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

Tuesday and Thursday 1:00-2:15  
3331 Sterling Hall  
Office hours: Tuesday 2:15-3:15 and by appointment  
Office: Sterling Hall  
Email: warning@wisc.edu

Required Texts


- All texts are paperback. They are available at A Room of One’s Own Bookstore, 315 W. Gorham Street (they moved to this new location July 23), just west of State Street, and online (http://www.roomofonesown.com).
- Copies of the required texts will also be on reserve at the Social Science Reference Library, 8432 Social Science Building.

Required Articles

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 online via MyUW and your GWS 420 link to library reserves. You will also be expected to read and discuss current news articles and other online material on women and gender in cross-cultural perspective that will be distributed electronically during the semester.

Student Responsibilities

1. **Take-home essay midterm** due in class on **Thursday, October 18.**

2. **Take-home essay final** due in our course’s Learn@UW drop-box within our final exam time of **Saturday, December 22, 2012, 7:45a.m. to 9:45a.m.**

3. **Book review,** about 3 pages in length, due in class on **Thursday, October 4.** Please critically analyze a book focusing on the study of women, or on gender issues in a particular culture. A list of suggested books will be circulated early in the semester. You may choose a book not on the list, but your selectihjk must be approved by the end of class on Tuesday, September 18.

4. **[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 Thursday, October 4. The term paper is due Tuesday, December 4. 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.]

5. Beginning Thursday, September 13, each student will act as a team discussion leader during two class meetings. Students will form teams of 3-4, 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 the 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 (supported by the instructor) will facilitate. Team presentations are intended to promote more in-depth critical reading, peer learning, discussion participation, and dialogue.

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 later.

6. Class participation will be graded. An attendance sheet will be circulated during each class. Regular attendance, and active participation in class discussions as part of your discussion team, are required. You are expected to read the assignments for each week before class so that you may participate meaningfully in class discussions and better understand lectures.

Academic Standards and Grading Policy:

This class will adhere strictly to prevailing academic standards, UW regulations, and civil law regarding plagiarism, fair use of other people’s intellectual property, and cheating on class assignments. Please ask if you have any questions about what constitutes fair use or proper behavior. The basic rules are to do your own work, respect the work of others - whether that of a classmate or a published author - and do not attempt to take unfair advantage of your classmates as you complete the assignments for this class. Any suspected violations of academic standards will be promptly investigated. Confirmed offenses will result in a failing grade for the course and will be reported to the Dean of Students Office.

Classroom etiquette: So that you will not be a distraction to your classmates or to 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. This means no texting, Twittering, or checking email, Facebook, YouTube, or any
social network websites. No Googling or online searches for non-class purposes. Remember to turn all your phone/electronic device ringers off before class. Also, no reading of newspapers or other non-GWS 420 material is permitted once class has begun. Violation of these rules will be counted against your class participation grade. Please respect your classmates and your instructor and avoid embarrassment by adhering to these standards of classroom etiquette 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%

[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%.

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

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

September 4, 6


Readings for September 4, 6:
Shostak 41-92

September 11, 13, 18, 20

September 11: Film
N!ai: The Story of a !Kung Woman. [Namibia/South Africa: 59 minutes]

Readings for September 11, 13:
Shostak 1-39, 309-332

Readings for September 18:
Lepowsky vii-xvii, 1-30

September 18: Off-list books for book reports must be approved by today

Readings for September 20:
Lepowsky 31-80

September 25, 27
Growing up female in cross-cultural perspective. Gender and the life course. Culture, personal autonomy, and social transformations.

Readings for September 25:
Shostak 95-157
Lepowsky 81-124

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

October 2, 4

Readings for October 2:
Ehrenreich and Hochschild 1-54, 85-103
October 4: Film
   Asante Market Women. [Ghana. 52 minutes]

October 4: Book review due - all students.
   Outline/abstract of term paper due (honors and graduate students only)

October 9, 11
   Gender ideologies. Sexual meanings. Gender symbolism and gendered values.  

   Readings for October 9:
   Shostak 159-270

   Readings for October 11:
   Lepowsky 125-166

   Ortner, Sherry. “Is Female to Male as Nature is to Culture?” In Woman,  
   Culture, and Society, eds. Michelle Rosaldo and Louise Lamphere, 67-87.  

   Ortner, Sherry. “So, Is Female to Male as Nature is to Culture?” In Making  
   Gender: The Politics and Erotics of Culture, 173-180, 234-235. Boston:  
   Beacon Press, 1996.

October 11: Take-home midterm questions distributed in class.

October 16, 18
   Gender symbolism (cont.). Is male dominance universal? Women, religion, and  
   ceremonial life. Autonomy, choice, and resistance.

   Readings for October 16:
   Lepowsky 167-205

October 18: Film
   In the Light of Reverence: Mt. Shasta. [California. 73 minutes]

October 18: Take-home midterm due in class.

October 23, 25
   Women and men in religion and ritual (cont.). Religion and gender ideologies.  
   Goddesses, shamans, priestesses, healers, witches.

   Readings for October 23:
   Lepowsky 206-306

   Readings for October 25:
   Shostak 270-306

   Magliocco, Sabina. “Making Magic: Training the Imagination.” In Witching  
   Culture: Folklore and Neo-Paganism in America, Chapter 3, 95-121.  
October 30-November 1
Historical perspectives on gender and sexuality. Transformations over time in the intersections of race, sex, class, and ethnicity.

Readings for October 30:

Readings for November 1:

November 6, 8, 13, 15

November 6: Film
Given to Dance. [Puri, India. 57 minutes]

Readings for November 8:


Readings for November 13:


November 15: Film
Maquilapolis (“City of Factories”). [Mexico/US border. 68 minutes]
November 20, 27, 29 [November 22 is Thanksgiving]


Readings for November 27:
Ehrenreich and Hochschild 55-69, 115-141, 154-168, 207-229

Readings for November 29:


December 4, 6, 11, 13


Readings for December 4:
Ehrenreich and Hochschild 254-274

December 4: Term paper due (honors and graduate students only)

Readings for December 6:

Readings for December 11:

Plus current news stories and posts on MeXicana feminist activism and on Ciudad Juarez.

December 11: Take-home final exam questions distributed in class*

Readings for December 13:

Plus current news stories and posts on women’s social activism in the Middle East and elsewhere.

* The final exam is due in our class’s Learn@UW dropbox during the class’s assigned examination period, Saturday, December 22, from 7:45a.m. to 9:45a.m. Make a hard copy of your exam for your own safekeeping.