

GENDERED GEOGRAPHIES (U/G)

Spring 2011

Monday and Wednesday 9:30-10:45am
Bolton 487 (or 410 seminar room when available)

Professor Anna Mansson McGinty
Geography and Women's Studies

Office: Bolton 478 (Dept of Geography)
Office Hours: M & W 11:00-12:00 or by appointment

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Course Description

How do women's and men's experiences of place and space differ from one another, and why? How do some spaces become associated with women and others with men? What are "gender politics" and how do they affect our lives? How are gender politics produced and reproduced through spaces such as the body, home, work, cities, and nation states? And, how do phenomena such as colonization, migration, and globalization affect gender and gender relations?

These are some of the questions that our class will explore by drawing on the theories of feminist scholars. Feminist scholarship examines how the social construction of gender, race, ethnicity, nationality, sexuality, age, and class shapes the conditions and experiences of men and women in diverse geographical contexts. Feminist geographers in particular have contributed greatly to the understanding of how and why various spaces and practices become gendered. By applying the critiques of feminism and focusing on the lived experiences of individuals, feminist geographers seek to understand the construction of gender division and gender identity in connection to various geographies and spaces. The class will begin by discussing the concepts of gender and place and space. We will then look at the politics and social practices that shape maybe the most personal and intimate space of all, our bodies, discussing what it means to be gendered "male" or "female" within our society. From there, we will explore the dichotomy of private/public along with how various "natural" spaces and categories gain meaning in our everyday lives and experiences.

This seminar emphasizes critical analysis, oral and written argument, and active student participation including invitation for us to reflect upon our own gendered life experiences. Besides textbooks and articles, we will use documentaries, films, newspaper articles, and other media to discuss these issues. Throughout the semester we will read Azar Nafisi's novel *Reading Lolita in Tebran*. The novel, which explores the lives of women in post-revolutionary Iran, touches upon course topics such as identity and gender, women and nationalism, public/private space, and gender and war. This novel relates to another theme of the class—the *hijab*, public piety, Islamism, and democracy in the Middle East. In addition, the class offers the students an opportunity to conduct a "mini fieldwork," which will center on observation of a specific space.

Course Requirements:

Attendance, Participation, and Facilitation: 20%

Your attendance and participation are salient. More than two absences will result in a lowered grade. If you miss more than two classes, your attendance grade will be downgraded by one point/missed class (for example from A to A-, from A- to B+, from B+ to B etc.). In case of sickness and other emergencies, please provide me with a doctor's note. All students are expected to have read the literature before coming to the class and for some classes one student will be assigned to lead the discussion together with me. This **facilitator** should be able to discuss the main arguments in the readings and prepare some central questions for the class. The rest of the class should **bring at least one question or problem-based discussion point concerning the reading to each class.**

In-class Response Papers: 15%

In these response papers you will be asked to reflect critically on the main arguments and ideas in the readings. No make-up papers or extra credit work will be offered.

Three Essays: 20% each, total 60%

Students will write three 4-6 page essays analyzing assigned readings and films. For your second essay you should conduct a "mini-fieldwork," implying observation or participant observation of a specific place (i.e. public space, workplace, or "private" place) and an analysis of your observation departing from relevant class readings and discussion. You will receive instructions for each essay at least two weeks prior to due date. Papers should be submitted on time. Late work will be graded down by one point /day after the due date.

Graduate Students: Graduate students need to choose the topic for their substantial research paper early on in the semester. You are supposed to do research for this paper throughout the semester, and to ensure you are on the right track you will be required to schedule at least three meetings with me outside class time to discuss the progress of your research. The paper should be approximately 25 pages long.

Oral presentation: 5%

During the last week of classes, students will make an individual presentation to the class on what they learned from their "mini fieldwork" drawing on class readings and discussions.

Course policies:

Only medical or legal emergencies and university sponsored activities are legitimate absences, all of which need written documentation. All assignments must be handed in by the date stated in class or in the syllabus. **Extensions will only be granted for emergency situations and must be arranged prior to the due date.** Late assignments will be downgraded by one point/day (for example from A to A-, from A- to B+, from B+ to B etc.).

Academic Misconduct

Make sure you properly cite all sources used in a written assignment. **Plagiarism** is a serious violation of academic integrity and will be prosecuted in accordance with university policies and procedures as set out in UWS Chapter 14 and UWM Faculty Document #1686. The standard penalty for plagiarism in this course will be a failing grade in the course and a written report to be placed in your file.

Disability Information

If you will need accommodations in order to meet any of the requirements of this course, please contact me as soon as possible. If you have not already done so, you should also contact the Student Accessibility Center at 229-6287.

Accommodation for Religious Observances

Students will be allowed to complete assignments that are missed because of a religious observance.

For further information on university policies, refer to
<http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf>

Readings: (Books are available at our local, independent co-op bookstore *People's Books*)

Domosh, Mona and Joni Seager. 2001. *Putting Women in Place: Feminist Geographers Make Sense of the World*. New York: Guilford. (Price: Co-op: 24.30-25.65)

Nafisi, Afzar. 2003. *Reading Lolita in Tebran. A Memoir in Books*. New York: Random House Trade. (Price: Co-op: 13.50, Used: 11.25)

Wright, Melissa. 2006. *Disposable Women and Other Myths of Global Capitalism*. New York: Routledge. (Price: Co-op: 35.96-37.95, Used: 29.96)

Coursepack (available on e-reserve)*

Abu-Lughod, Lila. 2002. "Do Muslim women really need saving? Anthropological reflections on cultural relativism and its others." *American Anthropologist*, 104(3): 783-790.

Bhimji, Fazila. 2009. Identities and agency in religious spheres: a study of British Muslim women's experience. In *Gender, Place and Culture*, Vol. 16(4): 365-380.

Bell, David and Gill Valentine (eds.). 1995. *Mapping Desire: Geographies of Sexualities*. London and New York: Routledge. **Chapter 6 and 7**

Bondi, Liz. 1998. "Gender, Class and Urban Space: Public and Private Space in Contemporary Urban Landscape" *Urban Geography*, 19:160-85.

Butler, Judith. 2000. "Performative Acts and Gender Constitution: An Essay in Phenomenology and Feminist Theory," In *Performing Feminisms* (270-82).

- Day, Kristin. 2001. "Constructing Masculinity and Women's Fear in Public Space in Irvine, California," *Gender, Place, and Culture*, 8:109-127.
- Deeb, Lara. 2005. "Doing good, like Sayyida Zaynab": Lebanese Shi'i women's participation in the public sphere." In: *Religion, social practice, and contested hegemonies: Reconstructing the public sphere in Muslim majority societies*, ed. A. Salvatore and M. LeVine, 85-108. New York: Palgrave.
- Delphy, Christine. 2003. "Rethinking Sex and Gender" In: *Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives*, eds. Carole R. McCann and Seung-Kyung Kim, 50–6. New York: Routledge.
- Dwyer, Clair. 1999. "Veiled Meanings: British Muslim Women and the Negotiation of Difference," *Gender, Place and Culture: A Journal of Feminist Geography*. 6(1):5-26.
- Dwyer, Clair. 2003 'Where are you from?': Young British Muslim women and the making of 'home' In *Postcolonial Geographies*, eds. Alison Blunt & Cheryl McEwan. 184-199.
- Enloe, Cynthia. 1989. "Nationalism and Masculinity" In *Bananas, Beaches and Bases. Making Feminist Sense of International Politics*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press.
- Falah, Ghazi-Walid. 2005. "The Visual Representation of Muslim/ Arab Women in Daily Newspapers in the United States" In *Geographies of Muslim Women: Gender, Religion, and Space*. The Guilford Press: New York.
- Fausto-Sterling, Anne. 2000. *Sexing the Body: Gender Politics and the Construction of Sexuality*. New York: Basic Books. **Chapter 1, 2, 4, and 9**
- Gökariksel, Banu. 2007. Feminist Geography of Veiling: Gender, Class and Religion in the Making of Modern Spaces and Subjects in Istanbul, in *Women, Religion, and Space*, Karen Morin and Jeanne Kay Guelke eds. pp. 61-80. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press.
- Gökariksel, Banu and Anna J Secor. 2009. New transnational geographies of Islamism, capitalism and subjectivity: the veiling-fashion industry in Turkey. *Area* 41 (1): 6-18
- hooks, bell. 2003 (1984). "Feminism: A Movement to End Sexist Oppression." In *Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives*, eds. Carole R. McCann and Seung-Kyung Kim, 50–6. New York: Routledge.
- hooks, bell. 1989 "Feminism: A Transformational Politic" In *Talking Back: Thinking Feminism, Thinking Black*. South End Press.
- Hopkins, Peter. 2007. "Young Muslim men's experiences of local landscapes after 11 September 2001" In *Geographies of Muslim Identities. Diaspora, Gender, and Belonging*. Ashgate.
- Lewis, Reina. 2007. *Veils and Sales: Muslims and the spaces of postcolonial fashion retail. Fashion Theory, The Journal of Body, Dress and Culture*, 11 (4). 423-441 .

Mansson McGinty, Anna. 2007. Formation of alternative femininities through Islam: Feminist approaches among Muslim converts in Sweden. *Women's Studies International Forum* Vol. 30/6 pp 474-485.

McDowell, Linda 1999 *Gender, Identity and Place*. Minneapolis: Minnesota University Press. **Chapter 1 and 2**

Rich, Adrienne. 2007 (1984). "Notes Toward a Politics of Location" In: *The Essential Feminist Reader*. New York: Modern Library.

Secor, Anna. 2002. The Veil and Urban Space in Istanbul: women's dress, mobility and Islamic knowledge. *Gender, Place and Culture* 9 (1): 5-22.

Secor, Anna. 2007. Islamism, Democracy, and the Political Production of the Headscarf issue in Turkey. In: *Geographies of Muslim Women. Gender, Religion, and Space* (eds.) Ghazi-Walid Falah and Caroline Nagel. New York and London: Guilford Press.

Veness A R, 1992, "Home and homelessness in the United States: changing ideals and realities" *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 10(4): 445 – 468

CLASS SCHEDULE

<u>Week One</u>	POLITICS OF LOCATION & FEMINISM
January 24	Introduction
January 26	"Politics of Location" Adrienne Rich* "Feminism: A Movement to End Sexist Oppression" and "Feminism: A Transformational Politic,"bell hooks *
<u>Week Two</u>	FEMINISM & GENDERED PLACES
January 31	"Introduction: Place and Gender" Linda McDowell* "In and Out of Place. Bodies and Embodiment" Linda McDowell*
February 2	Joan Scott* and Hanson and Monk*
<u>Week Three</u>	SEX AND GENDER
February 7	"Performative Acts and Gender Constitution" Judith Butler* ("Rethinking Sex and Gender" Christine Delphy*) <u>FACILITATOR:</u>
February 9	"Dueling Dualisms" and "That Sexe Which Prevaileth" Anne Fausto-Sterling* <u>FACILITATOR:</u>

<p><u>Week Four</u></p> <p>February 14</p> <p>February 16</p>	<p>BODY AND SEXUALITY</p> <p>“Should There Be Only Two Sexes?” and “Gender Systems” Anne Fausto-Sterling*</p> <p><u>FACILITATOR:</u> _____</p> <p>Documentary: XXXY</p>
<p><u>Week Five</u></p> <p>February 21</p> <p>February 23</p>	<p>GENDERING THE “HOME” – DOMESTIC SPACE</p> <p>PWP, Preface and Chapter 1 (Documentary <i>Freedom Bags</i>)</p> <p>“Home and Homelessness in the United States” April Venness* “Wherever I Lay My Girlfriend, That’s My Home. The Performance and surveillance of Lesbian Identities in Domestic Environments” Lynda Johnston and Gill Valentine*</p> <p><u>FACILITATOR:</u> _____</p> <p><u>FIRST ESSAY DUE IN CLASS!</u></p>
<p><u>Week Six</u></p> <p>February 28</p> <p>March 2</p>	<p>CONT. THE HOME, THE CITY</p> <p>Discuss <i>Reading Lolita</i>, Part I</p> <p>The City, Chapter 3, PWP</p> <p><u>FACILITATOR:</u> _____</p>
<p><u>Week Seven</u></p> <p>March 7</p> <p>March 9</p>	<p>GENDERED PLACES, URBAN SPACES</p> <p>“Gender, Class and Urban Space” Liz Bondi* “Constructing Masculinity and Women’s Fear in Public Space in Irvine, California” Kristin Day*</p> <p>Documentary: Parts of <i>Flag Wars</i></p>
<p><u>Week Eight</u></p> <p>March 14</p> <p>March 16</p>	<p>GENDERING WORK</p> <p>Women at Work, Chapter 2, PWP “Body Work. Heterosexual gender performances in City Workplaces” Linda McDowell*</p> <p>Discuss <i>Reading Lolita in Tehran</i> Part II</p>
<p><u>Week Nine</u></p>	<p>SPRING BREAK!</p>

<p><u>Week Ten</u></p> <p>March 28</p> <p>March 30</p>	<p>GENDER, NATIONALISM, AND COLONIALISM</p> <p>Chapter 5, PWP Enloe, Nationalism and Masculinity*</p> <p>Discuss <i>Reading Lolita in Tebran</i> Part III</p>
<p><u>Week Eleven</u></p> <p>April 4</p> <p>April 6</p>	<p>MUSLIM IDENTITIES AND SPACES, AND THE HIJAB CITIZENSHIP, DEMOCRACY, AND ISLAMISM</p> <p>“Do Muslim Women Need Saving?” Lila Abu-Lughod* Falah*</p> <p><u>SECOND ESSAY DUE IN CLASS!</u></p> <p>Gökarıksel,* Gökarıksel and Secor*</p>
<p><u>Week Twelve</u></p> <p>April 11</p> <p>April 13</p>	<p>TURKEY AND LEBANON</p> <p>Anna Secor* (Both articles!)</p> <p><u>FACILITATOR:</u> _____</p> <p>Lara Deeb*</p> <p><u>FACILITATOR:</u> _____</p>
<p><u>Week Thirteen</u></p> <p>April 18</p> <p>April 20</p>	<p>MUSLIM SPACES AND IDENTITIES IN THE WEST</p> <p>Two articles by Claire Dwyer*</p> <p>“Formation of alternative femininities through Islam,” Mansson McGinty* Veils and Sales, Reina Lewis*</p>
<p><u>Week Fourteen</u></p> <p>April 25</p> <p>April 27</p>	<p>GLOBALIZATION, GLOBAL ECONOMY, AND “THE THIRD WORLD WOMAN”</p> <p><i>Disposable Women and Other Myths of Global Capitalism</i>, Ch. 1, 2, & 3</p> <p><u>FACILITATOR:</u> _____</p> <p><i>Disposable Women</i>, Ch. 4 and 5</p> <p><u>FACILITATOR:</u> _____</p>
<p><u>Week Fifteen</u></p> <p>May 2</p> <p>May 4</p>	<p><i>Disposable Women</i>, Ch. 5 & 6</p> <p>Discuss <i>Reading Lolita in Tebran</i> Part IV</p>

<u>Week Sixteen</u>	
May 9	Oral presentations
May 11	Oral presentations

THIRD ESSAY DUE IN MY MAILBOX MONDAY, MAY 16, IN BOLTON HALL 410.



