

TRANSCENDING GENDER

ANTHROPOLOGY 400L
Spring 2008

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Course Description

How do humans become male and female in different societies. Is male dominance universal? What are the sources of male and female power and resistance? Do women have a separate culture? What is the relationship between gender, militarism and war? How do class and racial divides influence gender identities? How do people negotiate 3rd or 4th genders? This and other questions will be explored in cross-cultural perspective. We will address these issues through an immersion in the gender systems of a number of different societies.

Course Requirements:

One Mid-Term Examination worth 30% of your grade

One Final Examination worth 35% of your grade

There will be regular short assignments throughout the term, culminating in a major final assignment. These assignments will be marked on a 4-pt. scale and will count collectively for 25% of your grade.

NOTE CARDS (5%) For each class reading you should write a note card and hand it in at **the beginning of class** of the day the reading is to be discussed. This card should include your questions or comments about the reading, and might also include a brief summary of the reading and comment on how it relates to previous readings

* Students taking the class for graduate credit will write a midterm and final paper in lieu of the exams. There may also be a few additional readings and discussions for graduate students during the course of the semester. See instructor for details*

Attendance Attendance is required, and will be taken. If you anticipate schedule conflicts due to other classes, work, athletic events or other activities you are advised

not to take this class because irregular attendance will negatively impact your grade. If you need to miss a class due to illness, religious observances or team participation you must notify me prior to the class. More than 3 unexcused absences will result in the loss of 1/2 letter grade (5 points on your final grade) per class missed. Failure to come to an exam, or to bring in an exam paper by the deadline without notifying me will result in an "F" for that grade.

Required Books: (available at the bookstores)

Maria Lepowski *Fruit of the Motherland: Gender in an Egalitarian Society*

Elizabeth Krause *A Crisis of Births: Population Politics and Family-Making in Italy*

Martin Manalansan *Global Divas: Filipino Gay Men in the Diaspora*

Sabine Fruhstuck *Uneasy Warriors: Gender, Memory and Popular Culture in the Japanese Army*

Reading Packet (Available at *The Printing Plant*, next to New Kahala and Don Taco on the strip).

Week 1 Introduction: Gender as a Social Construction.

Ursula LeGuin "Is Gender Necessary? Redux"

Katha Pollit "Marooned on Gilligan's Island"

Gloria Steinem "Women are Never Front-Runners" NYTimes 1/8/2008

Week 2: Gender & Power: Is Male Dominance Universal? If so, Why? What are the sources of power and oppression?

Michele Rosaldo "Woman, Culture & Society, an Overview."

Sherry Ortner "Is Male to Female as Nature is to Culture?"

Eleanor Leacock "The Origins of Hierarchy" and "The Jesuit Program for Colonization"

Leslie Marmon Silko "Yellow Woman and Beauty of the Spirit"

Weeks 3-4 The View from an Egalitarian Society. How are kinship, gender and

exchanged experienced in a relatively egalitarian society? What are the sources of conflict and cooperation between men and women?

Maria Lepowski *Fruit of the Motherland: Gender in an Egalitarian Society*

Weeks 5-6 The Politics of Reproduction: Population policies, history, the family, and the writing of ethnography

Elizabeth Krause *A Crisis of Births: Population Politics and Family-Making in Italy*

Week 7 *The Ritual and the Everyday*. How are gender power, dominance and autonomy experienced in various domains of everyday life (with special reference to food and cooking).

Fabio Parasecoli "Feeding Hard Bodies: Food & Masculinity in Men's Fitness Magazines"

T. Holden "The Overcooked and the Underdone: Masculinities in Japanese Food Programming"

Joanne Hollows "The Feminist and the Cook"

Jane Cowan "Going out for Coffee in Greece"

Matthew Gutman "Diapers and Dishes: Words and Deeds."

Week 8: *Gendering the "War on Terror"*

Elizabeth Fernea "Iraq." from *In Search of Islamic Feminism*

Lila Abu-Lughod "Do Islamic Women Really Need Saving?"

Cynthia Enloe "Wielding Masculinity inside Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo" in *Globalization and Militarism*

Susan Faludi "Introduction" in *The Terror Dream*

MIDTERM EXAM (END WEEK 8 OR BEGINNING WEEK 9)

Weeks 9-11 *Constructions of Military Gender*: How is gender experienced, lived

and performed in military contexts, and how does this influence everyday life?

Sabine Fruhstuck *Uneasy Warriors: Gender, Memory and Popular Culture in the Japanese Army*

Cynthia Enloe "Paying Close Attention to Women *inside* Militaries"

Susan Faludi "Precious Little Jessi" in *The Terror Dream*

Weeks 12-13

Globalized Gender Identities: How gay men negotiate race, class and the performance of identity in everyday and public contexts.

Martin Manalansan *Global Divas: Filipino Gay Men in the Diaspora*

C.J. Pascoe "Dude, you're a fag!" Adolescent Male Homophobia'

Week 14 Gender goes to the Movies: How have anthropologists approached the depiction of Gender on big and small screens?

Elizabeth Traube "Redeeming Images: The Wild Man Comes Home."

Claire Boulanger "Paradise is for Pussies: Star Trek and the Myth of the Bad Mother"

Week 15 Movie Project Presentations

WEEK 16 FINAL EXAM