

## **GENDER, RACE, CLASS: FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES**

Professor Wini Breines  
Sociology G 248

533 Holmes; 373 3857  
Spring 2005

### **REQUIRED BOOKS:**

Carolyn Steedman	<u>Landscape for a Good Woman</u>
Ann DuCille	<u>Skin Trade*</u>
Mary Romero	<u>Maid in the U.S.A.</u>
Jamaica Kincaid	<u>A Small Place</u>
Julie Bettie	<u>Women Without Class: Girls, Race, and Identity</u>

\* This book is out of print. You will be able to purchase a photocopy.

\*\* An **X** after a reading selection indicates that it is photocopied.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course considers literature that explores the intersection of gender, race, and class in social life, particularly in the lives of women. An interdisciplinary approach focuses on the socially constructed nature of these concepts, how they shape women's lives and create meaning. Difference, with an emphasis on inequality and divergent life chances and experience, has become a central category for understanding our society. The course examines feminists' struggles to define "woman" and gender, understand race, and grapple with issues of solidarity that are raised by the recognition of differences among women. We are also interested in how to study gender, race, and class. What does utilizing these categories, and their intersection mean for our research methods, approaches, and topics?

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Attendance and participation. Both are necessary if a seminar is to be successful.
2. Keeping up with the reading. To encourage engaged reading and to foster lively, productive discussions, **each week you must prepare comments or questions about the sessions' reading.** They must be one or two pages, typed, double-spaced, and turned in at the end of class.
3. Seminar facilitators. **Each student must facilitate one seminar discussion.** You should distribute written questions and comments to the class to structure the discussion. The facilitator will have help from other students who will be prepared with their own comments and questions. The idea is to inspire lively, challenging discussion. Facilitators should summarize the material and then raise issues, themes, questions, or reflections on the reading's implications for thinking about race, class and gender, for work of your own, for social change, or for whatever seems pertinent to your intellectual concerns.
4. A paper developed in close consultation with me. **A five page proposal, four pages (double-spaced) with a one-page relevant bibliography is due on March 7. On March 7**

**each student is required to make a short oral presentation of their paper project.** The goal is to get feedback and suggestions from other seminar members. **At the end of the semester, a second short oral presentation of your paper will be scheduled.** The final paper should be 15 to 20 pages in length, with a bibliography, double spaced, and stapled. **It is due by April 15, 2005.**

**COURSE OUTLINE:**

**ORGANIZATION AND INTRODUCTIONS** January 10

**WHITE** January 24

Carolyn Steedman, Landscape for a Good Woman

**BLACK** January 30

Ann DuCille, Skin Trade

**CHICANA**

Mary Romero, Maid in the U.S.A. February 7

Julie Bettie, Women without Class February 14 and 21

**GENDER, RACE, CLASS: OVERVIEWS** March 7

**Oral presentations of paper topics**

Margaret Anderson and Patricia Hill Collins, "Shifting the Center and Reconstructing Knowledge" X

Rose M. Brewer, "Sociology and Disciplinary Transformation" X

Diana Kendall, "A New Look at Race, Class and Gender" X

Tessie Liu, "Teaching the Differences Among Women from a Historical Perspective: Rethinking Race and Gender as Social Categories" X

Peggy McIntosh, "White Privilege and Male Privilege" X

Lynn S. Chancer, "Unholy Trinity" X

**CARIBBEAN** March 14

Jamaica Kincaid, A Small Place  
June Jordan, "Report from the Bahamas" X  
Louise M. Meriwether, "A Happening in Barbados" X

**WHITENESS IN THE U.S.A.**

March 21

Marilyn Frye, "On Being White: Thinking Toward a Feminist Understanding of Race and Race Supremacy" X  
George Lipsitz, "The Possessive Investment in Whiteness: Racialized Social Democracy and the "White" Problem in American Studies" X  
Eric Lott, "White Like Me: Racial Cross-Dressing and the Construction of American Whiteness" X  
France Winddance Twine, "Brown-Skinned White Girls: Class, Culture, and the Construction of White Identity in Suburban Communities" X  
Recommended: Abby L. Ferber, White Man Falling: Race, Gender, and White Supremacy;  
Dalton Conley, Honky

**"DIFFERENCE" IN SECOND WAVE AMERICAN FEMINISM**

**A/ IDENTITY POLITICS**

March 28

Minnie Bruce Pratt, "Identity: Skin Blood Heart" X  
Ellen Maslow, "Storybook Lives: Growing Up Middle Class" X  
Debby D'Amico, "To My White Working Class Sisters" X  
Mabel Hobson, "Freedom is Something That All of Us Need" X  
Frances M. Beal, "Double Jeopardy: To Be Black and Female" X  
Elizabeth Sutherland, "Colonized Women: The Chicana" X  
Enriqueta Longauey y Vasquez, "The Mexican American Woman" X  
"Combahee River Collective: A Black Feminist Statement" X  
bell hooks, "Reflections of Race and Sex" X

**Oral presentation of topics/ papers, last two weeks**

**B/ REFLECTIONS, ACCOUNTS, STRUGGLES, I**

April 4

Lorraine Bethel, "What Chou Mean *We*, White Girl?" X  
Priscilla Long, "We Called Ourselves Sisters" X  
Barbara Omolade, "Sisterhood in Black and White" X  
Sherna Berger Gluck, "Whose Feminism, Whose History? Reflections on Excavating the History of (the) U.S. Women's Movement" X  
Breines, "What's Love Got to Do with It?" X

**C/ THEORY, ACCOUNTS, STRUGGLES, II**

April 11

Susan Stanford Friedman, "Beyond White and Other: Relationality and Narratives of Race in

Feminist Discourse” X

Aida Hurtado, “Relating to Privilege: Seduction and Rejection in the Subordination of White Women and Women of Color” X

Elsa Barkley Brown, “”What Has Happened Here”: The Politics of Difference in Women’s History and Feminist Politics” X

Nancy A. Hewitt, “Compounding Differences” X

Nancy A. Naples, “Women’s Community Activism: Exploring the Dynamics of Politicization and Diversity” X

Ellen K. Scott, “Creating Partnerships for Change: Alliances and Betrayals in the Racial Politics of Two Feminist Organizations” X