Gender & Colonialism

(310 Special Topics in Women and the Humanities - 3 credits)

Fall 2009
Tuesday and Thursdays, 1:00 to 2:15
223 Ingraham

Professor: Pernille Ipsen
Office: 102E in GWS - Office Hours: Tuesdays 3-4:30
mail: pipsen@wisc.edu - phone: (608) 770-9843

Overview
European perceptions of race and gender have radically shaped European encounters with “other” peoples in Africa, Asia and the Americas during the centuries of European expansion from 1492 to 1900. This course is an introduction to the history of hierarchies of power that followed lines of gender and race in the European colonial expansion. Readings include travel accounts, historical literature and fiction.

Objectives
The course raises awareness of the importance of the concepts of gender, race and colonialism to understand power structures – past and present – that guide the “cultural order of things”.

Prerequisite
An introduction to Gender & Women’s Studies (101, 102 or 103) is required.

Format
The format of the class is writing intensive, with a mix of lecture and discussion. There will be no quizzes or exams, but a number of shorter writing assignments, one longer research paper and class discussions.

Participation
As this is a seminar, active participation is vital. Most weeks I will have you do a short written response to the reading(s) before class, which, along with your participation in class, will account for 25% of your final grade.

Paper Argument and Outline
Monday 11/23 @ 8pm I want an argument for and an outline of your final paper (in word or rtf). We will have a writing workshop and discuss how to do this before it is due. 25% of grade.
Paper draft
Monday 12/7 @ 8pm I want a full draft of your research paper (10 p – excl footnotes and bibliography - in word or rtf). You should consider this the final deadline. The more you have done at this point, the better a text you have to work with when revising. This draft accounts for 25% of your grade.

Final Paper
The final version of your research paper is due no later than Friday 12/18 @ 7:45. 25% of grade.

Contact and deadlines
Email is the best way to contact me - my address is pipsen@wisc.edu. I prefer that you submit written work electronically as a word or rtf document via learn@UW. Except the last deadline for the final paper, all deadlines will be on Monday night @ 8pm.

You may also submit your work to me on paper to my mailbox in the GWS office, in which case the deadline is the Friday before the deadline @ 3pm.

This syllabus is subject to change. Announcements will be made in class. You are responsible for making sure you are up to date on new information.

Readings
A Course Packet is for sale at the Social Science copy center in 6120 Social Science Building.

The 3 novels we are reading are for sale at Room of One's Own Bookstore (307 W. Johnson St. – just of State st.):
Joseph Conrad: Heart of Darkness (1902)
Nella Larsen: Passing (1929)

All the readings are also on reserve at the College Library.

Week 1: Introduction

• Thursday 9/3: Gender & Colonialism: the concepts and the class

Week 2: Gender & Colonialism: hierarchies of difference

• Tuesday 9/8: Margaret Kohn: “Colonialism” + Mari Mikkola: “Feminist Perspectives on Sex and Gender”, Course Packet (CP) p. 1-42.

• Thursday 9/10: Ania Loomba: “Situating colonial and postcolonial studies”, CP p. 43-52.
UNIT 1: Early encounters

Week 3: Attaching to the known

- Thursday 9/17: Hans Staden’s True History, CP p. 73-89.

Week 4: Encountering women I: Discovery and domestication


Week 5: Encountering women II: Exploration and colonization

- Tuesday 9/29: Susan Sleeper-Smith: “[A]n Unpleasant Transaction on This Frontier”: Challenging Female Autonomy and Authority at Michilimackinac” in Journal of the Early Republic 25 (3), 2005, pp. 417-443. Copy passed out in class and posted on learn@UW.
  NB: Robert Young has been moved to Thursday 11/12.

Week 6: Toni Morrison (the unsettled hierarchies)


UNIT 2: Cementing racial hierarchies

Week 7: Racism and slavery

- Thursday 10/15: Reading(s) to be announced.
Week 8: Towards biological race in the Atlantic World


- Thursday 10/22: Walter Johnson: “The Slave Trader, the White Slave, and the Politics of Racial Determination in the 1850s” in *The Journal of American History* 87 (1), 2000, pp. 13-38. I will pass copies out in class and upload it to learn@UW + Magali M. Carrera: “Locating Race in Late Colonial Mexico” in *Art Journal* 57 (3), 1998, pp. 37-45. Uploaded to learn@UW. The color pictures in the article are hard to copy in good enough quality. Please print the text out and take it to class or make many notes for our discussion.

Week 9: Library research + The penetration of Africa

- Tuesday 10/27: Introduction to GWS research resources at the Memorial Library We are meeting Phyllis Holman Weisbard, who is the library’s Women’s Studies Librarian in Room 126, Memorial Library, near the Langdon Street entrance to the building. It is not necessary to enter the library proper (i.e., going through the ID check) to get to this room. You may enter the building during the day from Langdon Street, from the mall entrance opposite the fountain, and from the State Street mall (after entering the building lobby, go through the door to the left of the mural).


Week 10: Writing workshop

- Tuesday 11/3: Planning a library based research paper. Prepare for class by reading the Writing Center's Handbook on how to write research papers on [http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/index.html](http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/index.html) and by writing 50 words about a topic that interests you.

- Thursday 11/5: Arguing and outlining a research paper. Again, use the Writing Center's Handbook to study how to make an argument and outline a paper, and turn your 50 words into a thesis statement about the same topic.

UNIT 3: Gender & Colonialism in the modern world

Week 11: Biological race and pathology

• Thursday 11/12: Robert J. C. Young: “White power, White Desire”, CP p. 119-129 + perhaps another reading to be announced.

Week 12: From porno-tropics to ethnopornography

• Tuesday 11/17: Linda Williams: “Skin Flicks on the Racial Border”, CP p. 261-280. NB: I have switched the two readings for this week!


Week 13: Outlines
DEADLINE: Arguments and Outlines due Monday 11/23 @ 8pm. I will respond to and grade these before our individual meetings about them after the break.

• Tuesday 11/24: NO CLASS.

• Thursday 11/26: NO CLASS. Thanksgiving Break

Week 14: Passing
During this week I want to meet with you individually and talk to you about your outlines. Please set up an appointment with me Tuesday or Thursday 2:30-4:30 or Wednesday 10-1. I will pass a schedule-sign-up sheet around in class when we get closer.

• 12/1: Nella Larsen: Passing.

• 12/3: Audrey Smedley: ““Race” and the Construction of Human Identity” in American Anthropologist 100 (3), 1998, pp. 690-702. Small piece uploaded to learn@UW. Please print it out or take lots of notes for discussion. Perhaps other reading to be announced.

Week 15:
DEADLINE: Drafts of papers due Monday 12/7 @ 8pm

• Tuesday 12/8: Work on papers in class.

• Thursday 12/10: Work on papers in class.

Week 16

• Tuesday 12/15: Individual advise on papers as needed.

DEADLINE: Final Papers Due Friday Dec. 18 @ 7:45AM