

Postcolonial Feminism

WST 6935

Instructor: Dr. Tanya L. Saunders

Office Hours: Mondays 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm and by appointment

Office: Grinter 368

Class Times: W | Period 4 - 6 (1:55-4:55 PM)

Class Locations: UST 108

Course Description: Postcolonial feminisms is a broad term that engages the issues of women in the overwhelming majority of the world. That is, postcolonial feminism does not simply address the issues pertaining what it means to be a woman, to experience life as a woman and/or the political investments of people who are feminist identified. The postcolonial in Postcolonial feminisms addresses questions concerning colonialism, imperialism, capitalism, decoloniality/coloniality studies and neo-colonialism. As such, postcolonial feminisms also engages questions concerning culture (religion, gender and sexuality) and includes the process of racialization as a colonial project and a colonial legacy. Additionally, this course description is also being intentional about challenging our definition of "the west," as there are many countries (Latin America and the Caribbean), that are certainly western, but given their relationship to global power relations, are written out of "the west." Given the broad field of postcolonial feminisms, this course is a graduate-level introductory course to the field, that aims to prepare students for advanced studies in this important area. Having taken the course in Transnational Feminism may be helpful but is not required.

Course Objectives:

- Help Students to Develop an understanding of of Decoloniality, Postcoloniality, and Coloniality as theoretical frameworks
- Offer Students an Introduction to Postcolonial Feminism by Placing Latin America and the Caribbean in conversation with other regional contexts as it pertains to colonialism
- Help Students to Develop an Intersectional Perspective this Broad Field of Studies as it Pertains to Race, Class, Gender, Nation and Ethnicity in the Formation of Various Sexual Identities and Politics

Required Textbooks:

The Invention of Women by Oyeronke Oyewumi

Feminism Without Borders Chandra Talpade Mohanty

Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power by Anne Stoler

Imperial Leather by Annie McClintock (either order a hard copy or find the pdf here:

https://selforganizedseminar.files.wordpress.com/2011/07/mcclintock_imperial-leather.pdf)

*Reading materials from the textbooks will have “Text” in front of the name of the reading. Otherwise, assume the material is uploaded on Canvas.

I. Attendance & Participation (15%)

Attendance and participation is very important for this class: class discussion is very important. Attendance is required and will be taken at the beginning of every class meeting. It is your responsibility to make sure you sign the attendance sheet at the beginning of every class meeting and to come to class prepared to participate in class discussions. Active participation includes asking and answering questions, participating in group exercises, and doing the reading before class.

Attendance is an important requirement of the class. Fifteen percent (15%) of your total grade has been allocated to your presence in the classroom throughout the whole class period. If you constantly arrive to class late, you will be marked absent – I will give you notice. More than three unexcused absences will result in a zero for the attendance requirement. More than five unexcused absences will result in an automatic “F” for the course.

If you need to be absent due to a medical situation, your absence will only be excused if you present a doctor’s note. Notes from doctors will be initially accepted, but subject to verification—so be sure that they have specific contact information. University documentation is required for special situations such as ‘field-trips’ to participate in competitive sports representing University of Florida, and other professional, educational events or other official University events. Please talk to me if you have any questions about your particular situation. Excused absences are consistent with university policies in the undergraduate catalog (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>) and require appropriate documentation.

II. Weekly Reaction Essays (20%)

Weekly reaction essays are due every week. Completed assignments are to be uploaded by 5 pm every Tuesday. The essays are to be 1.5 - 2 pages, double spaced. They should address the following questions: Name three key points addressed in this week’s reading. Consider how the texts address the following topics: how we understand the relationships between race, gender, sexuality, class, geographical and/or cultural location? List two-three questions from this week’s assignment.

Be sure to follow the following format:

Typed,

1 inch margins.

Single-spaced

Use 12 point Times New Roman font.

Follow the MLA, APA or Chicago Style format.

No late assignments will be accepted.

III. Leading Weekly In-class Discussions (15%)

Given that this is a seminar course, this semester we take turns leading class discussions. Each Weds. students will be responsible for leading in-class discussion for the first 30 minutes of class (15 minutes each student). Outside of class you should contact your partner for the week and determine which part of the reading you will focus on in class. Come to class prepared give a brief summary of what you read, name three key points you think we should take away from what we have read, and prepare questions to ask your classmates.

IV. Exams

Exam I (25%)

The Midterm Exam is an opportunity to use some of the concepts we have discussed in class to critically engage the theoretical content of the course. Always support your answers with citations from the texts covered in class. The prompt for the first Exam will be given during the Week of February 13. The exam is due by Friday, 5 pm of Friday, March 2nd. The Midterm exam will focus on the first half of the semester.

Be sure to follow the following format:

Typed,

1 inch margins.

Single-spaced

Use 12 point Times New Roman font.

Follow the MLA, APA or Chicago Style format.

5 pages (sources cited should be listed on page '6')

The Final Exam (25%)

The Final Exam is cumulative in the sense that the questions for the exam will be drawn from the topics covered over the entire semester. Again, always support your answers with citations from the texts covered in class. The exam is due date is TBA. The final prompt for the final will be given a week before it is due. But for those who want to have an idea of what to expect in order to get a head start, here is the general prompt for the exam, which will focus on the book: *Feminism Without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity* by Chandra Talpade Mohanty: How does western notions of race, gender, sexuality and location (broadly defined) affect feminism's ability to address the experiences of women in postcolonial and neocolonial contexts? Can there be a 'transnational feminism?'

**The Final Exam Is Due Date TBA
No Late Exams Will Be Accepted**

V. Grading Policy

Percent	Grade	Grade Points
93.4-100	A	4.00
93.4-100	A-	3.67
90.0-93.3	B+	3.33
86.7-89.9	B	3.00
83.4-86.6	B-	2.67
80.0-83.3	C+	2.33
76.7-79.9	C	2.00
73.4-76.6	C-	1.67
70.0-73.3	D+	1.33
64.4-66.6	D	1.00
60.0-63.3	D-	.67
0-59	E	.00

Additional Information

Make-ups will only be given with a documented, valid excuse as per University of Florida's guidelines (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>). Lecture will

begin promptly. Please allow sufficient time to settle in and review the previous day's lecture notes before lecture begins.

Please silence all cell phones and pagers. Persons whose electronic devices sound off in class will be asked to leave.

Do not talk with others during lectures or while others are speaking. Express disagreement respectfully and be reflexive about your conduct and opinions. No reading, sleeping, or working on other materials during lectures or section. Students engaged in such activities will be asked to leave class. Do not pack up your belongings before the end of class, as this makes it difficult for others to hear, think, and concentrate.

Disruptive behavior in lecture will be reflected in participation grades.

Counseling and Wellness Center

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Alternative Learning Accommodations

Students who have documented request for alternative learning accommodations must meet with me and present their official University documentation before the end of the second week of class. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Academic Honesty

Do not cut and paste summaries found online or copy each other's work. All work must be your own. A case of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. More than one case of plagiarism will result in an F for the course. UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code

(<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conducthonor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Course Materials and Supplies

There are no additional fees for this course.

Writing Studio

Make sure to take advantage of the University's writing center before turning in your assignments. Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers. <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

Final Thoughts: Please come see me during my office hours with any questions. The progress of a course varies semester to semester, because every semester there is a new group of people with different experiences. So, depending on how the class progresses, I reserve the right to alter the syllabus – of course, with notice. Also, if I see that people are coming to class unprepared to participate, or are turning in papers that do not directly engage course materials, I will change the essay portion of the grading to “pop-quizzes,” and change the exams to in-class exams. There is nothing more frustrating than to receive a paper that shows that the student did not even try to engage the materials, and it is even more frustrating for all of us in class when that student comes to class unprepared.

Remember that this course does not provide clear-cut answers to social problems or issues. What it does offer, however, is a framework in which to analyze various social phenomena and understand their interrelationship with each other. You should be prepared to grapple with some issues about race, gender, sexuality and culture that you may have never thought about before, or have very strong opinions about. Be prepared to deal with value judgments and some conceptual ambiguity. JJ

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

The dates on this reading schedule reflects what we will discuss in class that week. So come to class prepared. Your first reaction Paper is due January 16th by 5 pm, concerning the reading for class on January 17th.

Week 1 January 10: Colonial Contexts

Text: Chapters 1-4 The Invention of Women

Week 2 January 17: Colonial Contexts Continued

Text: Chapter 5 The Invention of Women

Text: Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power - Chapters 1, 2, Imperial Leather Introduction, Chapter 1

Week 3 January 24: Colonial Contexts Continued

Text: Carnal Knowledge - Chapters 3, 4

Text: Imperial Leather Chapter 2, 10

Week 4 January 31: Colonial Contexts Continued

Text: Carnal Knowledge Chapters 5, 6, 7

Text: Imperial Leather Chapter 3

Week 5 February 7: The Coloniality of Whiteness

Text: Imperial Leather Chapter 6,7

Linda Alcoff, "Towards a Phenomenology of Racial Embodiment," *Radical Philosophy* 95 (1999): 15-26.

Sara Ahmed, "A Phenomenology of Whiteness," *Feminist Theory* 8.2 (2007): 149-168.

Vron Ware, "To Make the Facts Known: Racial Terror and the Construction of White Femininity," 103-135.

Jane Haggis, "White Women and Colonialism: Towards a Non-Recuperative History," 161-190.

Week 6 February 14: Can the Subaltern Speak

Mohanty and Alexander - "Introduction"

"Feminism: A movement to end Sexist Oppression"

"Dislocating the sign: Toward a Translocal Feminist Politics of Translation"

"Can the Subaltern Speak?" by Gaytri Spivak

"The Postcolonial and the Postmodern" by Homi Bhabha pg 171-197

Week 7 February 21: What is the Postcolonial?

“The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism” by Fredric Jameson, found here:

<https://thecharnelhouse.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Fredric-Jameson-Postmodernism-Or-the-Cultural-Logic-of-Late-Capitalism.pdf>

“The Postcolonial Aura” by Arif Dirlik

“Notes on the Postcolonial” by Ella Shohat

Week 8 February 28: Postcolonial Feminisms?

“Not You/Like You”

“Is the Post-in Postcolonial Postmodern?”

“American Studies without America: Native Feminisms and the Nation-State”

“The Politics of Gender, Human Rights, and Being Indigenous in Chile”

“Redrafting Morality” by M. Jacqui Alexander

“Notes on the Politics of Location” by Adriene Rich

Week 9 March 7: Spring Break

Suggested reading, or suggested skimming: Orientalism Excerpts from Edward Said

Week 10 March 14: U.S. Third World Feminisms

“U.S. Third World Feminisms” - Sandoval

“Feminism and Racism: A Report on the 1981 National Women’s Studies Association Conference”

“Combahee River Collective: A Black Feminist Statement (just the first few pages of the uploaded pdf)”

“Rethinking Radical Anti-Racist Feminist Politics in a Global Neoliberal Context”

“Notes from a Trip to Russia” from Sister Outsider - Audre Lorde

“Introduction” to Black Internationalist Feminism

Except from Soul Power (Introduction and Chapter 5)

Week 11 March 21: Islamic Feminism and Feminist Challenges to Orientalisms

Mervat F. Hatem, - “The Invisible American Half: Arab American Hybridity and Feminist Discourses in the 1990s,” in Ella Shohat, ed., *Talking Visions*, (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1998), 369-390.

“Feminist critique and Islamic Feminism: The Question of Intersectionality” - <http://postcolonialist.com/civil-discourse/feminist-critique-and-islamic-feminism-the-question-of-intersectionality/>

“The Debate on Arab Women”

“Theorizing the Politics of ‘Islamic Feminism’”

“The Qur'an and Hermeneutics: Reading the Qur'an's Opposition to Patriarchy”

“Islam, Feminism, and Islamic Feminism: Between Inadequacy and Inevitability”

Week 12 March 28: Social Movements

“Women's Rights Movements in the 'Arab Spring': Major Victories or Failures for Human Rights”

Wassyla Tamzani. - “The Arab Spring, Feminism and Islam.” Autonomies. (Very short piece available online):

<http://autonomies.org/fr/2016/07/wassyla-tamzali-the-arab-spring-feminism-and-islam/>

“Towards an Ethics of Transnational Encounter, or ‘When’ Does a ‘Chinese’ Woman Become a ‘Feminist’

Excerpts from Cultures of Politics politics of Cultures

Week 13 April 4: More Theory

Anibal Quijano - “Coloniality of Power, Eurocentrism and Latin America”

“The Geopolitics of Knowledge and the Colonial Difference” by Walter D. Mignolo

“Towards a Postcolonial Sociology, A View From the Americas”

Week 14 April 11: Feminist Interventions into Epistemologies

Week : “Now Let Us Shift”

“Pedagogies of the Sacred”

Agustin Lao Montes - “Decolonial Moves”

“Promoting Feminist Amefricanidade”

Week 15 April 18: Some Things to Consider as We Wrap-up

“Afro-Latin American Feminisms at the Cutting Edge of Emerging Political-Epistemic Movements”

“Race and Women of Color in Socialist/Postsocialist Transnational Feminisms in Central and Southeastern Europe”

“Profoundly Decolonizing?: Reflections on a Transfeminist Perspective of International Relations Challenging Convictions: Indigenous and Black Race-Radical Feminists Theorizing the Carceral State and Abolitionist Praxis in the United States and Canada”

Week 16 April 24

Discussion of Mohanty’s book/Prepare for Final Exam

