

Oxford College of Emory University
WS 200 GENDER, RACE, CLASS AND SEXUALITY

FALL 2011 Class meets in Seney 208 4:30-5:45

WS 200 is a TPSL course and fulfills the sophomore writing requirement

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Office hours: Tues and Thurs before class –Thurs after class please make an appointment

Student instructor: Ramya Challappa-available for individual appointments and to help you with the QTPs and other class projects. She will hold class review sessions and show films in the evening. Her phone number is: 502.303.2555 and her email address is richall@emory.edu

Course Description

This women's studies course is an interdisciplinary and a cross-cultural examination of the social issues of gender, race, class and sexuality as they contribute to shaping the lives and the identity formation of diverse women in the U.S. Particular attention will be paid to contemporary concerns in the lives of first generation U.S. women and special issues dealing with bicultural identity unique to these women. This course is a study of existing power relations, not only between men and women, but also arising from differences among women themselves. Reading feminist writers representing both theoretical and applied perspectives, students will gain conceptual grounding in the basic social concepts of race, class, gender, and sexuality and learn to analyze systems of power and oppression. Key outcomes of this course are to develop essential skills of reading and thinking critically, self-expression through writing and discussion, and self-reflection. In addition, in providing service to the local community of Newton County through the TPSL, students will use their work experience as a laboratory to understand the principles of hierarchy and to evaluate the consequences of social stratification on people's lives.

For the TPSL requirement, students will work for 9 weeks in their assigned location and for a total of 18 hours, 2 hours per week. Your work must be completed by the end date of the TPSL, and no make-ups will be allowed after that date.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

APRIL 6, 2012 FIFTH ANNUAL WOMEN'S STUDIES STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Location: TV room in the Student Center- 1pm to 6 pm. Please come.

Required Readings –articles identified below in numbers 3, 4, 5, 6 are on eReserves

1. Rothenberg, Paula S. *Race, Class and Gender in the United States*, Eighth Edition, Worth Publishers, 2010.
2. Davis, Angela Y. *Women, Race & Class*, Vintage Books, 1983.

3. Readings below from: Margaret Andersen and Patricia Hill Collins *Race, Class & Gender, An Anthology*, Sixth Edition, Thomson Wadsworth, 2007
 - a) Cornel West: Black Sexuality: the Taboo Subject, Chap 30-pp.247-252.
 - b) Donna Langston: Tired of Playing Monopoly, Chap 13-pp.118-127.
4. Diamond, Lisa M. *Sexuality Fluidity: Understanding Women's Love and Desire*, Harvard University Press, 2008: Chapters 1, 2 and 3.
 - a) Will the Real Lesbians Please Stand Up? Chap 1
 - b) Gender Differences in Same-Sex Sexuality Chap 2
 - c) Sexual Fluidity in Action Chap 3
5. American Anthropological Association's Statement on Race—See websites on course schedule
6. Koedt, Anne The myth of the vaginal orgasm in *Feminist Theory* 2nd edition Wendy Kolmar and Frances Bartkowski, Eds, 2005 McGraw Hill.
7. Rupp, L. A World of Difference: Love and Desire within the Constraints of Heterosexuality, in *Women's Voices Feminist Visions* 5th Ed. Susan Shaw and Janet Lee Eds, 2012 McGraw Hill, pp. 195-201
8. Fausto-Sterling, Anne, Ibid. The 5 Sexes pp. 121-125
9. Stiglitz, Joseph Inequality, *Vanity Fair* May 2011
10. Bernstein, Jared The Shape of Inequality and its Impact on Growth *HuffPost Business* Internet August 18, 2011

Course Goals: Each of us in this class is expected:

- To participate actively in class discussions and in LearnLink conversations on a regular basis and in a thoughtful manner.
- To connect the theory we study in the readings, films, and discussions to our daily lives and the lives of those we interact with in our TPSL work-site
- To understand the ways in which girls and women have been discriminated against, marginalized, and often treated as invisible in virtually every culture for which we have empirical research
- To evaluate specific ways in which class, ethnicity, sexual orientation and age intersect with gender in defining your own lives
- To appreciate the gains made by the feminist movement and acknowledge the work that still remains
- To learn the tools of feminist analyses and critical thinking

Requirements of the course and percentage contribution toward your grade:

TO RECEIVE CREDIT FOR ASSIGNMENTS ALL PAPERS MUST BE PRINTED ON BOTH SIDES

1. **Quotation and Talking Points (QTP) (25%)** – The QTPs are only one page in length and require your analysis of the readings for that day. They will not be accepted if they are turned in late. They are due the beginning of class. For most of the class periods a set of readings is assigned (see attached schedule). You are required to read these selections prior to the class designated for discussion of the readings and on QTP days to submit a one-page, typed, response to these readings at the beginning of the class period. If you are absent from class on a day that a QTP is due, to receive credit for it you must email it to me before noon on the day it is due. In the QTP you should do two things:

(1) Identify a quotation from the reading that you found particularly interesting or one that made you stop and think for a minute. The quote should be written in single-spaced at the top of the page. Please identify the author of the quote, not the textbook author, the page number of the quote and the name of the text. Then, **YOU MUST EXPLAIN THE REASON THE QUOTE WAS SIGNIFICANT TO YOU BY ANALYZING THE AUTHOR'S MEANING.** Identifying the quote and your explanation of the quote is done in **single-spaced**. Your analysis of the quote is what will be graded.

(2) In the second part of the QTP you must identify 3 ideas from the other readings and develop your ideas as talking points in 3 separate short paragraphs. You should analyze 3 different concepts in the readings in 3 separate paragraphs. This part must be **double-spaced**. You will be graded on your identification of the most important aspects of the readings and your reference to more than one reading, if there are multiple readings assigned.

QTP SUMMARY:

The entire QTP must not exceed 1 page. I will not read the second page. It should consist of a quote and a statement as to why this statement is important to you. This is **single-spaced**. Then 3 short paragraphs with 3 separate and key ideas from readings. Your goal is to show me that you have comprehended the main points of the readings and that you can analyze the content. Do not ask questions. Create questions in your head and then answer them in the QTP. I want you to learn some tools of analysis that are useful to understand the content of the readings.

You can redo any QTP and I will average your new grade with your previous grade. The resubmission must be a new attempt at thinking and analysis of the topic and not just an addition of my corrections to the original submission.

2.Attendance (5), Class Participation (5), and Learn Link Entries (10) Total = 20%

1) Attendance- 5 points

Since your individual voice is considered significant to all of our learning, you should attend every class and actively participate in class discussion. Excessive absences are not acceptable. You will lose one point for every absence (from the 5 points given for no absences), and those of you who are never absent will receive the full 5 points.

(2) **Learnlink entries - 10 points.** Each student will make at least 10 LearnLink entries during the course of the semester. Each entry should be a response or personal reaction to a concept presented in class, or in the discussions/readings, in a film, by another student, in the world at large, and should be approximately 3-4 sentences in length. It is hoped that these entries will serve as a type of conversation among students in the class. Please respond thoughtfully and respectfully to one another and demonstrate careful reflection and analysis. I am interested in whether you are able to incorporate ideas from the class and then articulate them in your postings on Learnlink. You are building your intellectual self, so think before you enter a posting. A regular consistent series of entries is expected, not all posted at the end of the semester. In fact, you will be penalized for starting your learnlink entries later in the semester since each month is worth 25% of your learnlink grade (10 points). The last day to post is the last day of class.

(3) Class participation-5 points You will be evaluated by the level of participation in which you are engaged during class discussions. In addition, each student will serve as a discussion leader for at least one class and, in that role, be responsible for leading the discussion of the readings with the class. It will be incumbent on the facilitators to develop a list of discussion questions that they will use to lead the discussion. A list of discussion leaders for each class will be identified in the first classes, but every student will have the opportunity before the semester ends, possibly, more than once. You will usually work in pairs as facilitators of the discussion.

Your responsibilities when leading the class discussion :

As individuals or in pairs, your goal is to get the class to comprehend the author's ideas. You will accomplish this by developing questions that will promote class discussion. To develop the questions for class discussion:

1. Identify the topics and concepts that you believe are essential
2. Develop questions intended to elicit responses from the class; the goal of these questions is to facilitate understanding (comprehension) of the concepts and ideas in the readings as presented by the author(s)
3. Do not ask opinion questions – whether you agree or disagree
4. Do not ask whether you liked it or not
5. Your goal is getting the class to UNDERSTAND the authors' meaning. You should compare and contrast ideas in your readings with other readings. This is one kind of analysis.

**3.TPSL Participation, Reflective Essay (3 pages) and
5 minute presentation in class (10%)**

You are required to attend the location to which you are assigned and complete 18 hours during 9 weeks of the semester within the dates specified only. You cannot make up any hours after the last date. You will lose points from these 10 points if you do not complete the full 18 hours in the specified time frame.

OPEN FORUM is listed in the class schedule for one class period. This project is an intellectual experience that requires you to integrate the class readings to your work experiences at your TPSL work site. In the OPEN FORUM listed on the class schedule you will turn in the reflective essay based on the work experiences in your TPSL. The paper is a chance for you to write about the integration of class readings with your work experience. In your reflective essay you must integrate at least 3 class readings into your paper that relate to your particular work site. Please use correct citations and use formal writing language. It may help you to pose questions that will help you understand your work environment.

WHAT WILL YOUR EYES BE LOOKING FOR? Think about what you will be looking for in your work site and how you can use the readings to understand the experiences you will have at work. And how does the work site help you understand what the readings have presented? This is an integrative intellectual experience in which you will use 3 class readings to build a framework for analysis (relating readings to work experiences). Early on in the semester you should share with me what questions your work site prompts and which required readings are appropriate for your analysis.

For the 5 minute class presentation describe your work environment—people you work with, age, sex, race, ethnicity and your responsibilities at the site. Identify the funding of this site and the scope of their work. How are people selected to get into this site? Which readings did you select and why? How did the real life situations you encountered help you to understand and analyze the readings?

4.Final research paper and presentation to class (20%)

Paper- 4-5 pages Presentation- 10 minutes

Thesis statement and title due 10/6

Revision of thesis statement and 10 sources due 10/13

Final project to be presented to the class. Each student will have 10 minutes to present a feminist analysis and evaluation of a topic (using power point) showing the class that you have learned the tools of analysis used in the field of women's studies. All final projects must be approved by me and will be evaluated as follows: 10 points for deep and extensive feminist analysis of your topic; 5 points for effort; 5 points for a thorough understanding of the topic; and 5 points for the quality of your presentation.

For the paper--First you will submit to me for approval a title and thesis statement. You will identify a position you are going to support through your research. Second, you must submit the approved thesis statement and title, WITH an outline of your intended final project, including 10 sources from books and articles. You must limit internet sources. Do not use internet sources unless they are also printed. Go to the reference librarian and ask how to find books and articles on your topic. Use style guidelines of MLA or APA for appropriate citations.

5 Midterm and final exam—25%

See course schedule for dates.

COURSE SCHEDULE

NOTE: Your TPSL must be done between the week of Sept 19 until the last day of Dec 2 to include 2 hours per week for a total of 18 hours. No make up hours can be done after the last day.

8/25 Introduction to the academic field of women's studies

What is the history of this interdisciplinary academic field?

8/30 Visitor: Crystal McLaughlin will discuss the TPSL placement options for the service learning requirement of this class and you will choose the site in which you want to work.

REQUIRED READINGS:

Rothenberg, pp. 7-12 The Social Construction of Difference

Lorber in Rothenberg pp. 54-65 Social Construction of Gender

What are the theoretical perspectives and dominant ideas: Invisibility of gender; patriarchy; masculinity and femininity

Why study race, class, gender and sexuality?

Deconstructing what is considered to be "natural"

Understanding patriarchy (power relations and hierarchies); feminism (several perspectives that place women at the center of the analysis; all perspectives seek to understand women's oppression); the social construction of gender (learning to be a woman; woman as object; masculinity and femininity); the social construction of race; white privilege; homophobia as social control of gendered behavior.

9/1 Documentary film: Straightlaced: How Gender's Got Us All Tied Up (67 minutes)

This is a film about the extreme pressure placed on teenagers for normative gender performance and how homophobia controls gender role behavior. For the girls a big issue is body image and for boys it is adopting behaviors that do not mark one as gay. The consequences of not fitting in are disastrous and may lead to violence.

Required Readings:

Johnson in Rothenberg-153-162 Patriarchy

Kimmel in Rothenberg pp. 80-92 Masculinity as Homophobia: Fear, Shame and Silence

9/6 The Social Construction of Gender

QTP

Frye in Rothenberg pp. 149-153 -Oppression

Thompson in Rothenberg pp. 677-683- A New Vision of Masculinity

Beckman in Rothenberg p.429 How to sell Humvees to Men

9/8 Visitor: Crystal McLaughlin- Your site/locations will be distributed for the TPSL

Film: Professor Michael Kimmel – On Gender (54 minutes)

9/13 How We Learn to Become a Woman and Man: Setting the Standard

Film: Still Killing us Softly #4

Jean Baker Miller in Rothenberg pp.108-115 Domination and Subordination

Davis, Angela pp. 3-45 The legacy of slavery and Black womanhood

Go to: www.youtube.com/watch?v=eVIZEgsY8

Suheir Hammond NOT YOUR EXOTIC, NOT YOUR EROTIC

9/15 Feminism and Feminist Activism

QTP

bell hooks in Rothenberg pp. 670-677 Feminism: a Transformational Politic

Davis, Angela pp. 87-109 What is emancipation according to Black women?

Davis, Angela pp. 137-148 History of the Suffrage Movement

Film: 50 Nude Women

9/20 A. Women as Bodies: Reproductive Rights and Feminism

Angela Davis pp. 202-221

Williams in Rothenberg pp. 448-450

B. Gender Defined as Bodies-Transgender and Intersex

Rupp, L. The World of Difference #7 on reading list

Fausto-Sterling, A. The 5 Sexes #8 on readings list

9/22 Constructing Racism

QTP

Wu in Rothenberg pp. 389-392 Yellow

Angela Davis pp. 177-201 Myth of the Black Rapist

Cornel West 3a. Black Sexuality: the Taboo Subject

9/27 What is Race? What is Racism?

Omi and Winant in Rothenberg pp. 13-22 Racial Formations

Tatum in Rothenberg pp. 123-130 Defining racism

Lumumba-Kasongo in Rothenberg pp. 279-280 My black skin makes my white coat vanish

9/29 Race and Racism ontinued

Rothenberg pp. 117-123 Understanding Racism, Sexism, Heterosexism, and Class Privilege

Rothenberg pp. 499-509 Indian Tribes: A Continuing Quest for Survival

Ideas as you plan your Reflective essay on your TPSL:

Where are you assigned? Who are the participants? What are your responsibilities? How is the program funded? What questions do you have from the class readings? Identify 3 readings to use to analyze your experiences at your site.

10/4 Ethnicity and Immigration

QTP

Rothenberg pp. 195-198 Race in the 21st century

Jernigan in Rothenberg pp. 201-207 Immigration in the US

Shah in Rothenberg pp. 217-219 Asian-American?

Thrupkaew in Rothenberg pp. 220-226 The Myth of the Model Minority

THESIS STATEMENT and TITLE due of research paper

10/6 Creating Whiteness; White Privilege QTP

Buck in Rothenberg pp. 32-38 Creating White Privilege

Macintosh in Rothenberg pp. 172-177 White Privilege: the invisible knapsack

Brodin in Rothenberg pp. 38-53 How Jews became white folks

10/11 NO CLASS Mid semester break

10/13 Race as a Social Construct: Who benefits from constructing a racist ideology?

Film: Ethnic Notions

Is race biological? Perspective of American Anthropological Association Statement on Race 1998

American Anthropological Association –Statement on “Race”

Go to: <http://www.understandingrace.org/humvar/index.html> Go to the link called ‘the Human Spectrum’

How do we define race as an aspect of our social identity? Is it a biological?

Go to: <http://www.aaanet.org/stmts/racepp.htm>

Go to: <http://www.aaanet.org/resources/A-Public-Education-Program.cfm>

View Film Clip---click on RACE project website (interactive website about race) on the right side near top

Film: Islamaphobia in the US

Outline and 10 sources due with revised thesis statement

10/14 Last day to drop a class without penalty

10/18 Midterm Exam

10/20 Sexuality; the Invention of Heterosexuality QTP

Katz in Rothenberg pp.68-80

Hubbard in Rothenberg pp. 65-68 The Social Construction of Sexuality

Koedt, The Myth of the Vaginal Orgasm # 6 in list of readings

10/25 Homophobia as Social Control of Gendered Behavior

Pharr in Rothenberg pp.162-172 Homophobia as a weapon of sexism

Ettelbrick in Rothenberg pp. 558-566 Activism for gay and lesbian civil rights

10/27 Sexual Fluidity QTP

Diamond- Chap 1 Will the Real Lesbians Stand Up?

11/1 Gender Differences in Sexual Fluidity

DUE TODAY: TITLE AND THESIS STATEMENT FOR FINAL PROJECT

Diamond- Chap 2 Gender Differences in Same-Sex Sexuality

11/3 Sexual Fluidity in Action

Diamond-Chapter 3

11/8 Economics of Race, Class and Gender QTP

Rothenberg pp. 303-305

Reuss in Rothenberg pp. 360-365 Cause of Death: Inequality

Sklar in Rothenberg pp. 307-316 Imagine a Country

Film: People Like Us- Social Class in America

11/10 Intersection of Gender, Race and Class

Davis pp. 222-244 Housework-A Working Class Perspective

Krugman in Rothenberg pp. 352-353 The Sons also Rise: Development of patriarchy and wealth

Film: People Like Us: Social Class in America

11/15 Overcoming the Invisibility of Class QTP

Donna Langston 3b. on reading list

Davis in Rothenberg pp. 643-647 Masked Racism: Prison Industrial Complex (The New Slavery)

11/17 OPEN FORUM –Reflective essay and presentation due today---Presentation is 5 minutes**11/22 Perspective on contemporary US economic divisions**

Mantsios in Rothenberg pp. 177-193 Class in America 2009

Rothenberg pp. 346-351 The Wage Gap and its Costs

Stiglitz, J. Inequality # 9 in list of readings

Bernstein, J. The Shape of Inequality and its Impact on Growth #10 in list of readings

11/29 In class presentations of research project -10 minutes**12/1 In-class presentations****12/ 6 In class presentations and review of course****Final Exam—Dec 14 -- 2 pm**

The Student Honor Code of Oxford College applies to every member of the class. Please review this code carefully giving special attention to plagiarism. Remember that plagiarism occurs when one uses the words or ideas of another person without quotations and without adequate referencing. Please note also that the use of former students' papers may not be used in any form; to do so is to violate the Honor Code. Should you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please consult with me. Downloading is not original thinking. The purpose of your undergraduate education is to improve your mind and your ability to articulate your ideas. Not only is plagiarism a question of ethics but it is depriving you of learning to analyze and think critically, thus improving your writing and discussion skills.