

WMST 1110H: MULTICULTURAL PERSPECTIVES ON WOMEN IN THE USA (1/3/08)
309 Moore College, MWF (11:15-12:05)

Instructor: Professor Doris Kadish: dkadish@uga.edu; <http://www.rom.uga.edu/dkadish/>

243 Gilbert Hall, 542-4649;

Office Hrs, M,W,F 10-11:00: and by appointment

Texts:

- # Anderson and Hill, Race, Class, and Gender, 6th Edition (referred to on the syllabus as RCG).
- # Materials online at WebCT
- # Films (to view outside of class: The Joy Luck Club, Color Purple

Course Objectives:

This course takes an interdisciplinary, cross-cultural approach to the study of women of diverse racial, ethnic, sexual and class backgrounds. The course focuses on contemporary concerns and issues affecting women's lives, and seeks to familiarize students with major theoretical and practical debates within women's studies scholarship across various disciplines. While women may often be assumed to share similar experiences determined by their sex, significant differences also exist among them. Therefore, this course is a study of power relations within society arising not only from differences between men and women, but also arising from differences among women themselves. We will reflect on these differences and explore their significance for women's studies, feminist activism, and the broader "feminist movement."

Course Policies

1. Students are expected to read the assignments before class and to actively participate in class discussion. [The reading listed on the syllabus is the reading that will be discussed that day]. Students will take turns assuming the responsibility of presenting the assigned readings to the class. The presentation will be evaluated on the basis of how well it draws out the main points, generates class discussion, and supplements the reading with other relevant material if appropriate. Students can also participate by initiating or participating in on-line discussions of the material discussed in class. Updates of class participation grade will be available on the course web site. Participation will count for 20% of the final grade.
2. Unannounced quizzes on the assigned readings will be given periodically. No quizzes can be made up. However, I will drop the three lowest grades. Quizzes will count for 20% of the final grade.
3. Students are required to write four response papers (2 double-spaced pages, approximately 500 words) in which they engage critically with one of the assigned readings. Two papers must be submitted before the midpoint. The response papers will count for 20% of the final grade.
4. There will be a midterm and a final exam. Each will count for 20% of the final grade.

5. The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary. All students are responsible for maintaining the highest standards of honesty and integrity in every phase of their academic work in this class. All writing must be in the student's own words (other than written material that appears in quotation marks and is accompanied by an acceptable citation). Instances of writing that are not in the student's own words will be considered plagiarism. The penalties for academic dishonesty are severe and ignorance is not an acceptable defense. More information is at the following URL:

http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/academic_honesty/academic_honesty.htm.

Plus/minus system:

100-94 A 4.0

93-90 A- 3.7

89-86 B+ 3.3

85-83 B 3.0

82-80 B- 2.7

79-76 C+ 2.3

75-73 C 2.0

72-70 C- 1.7

69-60 D 1.0

SYLLABUS

Week 1: What is Women's Studies?

January 7: Introductions

January 9: Zinn, Hondagneu-Sotelo, Messner, "Sex and Gender Through the Prism of Difference" (RCG 147-155)

January 11: Anderson, "Introduction" (RCG1-16); Frye, Oppression (RCG 29-32)

Week 2: What is Women's Studies?; Conceptualizing Race, Class, and Gender

January 14: Film, "My Feminism" (with Ailbhe Smyth, Gloria Steinem, Urvashi Vaid, Urvashi Butalia, and Mary Becker)

January 16: Anderson, Systems of Power and Inequality (RCG 61-90)

Takaki, A Different Mirror (RCG 32-44) January 18: Martinez, Seeing More than Black and White (RCG 105-110); Moraga, La Güera (RCG 22-28)

Week 3: Conceptualizing Race, Class, and Gender

January 23: Liu, "Teaching the Differences among Women from a Historical Perspective: WebCT; "The Great White Influx" (WebCT)

January 25: McIntosh, White Privilege (RCG 98-102); Williams, Of Race and Risk (RCG 103-111); Waters, Optional Ethnicities (RCG 198-207)

Week 4: African American Women and their Feminisms

January 28: Lecture, African American History

January 30: Lecture, African American History
February 1: Higgenbotham, "In Politics to Stay" (WebCT)
VIEW COLOR PURPLE OUTSIDE OF CLASS

Week 5: African American Women and their Feminisms
February 4: Bobo, "Text and Subtext" (WebCT); Discuss Color Purple: How can we tie the issues and themes in the film with the readings we have done previously? Come with specific examples.
February 6: Lorde, Age, Race, Class, and Sex (RCG 52-59); Film, A Litany for Survival
February 8: Film continued, A Litany for Survival

Week 6: African American Women and their Feminisms
February 11: hooks, "Beauty Laid Bare" (WebCT); hooks, "Talking Back" (WebCT); hooks, "Homeplace" (WebCT)
February 13: Film: bell hooks
February 15: Jamila, Can I Get a Witness (RCG 557-564)

Week 7: The Asian American Experience
February 18: MIDTERM EXAM
February 20: Asian American Lecture
February 22: Yung, "Unbound Feet" (WebCT); Murray, "Ise Women and the Early Korean American Community" (WebCT)
VIEW JOY LUCK CLUB OUTSIDE OF CLASS

Week 8: The Asian American Experience
February 25: FILM: Japanese American Women; Visit Asian American Feminist Websites; post on WebCT and discuss in class
February 27: Green, "Thematic Deviance or Poetic License" (WebCT); Discuss Joy Luck Club: How can we tie the issues and themes in the film with the readings we have done previously? Come with specific examples.
February 29: Le Espiritu, "Ideological Racism and Cultural Resistance" (RCG 156-165); Kibria, "Migration and Vietnamese American Women (RCG 220-227)

Week 9: Native American Women's Voices
March 3: Native American Lecture; Snipp, "The First Americans" (RCG 442-449)
March 5: Film, "Wilma P. Mankiller: Chief of the Cherokee Nation"
March 7: Churchill, "Crimes Against Humanity" (RCG 376-383); Trask, "From a Native Daughter" (RCG 45-52); Astoye, "From the Ground Up" (RCG 543-547)

Week 10: Native American Women's Voices/ Latinas and Their Feminisms
March 17: Tsosie, "Changing Women: The Crosscurrents of American Indian Feminine Identity" (WebCT); Miheuah, "Too Dark to Be Angels" (WebCT)
March 19: ; "Cherokee Women and the Trail of Tears" (WebCT)
March 21: Latina Lecture

Week 11: Latinas and Their Feminisms
March 24: Castaneda, "Gender, Race, and Culture" (WebCT)
March 26: Smith, "'Mexicanness' in New York" (RCG 214-220)

March 28: Film: The Changing Role of Hispanic Women

Week 12: Latinas and Their Feminisms

March 31: Alvarez, "A White Woman of Color" (RCG 166-171)

April 2: "Undocumented Latinas": WebCT; "The Gravitas of Spanglish" (WebCT)

April 4: Cofer, "The Myth of the Latin Woman" (RCG 393-397); Cofer, Poems (WebCT)

Week 13: European American Women

April 7: European American Lecture

April 9: Takaki, "Emigrants from Erin" (WebCT) April 11: Katz, "The Invention of

Heterosexuality" (RCG 252-264)

VIEW PRICE ABOVE RUBIES OUTSIDE OF CLASS

Week 14: European American Women

April 14: Discuss Price Above Rubies: How can we tie the issues and themes in the film with the readings we have done previously? Come with specific examples.

April 16: Blewett, "Deference and Defiance" (WebCT)

April 18: Wald, "One of the Boys" (WebCT)

Week 15: Social Issues

April 21: Newman, "The Invisible Poor" (RCG 303-312) April 23: Mickelson, "Can Education Eliminate Race, Class, and Gender Inequality?" (RCG 404-413)

April 25: Burnham, "Welfare Reform" (RCG 412-422)

April 28: Conclusions