Women in Cross-Societal Perspective
Gender and Women's Studies 420

Tuesday and Thursday 1:00-2:15
224 Ingraham Hall
Office hours: Tuesday 2:30-4:30, and by appointment
Office: 5454 Social Science Building
Phone: 262-6347 and 262-2866 (messages)
Email: lepowsky@wisc.edu

Required texts

Shostak, Marjorie

Lepowsky, Maria

Ehrenreich, Barbara, and Arlie Hochschild, eds.

Kelly, Patty

All texts are paperback. They are available at A Room of One's Own Bookstore, 317 West Johnson, just west of State Street, and at University Bookstore, 711 State Street.

Copies of the required texts will be on reserve at the Social Science Reference Library, 8432 Social Science Building, and at Helen C. White Undergraduate Library.

There will be no course reader. Instead, assigned articles and chapters of books will be placed on electronic reserve for this course. You will be able to access and print out this material easily online via MyUW, the Academic tab, then your GWS 420 link to library reserves.

Student Responsibilities

There will be a take-home essay midterm due in class on Tuesday, October 21.
There will also be a take-home essay final, due in my office, 5454 Social Science Building, during our class’s assigned final examination period, Friday, December 19 from 2:25-4:25.

Each student will write a book review, about 3 pages in length, that critically analyzes a book focusing on the study of women, or gender issues in a particular culture. A list of suggested books will be circulated early in the semester so that you can choose one to review. You may
choose a book that is not on the list, but your selection must be approved in advance by the instructor. The book review will be due in class on **Tuesday, October 7**.

(Graduate students, and undergraduate students taking the class for honors credit, will also write a **term paper**, approximately 10-12 pages in length excluding bibliography, on a topic related to the study of women or gender in cultural or cross-cultural perspective. The topic must be approved in advance by the instructor after you have submitted a **one-page outline or summary** plus working bibliography, due **Tuesday, October 7**. The term paper itself is due **Tuesday, December 9**. No late papers will be accepted. A bibliography will be circulated early in the semester to assist you in choosing a paper topic and locating references.)

Beginning in **Week 3**, each student will act as a **team discussion leader** during one class meeting. Students will form teams of 4-5, then take responsibility for stimulating and leading discussions of readings assigned for their chosen week. Team members will carefully read the material ahead of time, discuss it before class with one another, contextualize the material with other class readings or lectures, and jointly draw up a list or page of questions or points for discussion. **The team will email this list of suggested discussion points or questions to the instructor and directly to the class email list by 5 p.m. the day before class.**

Each student in the class is responsible for looking over the discussion points before coming to class. In class, team members will offer brief, informal remarks and then open the floor to class discussions, which they (along with the instructor) will facilitate. Team presentations are intended to promote more in-depth critical reading, individual participation, and dialogue in a class of about forty people, each of whom has something unique to contribute.

Performance of team discussion leaders will be graded on a satisfactory or unsatisfactory basis. After the class discussion, each team member will write a **2-3 page individual essay** reflecting on the team’s analyses of the readings and suggested discussion points and on the in-class discussion. The report will be due in class one week afterwards.

Each student will also be graded on her or his **class participation** over the course of the semester. An attendance sheet will be circulated during each class. **Regular attendance, and active participation in class discussions** plus as part of your **discussion team**, are required. You are expected to keep up with required readings. Read the assignments for each week before class so that you may participate meaningfully in class discussions and better understand lectures. When appropriate, you will be notified ahead of time which of the week’s readings we expect to discuss in class on a given Tuesday or Thursday.

**Classroom etiquette**: So that you will not be a distraction to your classmates or your instructor, and so that you are able to focus on class while in class, **no non-class-related use of the Internet, or of any communication device, is allowed**: no texting, IMing, checking email or voicemail, accessing Facebook, MySpace, YouTube, or other websites, no Googling for non-class purposes. Remember to turn all ringers off before class. Also, **no reading of newspapers or other non-GWS 420 material is permitted** once class has begun at 1 p.m. **Violation of these rules will be counted against your class participation grade**. Please respect your classmates and your instructor by adhering to these standards without having to be reminded in class.

**Grades** will be based on the following:

- Take-home essay midterm 25%
- Book review 10%
- Individual essay on team research and class discussion 10%
- Take-home essay final exam 30%
• Overall class participation, including regular attendance, participation in class discussions, and participation in team research and discussion 25%

In the case of borderline grades, your improvement over the course of the semester will work in your favor.

[For students submitting term papers, your paper will count for approximately 20% of your grade, your midterm and final 20% each, your book review 10%, your individual report on team research 10%, and your overall participation 20%.

If you have questions about a grade, please discuss it with the instructor first.
If the question is not resolved, speak with the Department of Gender and Women's Studies Chair or Associate Chair. One of them will attempt to resolve the issue informally, and will inform you of the Appeals Procedure if no resolution can be reached informally.

Class Schedule

Weeks 1, 2, and 3
September 2, 4; 9, 11; 16, 18


Readings for Week 2, September 9, 11:
Shostak 45-102


Readings for Week 3, September 16, 18:
Shostak 1-43, 345-371

September 16:
Film - N!ai: The Story of a !Kung Woman. [South Africa. 60 minutes]

Week 4
September 23, 25

Gender in egalitarian societies. Definitions and cross-cultural variations. Foragers and horticulturalists in small-scale societies. Matrilineal kinship systems.

September 23:
Film – The Batek of Malaysia [37 minutes]

Readings for Week 4:
Lepowsky vii-xviii, 1-80

Endicott, Kirk, and Karen Endicott

Week 5:
September 30, October 2
Growing up female in cross-cultural perspective. Gender and the life course. Culture, personal autonomy, and social transformations.

September 30
Films - Becoming a Woman in Okrika. [Nigeria. 27 minutes]
Modern Brides. [India. 30 minutes]

Readings for Week 5:
Shostak 105-175
Lepowsky 81-124

Week 6
October 7, 9

October 7:
Book review due - all students. Outline of term paper due (honors and graduate students only)

October 7
Film - Asante Market Women. [Ghana. 52 minutes]

Readings for Week 6:
Ehrenreich and Hochschild 1-54, 85-103
Kelly 1-75


Week 7
October 14, 16

October 14: Take-home midterm questions distributed in class.
Readings for Week 7:
Shostak 177-288
Lepowsky 125-166


Week 8
October 21, 23

October 21: Take-home midterm due in class.

Readings for Week 8:
Lepowsky 167-205

Week 9
October 28, 30

October 28
Film: Given to Dance [Puri, India]

Readings for Week 9:
Lepowsky 206-306
Shostak 291-342


Week 10
November 4, 6

Readings for Week 10:
Johnson, Susan

Williams, Patricia

Faludi, Susan

Weeks 11 and 12
November 11, 13, 18, 20
Feminist perspectives on gender and history (cont.). Analyzing gender and sexuality.

November 20
Film – In the Name of Love [Russia and U.S.] 58 minutes

Readings for Weeks 11 and 12:
Kelly 76-120

Stoler, Ann

Maggi, Wynne

Sinnott, Megan

Weeks 13 and 14
November 25; December 2, 4,
November 27 Thanksgiving


December 2
Global Assembly Line [Mexico, Philippines] 32 minutes.

Readings for Weeks 13 and 14:
Ehrenreich and Hochschild 55-69, 115-141, 154-168, 207-229
Kelly 121-219


Week 15
December 9, 11

Take-home final exam questions distributed in class on Thursday, December 11.

Readings for Week 15:
Ehrenreich and Hochschild 254-274


The final exam is due in my office, 5454 Social Science, during the class’s assigned examination period, Friday, December 19, from 2:25-4:25.

Take-home finals may also be turned in early at the Department of Anthropology office, 5240 Social Science Building. Make a copy of your exam for your own safekeeping, sign the register for students turning in final work, then hand your final to the office staff to be put in my mailbox.