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WMST 60
Women of Color: Race, Class, and Ethnicity

This course explores the writings of women of color feminists about the complex politics of race, class, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and other categories of power in the lives of women of color in the U.S. context. Ranging from theoretical to first-person narrative, the readings in this course will explore issues of identity, representation, socio-economic policy and political rights as they impact women of color in the U.S. including African American, Latina/Chicana, Asian/Pacific Islander, Native American, and Arab-American women. We will examine women of color feminist critiques of the poverty and capitalism, nationalism, sexualized violence, stigma and stereotype, reproductive politics, homophobia, racism, and xenophobia.

Students will learn:
• The significance of categories of race, gender, class, ethnicity, sexuality, and culture in the lives of women of color historically and in contemporary society.
• The intersectional dimensions of these categories, and their impact on defining identity, representation, policy, and culture in the United States.
• Women of color’s diverse critiques and strategies of resistance to oppressive forces.
• Women of color’s relationship to and impact on feminism.
• Analytical vocabulary and frameworks for understanding and articulating complex social issues.

This course satisfies one requirement for a lower-division course on U.S. feminisms for the Feminist Studies major. Students interested in pursuing a major in Feminist Studies should contact our undergraduate studies advisor, Christina Toy at christina@femst.ucsb.edu. This course also satisfied a General Elective Credit in Area D: Social Sciences, as well as the Writing Requirement.

Course Requirements:
Attendance and participation:
Your attendance is mandatory in lecture and sections. Attendance will be taken. You will not be penalized for illness, but must provide your TA with a doctor’s note or written excuse for your absence. Five points will be taken from your grade for each unexcused absence. After 3 unexcused absences you may be dropped from the course.

Students are expected to keep up with reading assignments and complete all written assignments on time. No late papers or exams will be accepted. Sections may hold weekly quizzes to ensure students have completed reading assignments and are prepared for
You are expected to arrive to lecture and section on time, having read the materials in advance. You may leave only when the professor or TA ends class. If you have to leave early, ask for permission to do so before the class begins.

The professor asks that students do not sleep, chat, text message, or surf online during lectures. Activities other than listening, participating, and taking notes are not acceptable, and if caught doing them, students may be asked to leave the classroom.

**Academic Integrity:**
This class assumes that all participants are doing assignments with integrity. Plagiarism occurs when a student intentionally or unintentionally copies without proper citation of the ideas or words of another or hands in work that is not her or his own. Academic dishonesty violates university regulations and is a reportable offence that may lead to expulsion. If a student plagiarizes in this course he/she may not only fail the assignment, but also the course.

**Assignments:**

**Take Home Midterm:**
A take home final consisting of one or more essays (4-5 pages) on the first half of class readings will be **distributed Thursday, February 5 and due Tuesday, February 10.**

**Oral History Project:**
Each student will create an oral history project for this course in which they will interview a woman of color, and write up a paper that situates the themes covered in the interview. Students are expected to interview someone who is not a member of the class, and are encouraged to interview women of color who of a different age, race or ethnicity, class, or social location than themselves. This oral history project is intended to help students gain insight on the importance of testimony and everyday experience in feminist studies, and to better understand the complexities and intersectionalities or gender, race/ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, religion, nation, ability, and social location in women of color's lives. Students will discuss ideas and possible interview questions in class prior to conducting interviews. Each interview should be no longer than 30 minutes, must be transcribed from audio or videotape, and must be presented as part of a paper that interrogates the issues discussed in the oral history interview (5 pages). **Due Tuesday, March 3, in class.**

**Take Home Final:**
A take home final consisting of one or more essays (5-6 pages) on all class readings will be **distributed Thursday, March 12 and due Wednesday, March 18.**

- Attendance, Participation, Quizzes: 20%
- Oral History Project: 25%
- Take Home Midterm: 25%
- Take Home Final: 30%

**Important Deadlines:**
February 10: Midterm Due in class
March 3: Oral History Project Due in class
March 18: Final Due at Noon to TA mailbox in Department of Feminist Studies, South Hall.
Readings:
The Course Reader will be available for purchase at Alternative Copy Shop, 6556 Pardall Road, Isla Vista. 805.968.1055. You can order your reader online at www.alternativecopy.com, username: wmst60, password: miller-young92 (lowercase). A Course Reader will also be available on reserve in Davidson Library. Some readings will be placed on E-Reserve (ERES), including readings from the first week of class, so that students have time to purchase the reader if necessary. ERES course: wome 60, password: talking. Recommended readings may be placed on ERES or on the Course Website (information on the course website coming soon).

Readings are assigned based on weekly themes. Students are expected to come to class having read and taken notes. Lectures may address the readings or broader themes. Students will not understand lectures unless they keep current with the readings and come to class prepared. Powerpoint presentations may be made available as study guides but they are no substitute for attending class.

Films we MAY screen in class:

Girlhood, Dir. Liz Garbus, 2002
The Aggressives, Dir. Daniel Peddle, 2005
Senorita Extraviata, Dir. Lourdes Portillo, 2001
I'm the One that I Want, Margaret Cho, 2001
A Girl Like Me, Dir. Kiri Davis, 2006
Listen Up! New Voices of Reproductive Justice, N'Dieye Gray Danavall, 2004
No! The Rape Documentary Dir. Aishah Shahidah Simmons, 2006

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction to Women of Color Feminisms

Tuesday 1/6: Course Introduction

Thursday 1/8:

• bell hooks, “Talking Back”

• Audre Lorde, “Age, Race, Class, Sex: Women Redefining Difference”

• Audre Lorde, “The Master’s Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master’s House”

• Barbara Christian, “Camouflaging Race and Gender”

• Cherrie Moraga, “La Guera” (Poem)

• Genny Lim, “Wonder Woman” (Poem)

• Recommended: Cherrie Moraga, “From Inside the First World: Forward 2001”
Week 2: **Women of Color Critiques of Capitalism and the State**

**Tuesday 1/13:**
- El Comite de Mujeres Puertorriquenas, “In the Belly of the Beast: Puertorriquenas Challenging Colonialism”
- Combahee River Collective, “A Black Feminist Statement”

**Thursday 1/15:**
- Miriam Ching Yoon Louie, “Mexican Immigrant Women Workers”
- Sonia Sanchez, bluebirdbluebirdthrumywindow (Poem)
- Nellie Wong, “When I Was Growing up” (Poem)

Week 3: **Poverty, Prison, and Stories of Survival**

**Tuesday 1/20:**
- Kaaryn Gustafson, “To Punish the Poor: Criminalizing Trends in the Welfare System”
- Siobhan Brooks, “Black Feminism in Everyday Life: Race, Mental Illness, Poverty and Motherhood”

**Thursday 1/22:**
- Angela Davis, “Excerpts from Angela Davis: An Autobiography”
- Angela Davis, “Masked Racism: Reflections on the Prison Industrial Complex”
- Mie Lewis, “Who Cares for Incarcerated Girls?”

Week 4: **Reproductive Rights**

**Tuesday 1/27:**
• Jael Silliman, Marlene Gerber Fried, Loretta Ross, and Elena R. Gutierrez, “Chapter 1, Women of Color and Their Struggle for Reproductive Justice”

• Shirley Chisolm, “Facing the Abortion Question”

• National Latina Health Organization, “Norplant Information Sheet”

• **Recommended:** *The Reproductive Justice Briefing Book: A Primer on Reproductive Justice and Social Change.* (ERES)

**Thursday 1/29:**

• Judith Scully, “Cracking Open Crack: Unethical Sterilization Movement Gains Momentum”

• Pricilla Huang, “Which Babies Are Real Americans?”

• Patricia Justine Tumang, “Nasaan ka anak ko? A Queer Filipina-American Feminist’s Tale of Abortion and Self-Recovery”

**Week 5: Histories of Sexual Economy and Violence**

**Tuesday 2/3:**

• Hazel Carby, “Slave and Mistress: Ideologies of Womanhood Under Slavery”

**Thursday 2/5:**


• Cherrie Moraga, “ For the Color of My Mother” (Poem)

***Thursday, 2/5: Take Home Midterm Distributed to Students on Weeks 1-5 ***

**Week 6: Understanding Intersectionality**

**Tuesday 2/10: ***Take Home Midterms Due***

• Margaret Abraham, “Sexual Abuse”
Thursday 2/12:

- Peggy McIntosh, “White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Backpack”

Week 7: Questions of Sexual Identity

Tuesday 2/17:

- Yen Le Espiritu, “We Don’t Sleep Around Like White Girls Do’: Family, Culture, and Gender in Filipina American Lives”
- Yolanda Chavez Leyva, “Breaking the Silence: Putting Latina Lesbian History at the Center”

Thursday 2/19:

- Dana Takagi, “Maiden Voyage: Excursion into Sexuality and Identity Politics in Asian America”
- Audre Lorde, “Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power”

Week 8: Representations in the Media

Tuesday 2/24:

- T. Denean Sharpley-Whiting, “Too Hot to Be Bothered: Black Women and Sexual Abuse”

Thursday 2/26:

- Frances Negron-Mutaner, “Jennifer’s Butt: Valorizing the Puerto Rican Racialized Female Body”

Week 9: Sex Work and Sexual Rights
Tuesday 3/3: ***Oral History Project Due in Class***

- Gloria Lockett, “What Happens When You Are Arrested”
- Siobhan Brooks, “Working the Streets: Gloria Lockett’s Story”
- “Dancers At Queens Club Claim Wage Violations” (NYT)

Thursday 3/5:

- Rachel West, “U.S. PROStitutes Collective”
- Mireille Miller-Young, “Hardcore Desire: Black Women Laboring in Porn”
- Mireille Miller-Young, “An Interview with Sasha Brabuster: Pleasures, Dangers, and Good Advice”

Week 10: Frontiers of Women of Color Feminisms

Tuesday 3/10:

- Gloria Anzaldua, “La Conciencia de la Mestiza: Towards a New Consciousness”
- bell hooks, “Sisterhood: Political Solidarity Between Women”
- Sarah Muaddi Darraj, “It’s Not an Oxymoron: The Search for an Arab Feminism”

Thursday 3/12:

- Last Day of Class, Evaluations and Finals Distributed in Class

***Final Due Wednesday March 18 at 12pm.***