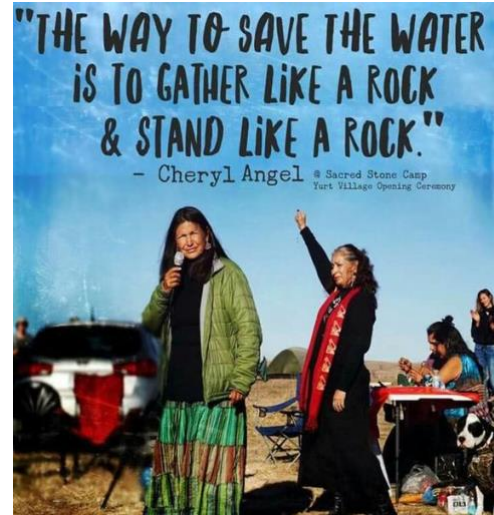


WGST 120 (02): SUMMER 2020
Introduction to Women's & Gender Studies
Tuesday/Thursday 7:30-9:30pm

Professor Elena Creef
Cell Phone: 508.361.9062
Office hours: after class or by appointment



Poster for Japanese Takarazuka Review. Louis Reard: The Creator of the Bikini (1946).
Native Women “Water Protectors” protesting #NODAPL at Standing Rock
Lakota Sioux Reservation, North Dakota, 2016.

This course offers an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of Women's & Gender Studies. We begin with the social, cultural, and scientific construction of “gender,” then explore the intersectional representation of women across cultures, media, markets, and feminist art, examine the gendered politics of beauty and bodies embedded in advertising, beauty pageants, the birth of the *bikini* on the heels of the atomic bomb. We close with a consideration of the gendering of globalization and the effects of displacement on women, interrogate Global South representations from the problematic standpoint of what Chandra Mohanty has termed “under western eyes” in the Global North, and conclude with an examination of contemporary legacies of women's leadership and activism.

All Required Readings & Film Screenings will be placed on our Sakai class site.

Course Requirements: participation in class discussion, two writing assignments (due June 10 & July 10), one zine feminist art page (due June 30).

SECTION I THE SOCIAL, CULTURAL, & SCIENTIFIC CONSTRUCTION OF GENDER

Week 1—An Introduction to the Social & Cultural Construction of Gender: June 2 & 4

Tuesday: Introductions

Readings:

Anne Fausto-Sterling: “The Five Sexes, Revisited.” *The Sciences* (July/August 2000), Volume 40, Issue 4: 18-24.
Charlotte Furth. “Androgynous Males and Deficient Females: Biology and Gender Boundaries in Sixteenth and Seventeenth-Century China.” *Late Imperial China*, vol. 9, number 2 (December 1988): 1-31.
Evelyn Blackwood. “Sexuality and Gender in Certain Native American Tribes: The Case of Cross-Gender Females.” *Signs*, Volume 10, No. 1 (Autumn 1984): 27-40.

Thursday: “Female Males” & “Dream Girls” in the Japanese World of the Takarazuka

Film: (Watch *before* class on Sakai): Kim Longinotto & Jano Williams: *Dream Girls* (2007) 50 min.

Readings:

Karen Nakamura & Hisako Matsuo. “Female Masculinity and Fantasy Spaces: Transcending Genders in the Takarazuka Theatre and Japanese Popular Culture.” *Men and Masculinities in Contemporary Japan: Dislocating the Salaryman Doxa*. (2003): 59-76.
Jane Singer. “The Dream World of Takarazuka.” *Japan Quarterly*: Vol. 43, Issue 2 (April/June 1996): 162.

Optional:

Makiko Yamanashi: “The Allure of Sexual Ambiguity” & “Male and Female Impersonators,”
A History of Takarazuka Revue Since 1914: Modernity, Girls’ Culture, Japan Pop.

Week 2—Intersectionality as a WGST Framework: June 9 & 11

Tuesday: Intersectional Feminism and Black Feminist Legends

Film: (Watch *before* class on Sakai): Pratibha Parmar. *A Place of Rage* (June Jordan/Angela Davis/Alice Walker)

Readings

Kimberle Crenshaw. “Why Intersectionality Can’t Wait.” *Washington Post*. September 24, 2015
Sojourner Truth. “Ain’t I a Woman?” (1851)
Angela Davis. “Women, Race, and Class—an Activist Perspective.” *Women’s Studies Quarterly*, Volume 10, No. 4 (Winter 1982): 5-9.

Thursday:

Donna Haraway. “Teddy Bear Patriarchy: Taxidermy in the Garden of Eden, New York City, 1908-1936.” *Social Text*, No. 11 (Winter, 1984-1985): 20-64.

Shaunacy Ferro: “Natural History Museum Dioramas Are Disappearing.” (2015)

<https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/67020/natural-history-museum-dioramas-are-disappearing>

Breakout Room Group Work: Testing Haraway's Thesis on The Harvard Natural History Museum: Africa Gallery, The Chicago Field Museum's exhibit, "The Lions of Tsavo," and the New York Museum of Natural History Akeley Hall, and the Smithsonian Natural History Museum.

[Friday: June 10: Writing Assignment #1 Due]

SECTION II: REPRESENTATIONS, CULTURES, MEDIA, AND MARKETS

Week 3— Consumer Culture & the Business of Advertising: June 16 & 18

Tuesday: How to Deconstruct the Gendered Language of Advertising

Film: (Watch *before* class on Sakai): Sut Jhally: "Killing Us Softly 4: Advertising's Images of Women" (2002) 34 min

Readings:

John Berger: "Excerpts from Ways of Seeing"

Amy Gluckman & Betsy Reed: "The Gay Marketing Moment" & Subaru's GLBTQ Ad Campaign

Angela Davis. "Afro Images: Politics, Fashion, and Nostalgia." *Critical Inquiry*, Vol. 21, No. 1 (Autumn 1994): 37-39, 41, 43, 45.

Vibe Magazine: "Black Power Dressing: Cynda Williams as Angela Davis." March 1994.

Nyakim Gatwech (South Sudanese African American Model): "Meet the 'Queen of the Dark' Who Was Told to Bleach Her Incredibly Dark Skin by Uber Driver:

https://www.boredpanda.com/sudanese-model-queen-of-the-dark-nyakim-gatwech/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=organic

Film: (We will watch *in* class): "What Dark Skinned People Will Never Tell You About" (2016)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=76X4JvjpXug>

Thursday: Revisioning the Male Gaze: Feminist Art Then and Now

Brooklyn Museum's Elizabeth A. Sackler Center for Feminist Art

1970s:

Joan Semmel: "Intimacy-Autonomy" (1974): Link:

Judy Chicago's famous *The Dinner Party* (1974-1979): Link:

Contemporary Exhibitions:

"Global Feminisms" (2007): [Selected Artists TBA]

<https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/opencollection/exhibitions/632>

"Half the Picture: A Feminist Look at the Collection" (2018-2019)

https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/exhibitions/half_the_picture

Selected Artists: Wendy Red Star (Apsáalooke (Crow): *Alaxchiiiahush/Many War Achievements/Plenty Coups* (2014); Nona Faustine: *Not Gone With The Wind, Lefferts House, Brooklyn* (2016)

[Tuesday June 30: Due in Class: Feminist Zine Page as Feminist Art Assignment]

SECTION III: BEAUTY POLITICS/BODY POLITICS

Week 4 —A WGST Approach to the History of Bikinis, Bombs, Beauty, & Bras: June 23 & 25

Tuesday: A Brief History of the Bikini & the Bomb

Readings:

Teresia Teaiwa. “Bikinis and Other S/Pacific N/Oceans”

Holly M. Barker. “Unsettling Spongebob and the Legacies of Violence on Bikini Bottom.”

Film: (We will watch *in* in class) Cheryl Furjanac Film: *A Good Uplift* (2003) 13 min

<https://cherylfurjanic.com/films/a-good-uplift/>

Thursday: The Navajo Nation: Diné Pride & the Concept of *Hózhó* (Beauty)

Readings:

Laura Tohe (Diné): “There is No Word for Feminism in My Language.”

Caitlyn O’Hara: “Becoming Miss Navajo Nation.”

Mary Annette Pember: “Honoring Our Monthly Moons: Some Menstruation Rituals Give Indigenous Women Hope.” Feb. 20, 2019: <https://rewire.news/article/2019/02/20/monthly-moons-menstruation-rituals-indigenous-women/>

Films:

(We will watch *in* Class): “See What Canyon Life is Like for a Navajo Pageant Winner” (2017)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Ga5Fc6cBHI>

Teen Vogue: “6 Misconceptions About Native American People” (2017)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GHdW_LVfn28

SECTION IV

UNDER WESTERN EYES: WHERE THE GLOBAL NORTH MEETS THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Week 5 — Critiquing How We Look at the East from “Under Western Eyes”: June 30 & July 2

Tuesday: An Introduction to Chandra Mohanty’s “Under Western Eyes” Classic Essay

Readings:

Chandra Mohanty: "Under Western Eyes" [handout a guide with questions]
 Catherine A. Lutz & Jane L. Collins: "Excerpts from Reading National Geographic"
 Cathy Newman & Steve McCurry: "Afghan Girl: A Life Revealed"
 Daniel Victor: "National Geographic Acknowledges Its Racist Past," *New York Times* (March 13, 2018);
 Sarah Graham-Brown: "Excerpt from Images of Women: The Portrayal of Women in Photography of the Middle East."

Film:

(Watch *before* class on Sakai): Lawrence Cumbo: "The Search for the Afghan Girl" (2002) 50 min

(We will watch *in* class) An Afghan Woman's Countergaze? Artist: Lida Abdul (Afghan)
 Brooklyn Museum "Global Feminisms" Art Exhibit 2007:
<https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/eascfa/video/videos/global-feminisms-lida-abdul>

Thursday: From an Ethiopian Feminist Filmmaker's Standpoint: African Women Refugees**Readings:**

Salem Mekuria: "Representation and Self-Representation: My Take" *Feminist Africa* 16 African Feminist Engagements with Film (Issue 16: July 2012)
 Dagmawi Woubshet: "An Interview with Salem Mekuria" *Callaloo*, Volume 33, Number 1, Winter 2010, pp. 314-317.

Film: [Watch *before* class on Sakai]: Salem Mekuria. *Sidet: Forced Exile. Women Make Movies* (1992) 60 min

SECTION V: LEGACIES OF MODERN WOMEN WARRIORS/WOMEN'S ACTIVISM

Week 6— Native Women Warriors Rising: July & 9

Tuesday: #MMIW: The Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women's Movement**Readings:**

http://www.honorearth.org/man_camps_fact_sheet
<https://www.macleans.ca/news/canada/mmiwgs-findings-on-man-camps-are-a-good-place-for-government-to-get-started/>
<https://www.powwows.com/the-tragedy-of-missing-and-murdered-indigenous-women-mmiw/>
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/23/arts/design/indigenous-women-toronto.html?searchResultPosition=1>
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/03/world/canada/canada-indigenous-genocide.html?searchResultPosition=3>

Cannupa Hanska Luger (Artist): "MMIQT: The Bead Project: Everyone" (2018):
<http://www.cannupahanska.com/mmiwqtbeadproject>

Thursday: Stand Like a Rock: The Women & Girls Who Are Leading a Movement**Readings:**

David Talbot. "Dakota Pipeline Resisters Provide Lesson in Courage"

Kara Maria Ananda: "The Women of Standing Rock are Midwifing a Global Movement"

Ann Merlan: "Meet the Brave, Audacious Women Who Built the Standing Rock Movement"

Par Rucha Chitnis: "Why Defending Human Rights is Women's Work"

Emily Arasim & Osprey Orielle Lake: "15 Women Who Are Bravely Resisting the Dakota Access Pipeline (And Why They're Doing It)"

Rebecca Bengal: "Standing Rock Rising: Inside the Movement to Stop the Dakota Access Pipeline," *Vogue* (November 22, 2016).

Film: [Watch *before* class]: Myron Dewey, James Spione, Josh Fox: *Awake: A Dream from Standing Rock* [2017]
[available streaming through Clapp Library]

<https://docuseek2-com.ezproxy.wellesley.edu/cart/product/1448>

[Friday July 10: Writing Assignment #3 Due]