

FMST 1 – Summer Session 1, 2014

Feminist Studies: An Introduction

Professor Neda Atanasoski

Office: 337 Humanities I

Mailbox: 315 Humanities I (Feminist Studies Office)

Email: atanasoski@ucsc.edu

Office Hours: Monday 8:30-9 and 12:30-1, and by appointment

Course Meets: M/W 9-12:30

Location: Humanities 1, Room 320

Course Description

How have power and difference shaped the way society is organized? How have power and difference shaped our individual sense of self and our personal circumstances? This course introduces students to conceptual and discursive tools that help us understand the world around us. We will interrogate how gender/sexuality operate as organizing principles of society (differently in different contexts, with and through other categories of difference like race, ethnicity, citizenship, ability). The course interrogates the mutually constitutive ways institutions and ideologies are legitimated, as well as how institutions and ideologies help shape individual and collective identities.

Required Texts

Books

Octavia Butler, *Kindred*

France Winddance Twine, *Outsourcing the Womb*

Angela Davis, *Abolition Democracy*

Rebecca Skloot, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*

All books are available at the Literary Guillotine, 204 Locust St.

Phone: 831-457-1195.

Articles – To be posted on the e-commons site for the course (please print out articles and bring them to class)

There is an e-commons site for this class, which you must check regularly for announcements, assignments, and any additional materials I post throughout the quarter. You can access this information online:

<https://ecommons.ucsc.edu/xsl-portal>

The site will provide you with a link to the course and instructions for logging in.

Course Requirements and Evaluation Guidelines

Attendance and Participation 20%

Participation: Since this is a small course, and will be run like a seminar, the success of the class depends on your active participation. I expect you to come to class having read and thought about *all* of the materials. This means being ready for discussion every time.

Attendance: You are required to attend class, but you may miss up to one meeting – excused, or unexcused – without penalty. After this, your overall grade for the course will drop by one grade increment (ex. If you have otherwise earned an A in the course, you will receive an A-, etc.). If you miss a meeting, it is your responsibility to inform yourself of any assignments/handouts/ changes to the syllabus you will have missed. I have noted the major handouts and sign-up dates on the schedule.

Reading Reflections 40%

You will need to turn in three 2-3 page (12 point font, Times New Roman, double spaced) reflection papers throughout the session. I will post specific questions one week prior to the deadline on the ecommons site. Your reflections must directly respond to the question posed, and they must demonstrate that you have read, thought about, and thoroughly engaged with the readings to which the questions pertain.

Group Presentation and Paper 40% (20% in class presentation, 20% final paper)

Each student will be responsible for participating in one group presentation. This presentation will require outside research, and will ask you to bring in materials (either current events or other topical materials) pertaining to the readings we are discussing that day. You will then write your own, individual final paper based on this material.

A separate handout that will be distributed on Weds., June 26th, will give you further details on this assignment. Prior to this, be sure to glance at the syllabus to identify 2-3 readings/topics that you would be interested in researching further.

Course Policies

All electronic devices, including computers, must be turned off during class time unless prior permission is given or unless used for a specific in-class assignment – no texting during class, please. Remember to always be respectful of others, to arrive on time, and to not talk during class-time or film screenings.

Note that this means you must print out articles from the ecommons site and bring them to class for our discussion. If you are presenting, you may bring your computer to project images and PowerPoint.

Assignment Deadlines: unless you have a valid excuse verified by appropriate official documentation, a drop in one letter grade will penalize late assignments each day that the assignment is past due. Quizzes cannot be rescheduled. I will not accept electronic

submissions. Make sure to save your work frequently and in multiple formats to ensure that you do not lose your work.

Email: Feel free to email me if you wish to schedule an appointment or to ask brief questions. Please allow at least 24hrs for me to respond to your message. In order to discuss lengthier questions about quizzes, midterms, as well as your ideas for the response papers, please stop by my office hours or arrange an appointment with me. *I will not read drafts of written work or discuss grades by email.*

Problems/Concerns: I encourage you to inform me about any special circumstances that will affect your participation in the course. I am committed to helping you benefit from the lectures and assignments in any way that I can. In addition to speaking with me, if you have a physical, psychological, medical or learning disability that may impact your course work, please contact Disability Resource Center, 146 Hahn Student Services, (831) 459-2089, drc@ucsc.edu. They will determine with you what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential. For procedures and information go to the following web site:

http://www2.ucsc.edu/drc/current_students/

Plagiarism: The University does not tolerate plagiarism or any form of cheating during in-class exams (see <http://nettrail.ucsc.edu/> - Section XI, Info Ethics). Be aware that plagiarism is academic theft. Never use an author's words/ideas without giving the author proper credit through citation. You must cite your sources not only for direct quotations, but also for paraphrasing and summarizing another work in your own words, as well as for information or knowledge that is not considered to be common knowledge. Please refer to the University policy on academic honesty for more information.

*Style guides such as the MLA guide for proper citation methods are available through the UCSC Library's Citation Style Guides:

<http://library.ucsc.edu/science/instruction/CitingSources.pdf>

<http://library.ucsc.edu/science/sciref.html>

http://library.ucsc.edu/ref/howto/mla_citations.html

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1 – Imagined Origins, Imagined Communities: Sex, Race, and the Nation

6/23 Monday

- * Introduction to the course
- * *Read in class*: Andrea Smith, “Indigenous Feminism Without Apology”

6/25 Wednesday

- * *Read*:
- *Kindred* (through pg. 108, “The Fight”)
- * *Assign Groups for presentations*

Week 2 – Labor

6/30 Monday

- * *Read*:
- *Kindred* – to the end
- France Winddance Twine, *Outsourcing the Womb*
- * *Screen in class*: *Made in India* (film)

DUE: Reading Reflection #1 on *Kindred*

7/2 Wednesday

- * *Read*:
- Lisa Lowe – “Work, Immigration, Gender” (ecommons)
- * *Screen in class*: *Life and Debt*

Week 3 – Science and Technology

7/7 Monday

- * *Read*:
- Skloot, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* (selections)
- “An Open Letter” <http://itsbrowntown.blogspot.com/2012/08/an-open-letter-to-those-colleges-and.html>
- Dorothy Roberts, “Medical Stereotyping” (ecommons)
- Andrea Smith “ ‘Natural Laboratories’: Medical Experimentation in Native Communities”
- * *Student Presentation #1*

DUE: Reading Reflection #2 on *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*

7/9 Wednesday

- * *Read*:
- Reardon and Tallbear “Your DNA is Our History” (ecommons)
- Dorothy Roberts “Race and the New Biocitizen” (ecommons)
- * *Student Presentation #2*

Week 4 – Democracy, Violence, Empire

7/14 Monday

* *Read:*

- Angela Davis, *Abolition Democracy*

* *Student Presentation #3*

DUE: Reading Reflection #3

7/16 Wednesday

* *Read:*

- Lisa Duggan, “Equality Inc.” (Ecommons)

- Jasbir Puar “Citation and Censorship: The Politics of Talking About the Sexual Politics of Israel” (ecommons)

* *Student Presentation #4*

Week 5 – Education, Mobilization, Change

7/21 Monday

* *Read:*

- Andrea Smith, “Boarding School Abuses, Human Rights, and Reparations” (ecommons)

- Paolo Friere, Chapter 2 from *Pedagogy of the Oppressed* (ecommons)

- Farah Godrej, “Neoliberalism, Militarization and the ‘Price’ of Dissent: Policing Protest at the University of California”

* *Student Presentation # 5*

7/23 Wednesday

Conclusions

DUE: Final paper on presentation topic (3-4 pages)