainability"
(2007) in Jean-Marie Baland, Pranab Bardhan, and Samuel Bowles, eds.,
Inequality, Cooperation and Environmental Sustainability, 274-313 (e-reserve)

Week 8

Tues. Oct. 26: DISASTER AND INEQUALITY

Amitav Ghosh, *The Hungry Tide* (India) (Buy)

Dylan Rodriguez and Joy James, "the Meaning of 'Disaster' under the Dominance
of White Life" and "Political Literacy and Voice" in South End Press Collective,
eds., *What Lies Beneath: Katrina, Race and the State of the Nation* (2007), 133-
166 (e-reserve)

Chaman Pincha, (2008) "Indian Ocean Tsunami through the Gender Lens:
Insights from Tamil Nadu, India," 1-63 (13-70), Oxfam America and Nanban Trust
(e-reserve)

Thurs. Oct. 28 PROPERTY, WORK AND STATUS

Pradeep Panda and Bina Agarwal, "Marital Violence, Human Development and
Women's Property Status in India," *World Development* 33:5 (2005), 823-850 (e-
reserve)

Margaret Hunt, *Women in Eighteenth-Century Europe* (2010), chapter 1 "Hierarchy
and Difference," 13-48 (e-reserve)

Week 9

Tues. Nov. 2 WOMEN AND DOMESTIC LABOUR

Barbara Ehrenreich and Arlie Hochschild, eds., *Global Woman: Nannies, Maids
and Sex Workers in the New Economy* (2002), 1-13, 85-103 (e-reserve)

Thurs. Nov. 4 WEALTH AND POVERTY

Deborah Davis and Wang Feng, eds., *Creating Wealth and Poverty in Postsocialist
China* (2009), 54-82 (e-reserve)

Saskia Sassen, "Two Stops in Today's New Global Geographies: Shaping Novel
Labor Supplies and Employment Regimes" *The American Behavioral Scientist*,
Vol. 52 (2008), 457-496 (e-reserve)

Week 10

Mon. Nov. 8

SECOND PAPER DUE

UNIT IV: CONSUMPTION AND DYSFUNCTION

Tues. Nov. 9 TRAFFICKING BODIES

Manjula Padmanabhan, *Harvest* (2003) (Buy)*Dirty Pretty Things*, (dir. Stephen Frears) (2002) (film) (streamed from course website)Nancy Scheper-Hughes, "The Global Traffic in Human Organs," *Current Anthropology* 41/2 (2000): 191-224 (e-reserve)

Thurs. Nov. 11 BIOPOLITICS

Laura Mamo, *Queering Reproduction: Achieving Pregnancy in the Age of Technoscience* (2007), 157-189 (e-reserve)Rebecca Tuhus-Dubrow, "Designer Babies and the Pro-Choice Movement" *Dissent* (Summer, 2007): 37-43 (e-reserve)Mahasweta Devi, "Breast Giver" from *Breast Stories* (e-reserve)**Week 11**

Tues. Nov. 16 BORN TO BUY

Zygmunt Bauman, *Consuming Life* (2007), 117-150 (e-reserve)Susan Porter Benson "Consumer Cultures" in Nancy Hewitt, ed., *A Companion to Women's History* (2002), 274-294 (e-reserve)Juliet B. Schor, *Born to Buy* (2004), 9-37 (e-reserve)*Sex and The City 2*, (dir. Michael Patrick King) (film) (stay tuned for viewing directions)

Thurs. Nov. 18 BORN TO DIE

Nancy Scheper-Hughes, *Death Without Weeping: The Violence of Everyday Life in Brazil* (1992), 340-399 (e-reserve)Pascal Ménoret, "Urban Unrest and Non-religious Radicalization in Saudi Arabia" in Madawi Al-Rasheed and Marat Shterin, eds., *Dying for Faith: Religiously Motivated Violence in the Contemporary World* (2009), 123-137 (e-reserve)

Saturday, Nov. 20-Sunday, Nov. 28 Thanksgiving Break

UNIT V: GENDER, SEXUALITY AND REPRODUCTION

Week 12

Tues. Nov. 30 CROSS CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES ON PARENTHOOD
Linda Richter and Robert Morrell, eds., *Baba: Men and Fatherhood in South Africa* (2006), chapter 6, 73-81, chapter 14, 173-182, chapter 18, 226-235 (e-reserve)
Jennifer March Augustine, Timothy Nelson, and Kathryn Edin, "Why do Poor Men Have Children? Fertility Intentions Among Low-Income Unmarried U.S. Fathers" *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* (July 2009), 99-117 (e-reserve)

Thurs. Dec. 2 PERILS OF PARENTHOOD

Michael E. Connor and Joseph L. White, "Fatherhood in Contemporary Black America: An Invisible Presence," *Black Scholar* 37/2 (Summer 2007): 2-8 (e-reserve)
Dorothy Roberts, "The Social and Moral Costs of Mass Incarceration in African American Communities" *Stanford Law Review* 56/5 (2004): 1271-1306 (e-reserve)
Precious, (dir. Lee Daniels) (2009) (film) (Streamed from course website)

Week 13

Tues. Dec. 7 SEXUALITY AND IDENTITY I

Stephen Frears, *My Beautiful Laundrette* (1985) (film) (Streamed from course website)
Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home* (2007) (Buy)

Thurs. Dec. 9 SEXUALITY AND IDENTITY II

Bombay Eunuch, (dir. Alexandra Shiva) (2001) (film) (to be viewed in Frost library where it is on four-hour reserve. Please do not remove it from the library)
Darling! The Pieter-Dirk Uys Story, (dir. Julian Shaw) (2007) (film) (Streamed from course website)
Vinay Lal, "Not This, Not That: The Hijras of India and the Cultural Politics of Sexuality," *Social Text*: 61(Winter 1999), 119-140 (e-reserve)

Week 14

Tues. Dec. 14 Conclusion

O Amor Natural, (dir. Heddy Honigmann) (1996) (film) (Streamed from course website)

Friday Dec. 17 FINAL PAPER DUE