

sex, power, and politics

course syllabus

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coffee hours: TTh 2:00pm-3:20pm in the UMC

office hours: W 12pm-4pm by appointment
at *professorferguson.youcanbook.me*

psci/wmst 3174

fall 2015

humanities 125

TTh 3:30-4:45pm

class description

*Who makes breakfast, who gets a paycheck, who gets whistled at in the street
– all the experiences of daily life are a part of the distribution of wealth and
power in society.*

– mari matsuda

This course explores how norms of sex, gender, race, and sexuality find expression in institutions and policies in ways that legitimize only certain individuals as political actors, certain identities as politically relevant, certain relationships as important, and certain practices as the means by which one might change political status. We will critically examine how these norms may be exposed, resisted, changed, and often unintentionally reinstated by examining the politics of sex, gender, and sexuality.

reading assignments & course schedule

The following texts are available for purchase at the University Bookstore. All other readings are available online on the course website, and are marked with an asterisk (*) in the course schedule that follows.

Linda Hirshman, *Get to Work*
Ariel Levy, *Female Chauvinist Pigs*
Dorothy Roberts, *Killing the Black Body*

| week | class | date | reading assignment | deadline |
|---|-------|---------|---|------------|
| <i>1. what is gender? what is sex? politicizing gender, sex, and sexuality</i> | | | | |
| 1 | 1 | T 8/25 | Introduction to the Course | |
| | 2 | Th 8/27 | *Judith Lorber, "Night to His Day": The Social Construction of Gender" *Nancy Tuana, "The Speculum of Ignorance: The Women's Health Movement and Epistemologies of Ignorance" | quiz 1 |
| 2 | 3 | T 9/1 | *Emily Martin, "The Egg & the Sperm: How Science Has Constructed a Romance Based on Stereotypical Male-Female Roles" *Natalie Angier, "The Mosaic Imagination: Understanding the 'Female' Chromosome" *Ira Glass, "220: Testosterone," <i>This American Life</i> (radio show) | homework 1 |
| | 4 | Th 9/3 | *Anne Fausto Sterling, "The Five Sexes" and "The Five Sexes, Revisited" *Kathie Sarachild, "Consciousness-Raising: A Radical Weapon" *Cape Cod Women's Liberation, "Getting Together: How to Start a Consciousness-Raising Group" *The Chicago Women's Liberation Union, "How to Start Your Own Consciousness-Raising Group" | quiz 2 |
| 3 | 5 | T 9/8 | *Hanna Rosin, "A Boy's Life" *NPR, "Two Families Grapple with Sons' Gender Identity" (radio show) | homework 2 |
| | 6 | Th 9/10 | *Kate Bornstein, <i>My (New) Gender Workbook</i> , chapters 1 and 4 *NCTE, "Transgender Terminology" *GLAAD, "Understanding Issues Facing Transgender Americans" | quiz 3 |

| | | | *T Cooper, "Don't Be a Jerk About Gender Pronouns" | |
|---|-------|---------|---|------------|
| week | class | date | reading assignment | deadline |
| II. masculinity, homophobia, and violence: the making of men | | | | |
| 4 | 7 | T 9/15 | *C.J. Pascoe, "Making Masculinity: Adolescence, Identity, and High School" and "Becoming Mr. Cougar: Institutionalizing Heterosexuality and Masculinity at River High" | homework 3 |
| | 8 | Th 9/17 | *C.J. Pascoe, "Dude You're a Fag: Adolescent Male Homophobia" *Michael Kimmel, "Masculinity as Homophobia" *Michael Kimmel, <i>Guyland</i> Ch. 3 | quiz 4 |
| 5 | 9 | T 9/22 | *Michael Kimmel, <i>Guyland</i> Ch. 5 *A. Ayres Boswell and Joan Z. Spade, "Fraternities and Collegiate Rape Culture: Why are Some Fraternities More Dangerous Places for Women?" *Sharon Marcus, "Fighting Bodies, Fighting Words: A Theory and Politics of Rape Prevention" | homework 4 |
| | 10 | Th 9/24 | *Aaron Belkin, "Spam Filter: Gay Rights and the Normalization of Male-Male Rape in the US Military" *Tim Kaufman-Osborn, "Gender Trouble at Abu Ghraib" | quiz 5 |
| | | F 9/25 | Gender Fieldwork Essay due by 5pm | |
| III. the politics of marriage: heterosexuality, respectability, and the gendered division of labor | | | | |
| 6 | 11 | T 9/29 | *Adrienne Rich, "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence" | homework 5 |
| | 12 | Th 10/1 | *Susan Okin, "Vulnerability by Marriage" | quiz 6 |

| week | class | date | reading assignment | deadline |
|--|-------|----------|--|------------|
| 7 | 13 | T 10/6 | *Iris Young, "Reflections on Marriage in the Age of Murphy Brown" *Lori Marso, "Marriage and Bourgeois Respectability" | homework 6 |
| | 14 | Th 10/8 | *Michelle Marzullo, "Through a Glass, Darkly: US Marriage Discourse and Neoliberalism" | quiz 7 |
| 8 | 15 | T 10/13 | Linda Hirshman, <i>Get to Work</i> | homework 7 |
| | 16 | Th 10/15 | *Anne Marie Slaughter, "Why Women Still Can't Have It All" *Linda Hirshman, "The 'Having It All' Crisis Isn't About Women, It's About the 1%" *Sheryl Sandberg, "Don't Leave Before You Leave" and "Make Your Partner a Real Partner" | quiz 8 |
| | | F 10/9 | First Political Action complete by 5pm | |
| IV. abortion, choice, and reproductive freedom: freedom for whom? | | | | |
| 9 | 17 | T 10/20 | *Eileen McDonogh, <i>Breaking the Abortion Deadlock</i> , Chs. 2 & 4 | homework 8 |
| | 18 | Th 10/22 | *Emily Bazelon, "The New Abortion Providers" *Richard Florida, "The Geography of Abortion" and "The Economic Geography of America's Abortion Wars" *Linda Greenhouse, "High Court, 5-4, Affirms Right to Abortion But Allows Most of Pennsylvania's Limits," "Justices Back Ban on Method of Abortion," "A Right Like Any Other," "A Religion Case Too Far For the Supreme Court?" | quiz 9 |
| 10 | 19 | T 10/27 | Dorothy Roberts, <i>Killing the Black Body</i> , Introduction and Ch. 1 | homework 9 |
| | 20 | Th 10/29 | Dorothy Roberts, <i>Killing the Black Body</i> , Chs. 4 and 7 | quiz 10 |

| week | class | date | reading assignment | deadline |
|--|-------|-------------|--|-------------|
| V. sex, desire, shame, liberation, and politics | | | | |
| 11 | 21 | T 11/3 | *Gayle Rubin, "Thinking Sex" | homework 19 |
| | 22 | Th 11/5 | *Gayle Rubin, "Thinking Sex" | quiz 11 |
| 12 | 23 | T 11/10 | *Michael Warner, "The Ethics of Sexual Shame" | homework 11 |
| | 24 | Th 11/12 | *Margot Weiss, "Gay Shame and BDSM Pride: Neoliberalism, Privacy, and Sexual Politics" *Timothy Stewart Winter, "The Price of Gay Marriage" *Jodi Kantor, "Gay Culture's Outsider Element Fades as Marriage Rights Arrive" | quiz 12 |
| | | F 11/13 | Second Political Action complete by 5pm | |
| 13 | 25 | T 11/17 | *Michael Ferguson, "Choice Feminism and the Fear of Politics" | homework 12 |
| | 26 | Th 11/19 | *Claire Snyder-Hall, "Third-Wave Feminism and the Defense of 'Choice'" | quiz 13 |
| -Thanksgiving Break Nov 23-27- | | | | |
| 14 | 27 | T 12/1 | Ariel Levy, <i>Female Chauvinist Pigs</i> , Introduction, Chs. 1-2 | homework 13 |
| | 28 | Th 12/3 | Ariel Levy, <i>Female Chauvinist Pigs</i> , Chs. 3-4 | quiz 14 |
| | | F 12/4 | CR Group Paper due by 5pm | |
| 15 | 29 | T 12/8 | Ariel Levy, <i>Female Chauvinist Pigs</i> , Chs. 5-6, Conclusion, and Afterword | homework 14 |

| week | class | date | reading assignment | deadline |
|---------------------------|--------------|-------------|---|-----------------|
| | 30 | Th 12/10 | *Nancy Bauer, "Lady Power" *Jessica Valenti, "Lady Gaga: A New Feminist Role Model" *Lady Gaga and Beyoncé, "Telephone" video *Michaele Ferguson, "Choice Feminism's Honey Trap" | quiz 15 |
| <i>finals week</i> | | | | |
| 16 | | T 12/16 | Final Exam due by 5pm | |
| | | W 12/17 | Reflective Essay due by 5pm | |