

Gender, Race & Colonialism - Fall 2011

Gender & Women's Studies 315 (History 315) [3 credits]

Tuesday and Thursday 2:30-3:45 in Sterling 3425

Professor: Pernille Ipsen Office: 3307 Sterling Hall

Office Hours: Thursdays 1-2pm

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Overview

Social categories like gender, race, class & sexuality are socially constructed and are therefore understood and employed differently in specific cultural and historical contexts. In this class we will study the past – more specifically the period called the “European expansion” (ca. 1500 to 1900) – to investigate how categories of gender and race were negotiated and constituted in encounters between Europeans and “other” peoples – particularly focusing on the Americas and Africa.

The objective of the course is to raise awareness of how social categories of difference inform the power structures – past and present – that guide the “cultural order of things”, and to practice seeing, analyzing, and understanding the social construction of difference. The course is divided into three sections, each focusing on a historical timeperiod and a type of cultural encounters (ex. “First Encounters in 16th Century America”).

Readings include travel accounts, history, and fiction. After a few weeks of reading historical secondary material and primary sources, each section will end with a close reading of a work of fiction. An aim of the course is to give a sense of different genres of writing, to distinguish between them, and be able to discuss and treat them in discussions of the social construction of race and gender.

The course is primarily discussion based – with some lecture at all class meetings. You are expected to participate actively in discussions. Coursework includes smaller weekly writing assignments, two midterm paper and a longer final paper.

Prerequisite

An introduction to Gender & Women's Studies (GWS 102, 102 or 103) is required. If you have not taken any of these courses, please contact me and I can possibly make an exception.

Readings

A Course Packet is for sale at the Social Science copy center in 6120 Social Science Building.

The three novels we are reading: Toni Morrison: *A Mercy* (2008), Barry Unsworth: *Sacred Hunger* (1992), and Joseph Conrad: *Heart of Darkness* (1902) are for sale at *Room of One's Own Bookstore*. Since they are all popular novels, you can also find them in most other bookstores as well as at public libraries.

All the readings are also on reserve at the College Library.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction

Tuesday 9/6 First class

Tuesday 9/8 Social Construction of Difference

Readings: Lorber, “Night to his Day” & Todorov, “Race”

Week 2: Culture & Difference

Tuesday 9/13 *Readings:* Sewell, "The Concept(s) of Culture"

Thursday 9/15 *Readings:* Appiah, "Why There are no Races" & Rothenberg, "The Construction"

Week 3: The European Expansion

Tuesday 9/20 *Reading:* Geyer and Bright, "World History" & Stearns, "Gender in World History"

Thursday 9/22 *Readings:* Pearsall, "Gender" - Wrightson, "Class" & Chaplain, "Race"

UNIT 1: Early encounters in America

Week 4: First Encounters

Tuesday 9/27 *Reading:* Pagden, "The Principle of Attachment"

Thursday 9/29 *Reading:* Harriot, "A Briefe" + Raleigh, "The Discoverie"

Week 5: Gender & Colonial encounters

Tuesday 10/4 *Reading:* Fur, "Some Women are Wiser"

Thursday 10/6 *Reading:* Barr, "A Diplomacy of Gender"

Week 6: Toni Morrison: *A Mercy* (Tuesday 10/11 + Thursday 10/13)

PAPER 1 Due Sunday 10/16 @ 8pm

UNIT 2: Slavery and Cementing Racial Hierarchies

Week 7: Slave Trade and Racism

Tuesday 10/18 *Reading:* Fredrickson, "The Rise of Modern Racism(s)"

Thursday 10/20 *Reading:* Morgan, "Some Could Suckle"

Week 8: Racial Hierarchies in the Americas

Tuesday 10/25 *Reading:* Carrerra, "Locating Race" + Casta paintings

Thursday 10/27 *Reading:* Johnson, "The Slave Trader"

Week 9: The Atlantic Slave Trade

Tuesday 11/1 *Reading:* Rediker, "The Slave Ship"

Thursday 11/3 *Reading:* To be announced

Week 10: Barry Unsworth: *Sacred Hunger* (1992) (11/8 & 11/10)

PAPER 2 Due Sunday @ 8pm

UNIT 3: Imperialism and the Penetration of Africa

Week 11: Colonizing Women's Bodies

Tuesday 11/15 Reading: McClintock, "The Lay of the Land"

Thursday 11/17 Reading: Gilman, "The Hottentot"

Week 12:

Tuesday 11/22 Movie about imperialism

Thursday 11/24 No class - *Thanksgiving break*

Week 13:

Tuesday 11/29 Reading: To be announced

Thursday 12/1 Reading: To be announced

Week 14: Joseph Conrad: *Heart of Darkness* (12/6 & 12/8)

Last week:

Tuesday 12/13 LAST CLASS – Final paper question & evaluation

Thursday 12/15 Individual advise on final papers.

FINAL PAPERS DUE Thursday 12/15 @ Noon

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

Attendance and active participation in class is required!

Religious holidays: Absences from seminar meetings due to religious holidays will not be penalized. However, you must inform me at least two weeks in advance if you are missing a seminar meeting for religious reasons, and you are responsible for finding out what happened and for turning in all assignments. You may miss 1 class, without it affecting your grade.

Weekly written responses to readings

Most weeks I will give you a short writing assignment responding to the readings to get you writing and digesting the readings. The weekly writing assignments are always due Monday evening @ 6pm on learn@UW in the "dropbox" under the appropriate week number. You may miss 1 of these assignments, without it affecting your grade.

Policy on late responses

Responses turned in late will be penalized by 5% - and an additional 5% for each 24 hours that they are late after that. No responses will be accepted more than one week after the due date.

Grade breakdown

Active engagement in class - attendance and participation in discussion	35%
Weekly written responses	15%
Midterm paper 1	15%
Midterm paper 2	15%
Final paper	20%

Grading scale

A	93-100
AB	88-92
B	83-87
BC	78-82
C	70-77
D	60-69
F	59>

Classroom conduct

Please respect your fellow students' right to a quiet non-distracting learning environment. LAPTOPS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN LECTURE. If I had a device that would allow me to turn of the wi-fi in the room, then I would do that. Since I do not, the next best solution is to ban laptops. That way you do not have to wonder if you should buy shoes, play solitaire, read the paper, send an email to your student counselor, or pay attention to what goes on in the room.

Cell phones are to be turned off during class – neither texting nor phoning is allowed during class!

Statement on accessibility

It is very important to fully include all students with disabilities, chronic health issues, or learning difficulties in this course. Please let me know if you need any accommodation in order to enable you to participate fully.

Academic misconduct (plagiarism and cheating)

This class will strictly follow and enforce the rules defined in UWS 14 through our own "Student Academic Misconduct Campus Procedures." UWS 14.03 defines academic misconduct as follows:

Academic misconduct is an act in which a student:

- * seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation;
- * uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise;
- * forges or falsifies academic documents or records;
- * intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others;
- * engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of a student's academic performance;
- * assists other students in any of these acts.

Examples include but are not limited to: cutting and pasting text from the web without quotation marks or proper citation; paraphrasing from the web without crediting the source; using another person's ideas, words, or research and presenting it as one's own by not properly crediting the originator; signing another person's name to an attendance sheet; hiding a book knowing that another student needs it to prepare an assignment.

Plagiarism and other misconduct are NOT WORTH IT. It will create a lot of unnecessary work for both you and me and may cause you to be expelled from this class or college in general!

Course website

I will use learn@UW to post additional readings, links, messages etc.