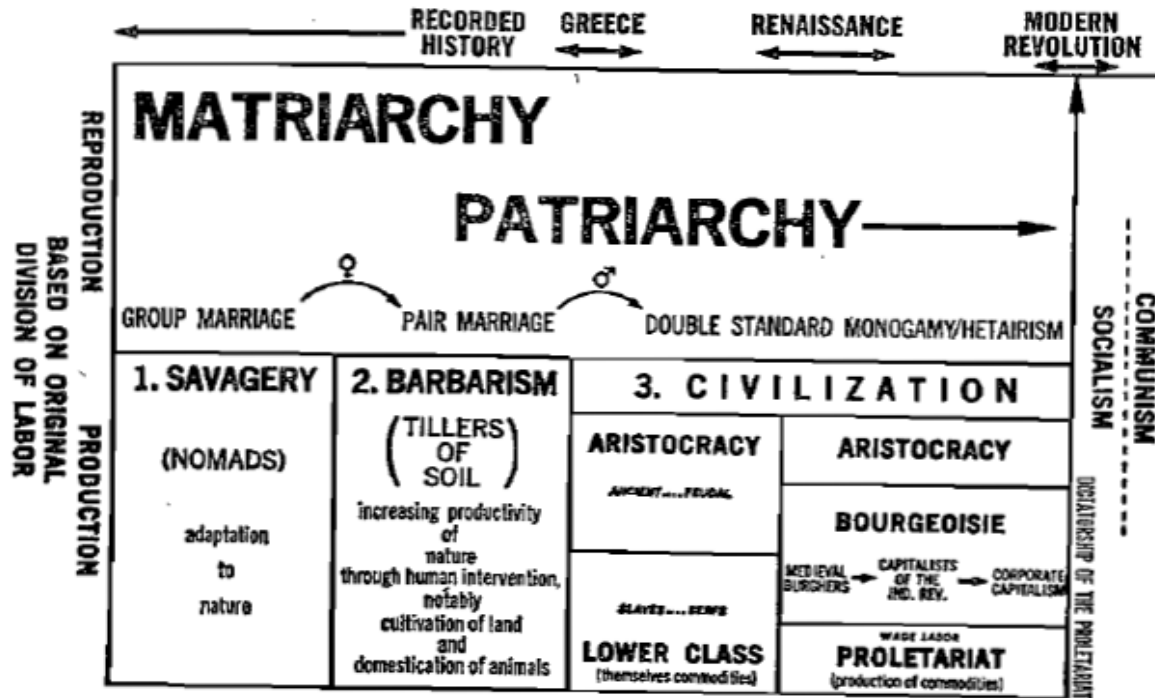


## Introduction To Gender Studies



### The Course

This course will investigate the notion of gender as it has been constructed across different historical moments, and cultural contexts. We will draw upon a range of critical writings by feminist, queer, and transgender theorists to explore a variety of frameworks for understanding gender through notions of performance and embodiment. In this vein, students will interrogate the ways in which gender operates as both an expressive signifying practice of our everyday lives, and through the structures of discourse and social power that shape and discipline individuals as specifically gendered subjects.

Special attention will be paid to the intersections of gender with other identity categories such as race, class, sexuality, age, and nationality. The course readings will incorporate perspectives from activists, artists and scholars whose work calls attention to the centrality of gender in ongoing political struggles for redistribution, recognition, and representation. Issues explored along these lines will include “gender and science”—biologism and healthcare/reproductive rights, “gender and labor”—housework and sex work, and “gender and globalization”—neo-colonialism and exoticism.

Along the way, we will consider a few key examples from literature and popular culture that instantiate these various notions of gender and gendered identity in contestatory, and often controversial ways including novels and films. Texts examined may include novels such as Virginia Woolf’s *Orlando* (1928) and Margaret Atwood’s *The Handmaid’s Tale* (1985), and films like *Tongues Untied* (1989), *Brick Lane* (2007), *Tangerine* (2015), and *Moonlight* (2016).

## Required Texts

### Textbooks

*50 Key Concepts In Gender Studies* (2004) by Jane Pilcher , and Imelda Whelehan [Full Text Available Online as e-book in Hunt Library]

### Essays and Selections

Beauvoir, Simone de. "Introduction" from *The Second Sex*.  
Bunch, Charlotte. "Lesbians In Revolt."  
Butler, Judith. "Subjects of Sex/Gender/Desire" from *Gender Trouble*.  
The Combahee River Collective. "A Black Feminist Statement."  
Chang, Grace. "Global Exchange: The World Bank, 'Welfare Reform', and the Trade in Migrant Women"  
Connell, Raewyn. "The Social Organization of Masculinity."  
Engels, Friedrich. "The Origins of the Family, Private Property and the State."  
Farred, Grant. "Endgame Identity?"  
Federici, Silvia. "The Accumulation of Labor and the Degradation of Women."  
Feinberg, Leslie. "Transgender Liberation: A Movement Whose Time Has Come."  
Firestone, Shulamith. "Love" and "The Culture of Romance" from *The Dialectic of Sex*  
---. "The Women's Rights Movement in the U.S.: A New View."  
Fraser, Nancy. "Feminist Politics in the Age of Recognition: A Two-Dimensional Approach to Gender Justice."  
Friedan, Betty. "The Problem That Has No Name" from *The Feminine Mystique*.  
Grant, Melissa Gira. *Playing The Whore: The Work of Sex Work*.  
hooks, bell. "Feminism: A Movement to End Sexist Oppression."  
---. "Black Women, Feminist Theory."  
Kimmel, Michael. "The Masculine Mystique" from *Manhood in America: A Cultural History*.  
Lorber, Judith. "The Variety of Feminisms and Their Contributions to Gender Equality."  
Lorde, Audre. "Age, Race, Sex, Class: Women Redefining Difference."  
Lowe, Lisa. "Work, immigration, gender: new subjects of cultural politics."  
Martinez, Elizabeth. "La Chicana."  
McIntosh, Peggy. "White Privilege and Male Privilege: A Personal Account of Coming to See Correspondences through Work in Women's Studies."  
Mohanty, Chandra. "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourse."  
Morgan, David. "Class and Masculinity."  
Mulvey, Laura. "Visual Pleasure and the Narrative Cinema."  
Pratt, Minnie Bruce. "Identity: Skin. Blood. Heart."  
Ralstin-Lewis, Marie D. "The Continuing Struggle Against Genocide: Indigenous Women's Reproductive Rights."  
Rich, Adrienne. "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence."  
The Science and Technology Sub-Group. "Science, technology and reproductive politics."  
Stryker, Susan. "(De)Subjugated Knowledges: An Introduction to Transgender Studies."  
Thompson, Becky. "Multiracial Feminism: Recasting the Chronology of Second Wave Feminism."  
Tzintun, Cristina. "Colonize This!"

### Novels, Short Stories and Films

*Orlando* (1928) by Virginia Woolf  
"Boys and Girls" (1968) by Alice Munro  
*The Handmaids Tale* (1985) by Margaret Atwood  
*Tongues Untied* (1989) dir. Marlon Riggs  
*Brick Lane* (2007) dir. Sarah Gavron  
*Tangerine* (2015) dir. Sean Baker  
*Moonlight* (2016) dir. Barry Jenkins

The two novels can be purchased online through amazon or other sellers. The textbook on key concepts is available as an e-book through HUNT library. Required films will be available for viewing in the library. All other required texts will be made available on the course website via Canvas.

### Requirements

- Seminar participation (This includes contributions to class discussions and attendance. You are allowed one unexcused absence during the semester and need not inform me; since we only meet twice a week, more than six absences means that you have not satisfactorily completed the course);
- Weekly reading responses (described below);
- Three Short Papers (described below);
- Course Project (described below).

### Grade

Your grade will be based on the weighted breakdown below.

Assignment	Weighted Value
Reading Responses	20%
Short Paper #1	10%
Short Paper #2	10%
Short Paper # 3	10%
Final Project	40%
Participation	10%

### Schedule

#### Week 1 – Course Overview

Alice Munro, “Boys and Girls”; Raewyn Connell “The Social Organization of Masculinity”; “Gender” in *50 Key Concepts In Gender Studies*

**Tues 08/29** – Syllabus: Schedule, Learning Objectives, Course Policies and Expectations

**Thurs 08/31** – Key Concepts Exercise; Discuss Munro and Connell  
Class Introductions

#### Week 2 – Narrative Reflection and Discussion

“First Wave Feminism” and “Second Wave Feminism” from *50 Key Concepts in Gender Studies*;  
Shulamith Firestone, “The Women’s Rights Movement in the U.S.: A New View”

**Tues 09/05** – Narrative Reflection remote session; “**Narrative Reflection**” Paper due @ 11:59PM

**Thurs 09/07** –Group Discussion remote session: Firestone and “First Wave Fem.” “Second Wave Fem.”—Post response and reply to 3 others.

### **Week 3 – Modern Feminism(s)**

Simone de Beauvoir, selection from *The Second Sex*; Betty Friedan “The Problem That Has No Name” from *The Feminine Mystique*; “Patriarchy, ” Power” and “The Sexual Contract” from *50 Key Concepts in Gender Studies*; Judith Lorber “The Variety of Feminisms and Their Contributions to Gender Equality”

**Tues 09/12** – Discuss Lorber

**Thurs 09/14** – Discuss de Beauvoir, Friedan and Key Concepts; Guest Instructor: Kitty Shropshire

### **Week 4 – Modern Feminism(s) cont...**

Becky Thompson “Multiracial Feminism: Recasting the Chronology of Second Wave Feminism”; Audre Lorde “Age, Race, Sex, Class: Women Redefining Difference”; bell hooks “Feminism: A Movement to End Sexist Oppression”; “Identity Politics” from *50 Key Concepts in Gender Studies*

**Tues 09/19** – Discuss Thompson and Lorde

**Thurs 09/21** – Discuss bell hooks and “Identity Politics”

### **Week 5 – Gender Theory: Discourse, Embodiment and Performance**

Judith Butler “Subjects of Sex/Gender/Desire” *Gender Trouble*; Shulamith Firestone “Love” and “The Culture of Romance” from *The Dialectic of Sex*; Laura Mulvey “Visual Pleasure and the Narrative Cinema”

**Tues 09/26** – Discuss Butler

**Thurs 09/28** –Discuss Firestone and Mulvey; **Paper #1 Proposal due @ 12:00PM**

### **Week 6 – Gender and Race**

Ed. Cherríe Moraga and Gloria Anzaldúa *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings By Radical Women of Color* (selections); Gloria Anzaldúa, excerpts from *Borderlands / La Frontera The New Mestiza*; *Bush Mama* (1976); “Race/Ethnicity” in *50 Key Concepts in Gender Studies*

**Tues 10/03** – Discuss *This Bridge Called My Back* (selections)

**Thurs 10/05** – Discuss *Borderlands / La Frontera* and *Bush Mama*;

### **Week 7 – Transgender Identity**

Susan Stryker, “(De)Subjugated Knowledges: An Introduction to Transgender Studies”; Leslie Feinberg, “Transgender Liberation: A Movement Whose Time Has Come”; Virginia Woolf *Orlando*

**Tues 10/10** – Discuss Stryker and Feinberg  
**Paper #1 due @ 11:59PM**

**Thurs 10/12** – Discuss *Orlando*

### **Week 8 – Sexuality and Queer Identity**

Adrienne Rich “Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence”; “Sexuality,” “Heterosexism,” “Separatism” and “Lesbian Continuum” from *50 Key Concepts in Gender Studies*; Charlotte Bunch, “Lesbians in Revolt”;

**Tues 10/17** – Discuss Rich and Bunch

**Thurs 10/19** – Close-Reading Exercise and Tutorial

### **Week 9 – Masculinity**

Michael Kimmel “The Masculine Mystique”; John Beynon, “What Is Masculinity?”; *Tongues Untied* (1989); *Moonlight* (2016)

**Tues 10/24** –Discuss Kimmel and Beynon

**Thurs 10/26** – Discuss *Tongues Untied* and *Moonlight*

### **Week 10 – Gender and Science**

Donna Haraway “A Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology, And Socialist-Feminism in the Late Twentieth Century”; “The Cyborg Embryo: Our Path to Transbiology”; D. Marie Ralstin-Lewis “The Continuing Struggle Against Genocide: Indigenous Women’s Reproductive Rights”

**Tues 10/31** – Discuss Haraway; **“Identity and Community” Paper due @ 11:59PM**

**Thurs 11/02** – Discuss Franklin and Ralstin-Lewis

### **Week 11 – Gender and Labor**

Silvia Federici, “The Accumulation of Labor and the Degradation of Women”; “Domestic Division of Labor” from *50 Key Concepts in Gender Studies*; Melissa Gira Grant Selections from *Playing the Whore: The Work of Sex Work*; “*Tangerine*” (2015)

**Tues 11/07** – Discuss Federici and Key Concepts; **“Statement of Change” Paper due @ 11:59PM**

**Thurs 11/09** – Discuss Grant and *Tangerine*

### **Week 12 – Gender and Globalization**

Chandra Mohanty “Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourse”; *Brick Lane* (2007); Lila Abu-Lughod, “Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving? Anthropological Reflections on Cultural Relativism and Its Others”

**Tues 11/14** – Discuss Mohanty; **Paper #2 Proposals due @ 12:00PM**

**Tues 11/16** – Discuss Abu-Lughod and *Brick Lane*

### **Week 13 – Issue Areas In Gender Studies Student Presentations**

**Tues 11/21** – Paper #2 Presentations; **Paper #2 due @ 11:59PM**

**Thurs 11/23** – NO CLASS (Thanksgiving Holiday)

### **Week 14 – Atwood’s *The Handmaid’s Tale***

Atwood, Margaret *The Handmaid’s Tale*; Ep. 6 “A Woman’s Place” from the Hulu adaptation

**Tues 11/28** – Discuss *The Handmaid’s Tale* (I to IX)

**Thurs 11/30** – Discuss *The Handmaid’s Tale* (X to XV) and “A Woman’s Place”

### **Week 15 – Conclusion and Course Wrap-Up**

Nancy Fraser, “Feminist Politics in the Age of Recognition: A Two-Dimensional Approach to Gender Justice” from *Fortunes of Feminism*; Sara Ahmed, “Feminist Killjoy Survival Kit” and “Feminist Killjoy Manifesto” from *Living A Feminist Life*; Judith Halberstam from *The Queer Art of Failure*

**Tues 12/5** – Discuss Fraser, Ahmed, and Halberstam

**Thurs 12/7** – Last Day of Classes (in-class Reflection exercise); **Paper #3 final deadline**

### **Week 16 – Final Exams**

**Tues 12/12** – NO CLASS

**Thurs 12/14** – NO CLASS **Final Paper due @ 11:59PM**