

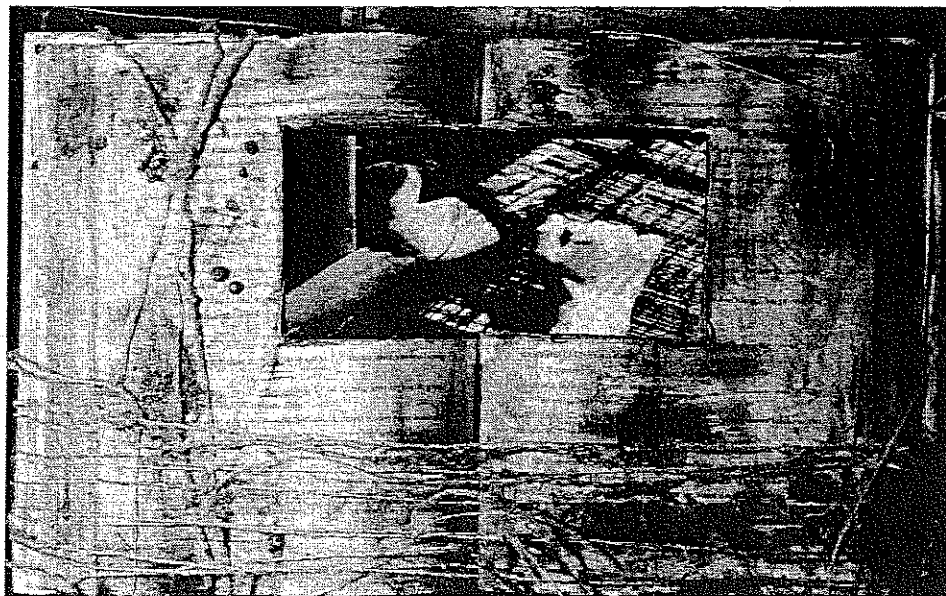
Cultural Analysis and Theory Department

Women's and Gender Studies

Graduate Certificate

Core & Elective Courses

Fall 2015



Late Night Readings (2005) Amy Bagshaw



**Stony Brook
University**

WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES CORE COURSES

WST 601.S01 Feminist Theories

Mary Jo Bona

This course is designed to introduce graduate students to the wide range of discourse in feminist studies and its impact on criticism and literature. We will read a number of feminist thinkers and literary authors and consider their theories about women, gender, masculinity, and patriarchy in relation to language, culture, and such forms of social inequality as race, class, nation, and sexual orientation. We will discuss how to use these theories in analyzing other areas of scholarship and teaching, our disciplines, and our own lives. We will take a historical approach to the evaluation of feminist theory and its relation to literary works and intellectual practice.

Mondays

1:00-3:50pm

Humanities 2018

WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES ELECTIVES

WST 512.S01/SOC 518.S01 Advanced Topics in Gender Studies "Sociology of Gender"

Michael Kimmel

In the past thirty years, in part because of the insistence of the women's movement both inside and outside the academy, gender has come to be understood as one of the central axes around which social life revolves. And so the distinctly sociological analysis of gender has likewise expanded dramatically, so that today the Sex and Gender section of the American Sociological Association is the largest section of the organization.

The literature in the sociology of gender begins, properly and predictably, with a critique of mainstream sociology's myopic exclusion of women. Women's experiences, perspectives, interests, knowledge were omitted in a generally androcentric social science; and each of the social sciences has witnessed such a critique. From this initial critique, several different strands of exciting empirical research have emerged. Some have continued to explore the specificity of women's experiences, often reifying and naturalizing sex difference as gender difference. Others have assumed biological similarities, but rather explored the ways in which gender differences are created in a system of gender relations, and the ways in which both difference and inequality are reproduced through both institutional arrangements and social interactions. That is, as you might have guessed, the perspective of this course.

In this course we will explore the historical emergence of a distinctly sociological perspective on gender difference and gender inequality, and become familiar with the different institutional arenas and methodological strategies one can follow to explore those themes. As a broad survey of the widest possible spectrum - rather than a detailed investigation of one specific arena - the course is intended to serve three purposes: (1) to familiarize graduate students with the range of theoretical perspectives, analytic strategies and institutional arenas in which gender relations are being examined in the social sciences; (2) to familiarize both new and advanced graduate students with substantive and pedagogical issues in the teaching of Gender Studies; and (3) to engage with graduate students in all disciplines who understand that given the centrality of gender in social life.

Mondays

10:00am-1:00pm

SBS N403

WST 610.S01/CST 609.S03/EGL 608.S02
Advanced Topics in Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies
"Climate Trauma: New Environmentalisms"

Elizabeth Ann Kaplan

Against the background of the 2014 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the most sobering report yet issued by the scientific panel, this course examines the impact of realities of global warming on cultural discourses, individual and public consciousness, and media representations. Narratives of a destroyed planet, inhospitable to life in all forms, emerge at the intersection of scientific predictions about global warming (finally seeping into public media), and corporate businesses, determined to resist costly changes to their practices.

We will explore a new psychological condition, what I call "Pretraumatic Stress Disorder" (in contrast to the familiar Post-Traumatic Stress illness), and then study how this disorder is represented in a sub-set of the Science Fiction genre, the pretraumatic climate disaster film. Through close-readings of these texts, we will see how viewers become "virtual future humans," as they identify with terrifying future selves they should hope to avoid. We will see how such fantasies, rather than inoculating viewers from the catastrophe to come, function as a kind of wake-up-call, what I call "memory for the future."

The course explores the masculinist and racialized aspects of the cli-fi genre, showing the cultural work the films perform and implications of films rarely presenting climate catastrophe from the vantage point of women or minority peoples. Against the background of first-wave eco-criticism, we will explore new, second-wave environmental humanities texts, such as those by Timothy Morton, Dipesh Chakrabarty, Rob Nixon, Ursula Heise, Bruno Latour. Cli-fi films include: *Soylent Green*, *The Happening*, *28 Days*, *Take Shelter*, *The Road*, *Blindness*, *Interstellar*, *Snowpiercer*. Documentaries include *Surviving Progress*, *Into Eternity*, *Manufactured Landscapes*, *Fukushima: Memories of a Lost Landscape* or *311*, *Force of Nature*, and more. Students will develop their own research projects in Environmental Humanities as the course proceeds and according to their prior knowledge of this relatively new field.

Thursdays

1:00-3:50pm

Humanities 2052

AFS 533.S01
Gender and Globalization

Georges Fouron

This seminar explores current issues and debates relating to the racialized and gendered effects of globalization. Topics include an overview of the sociology of globalization and theories of globalism/the global system, transnational classes and a transnational state, global culture and ideology, transnational migrations and the new global labor market, globalization and race/ethnicity, women and globalization, local-global linkages, and resistance to globalization.

Mondays

2:30-5:30pm

SBS S202

EGL 586.S01
Queer Studies: Theorizing Race, Gender,
and Sexuality in Literature and Film

Jeffrey Santa Ana

This course examines sexual orientation and gender identities with emphasis on contemporary queer cultural criticism. The term “queer” in a political context expresses a political practice based on transgressions and critiques of the normal and normativity rather than a straight/gay binary of the heterosexual/homosexual identity. Many of today’s works in queer literature and film can be traced to the politics of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) activism in the 1980s, as well as the writings of lesbians, bisexuals, and transsexual people in the 1960s, 70s and 80s. In this course, we will read writings in the fields of LGBT studies, feminist criticism, and postcolonial studies to understand how these works express and challenge (or depart) from the cultural practices of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people of the past two decades. To what extent, we will ask, do today’s queer writings and films theorize ways of both accommodating and resisting a normative gender and sexuality? Under what social and political conditions do these works challenge a cultural politics that relies on sameness and the exclusion of differences?

To address these questions, the course will explore a range of gender and sexuality issues primarily in recent U.S. literature and film, such as the simultaneous construction of gender, sexuality, ethnicity/race, culture and class; heterosexual, homosexual, and bisexual projects; formations of gendered and racialized subjects in both domestic and transnational (global) contexts; ideological inscriptions on the body; gender and sexual transgressions; transgender subjectivity and identity; family relations (nuclear, extended, and affiliative); and inventions of matrilineal and patrilineal traditions, as well as resistance to these customs and norms.

We will also be locating queer studies as a field of knowledge production. The initial weeks will serve as an introduction and historical foundation for those students without prior experience in the field. By the end of semester, we will be working at an advanced level with texts that use theory to open new ways of seeing—and representing—race, gender, sexuality, and queer modes of being in both a non-Western context and a globalized world.

Tuesdays

4:00-6:50pm

Humanities 3015

**HAX 665.S01/[EGL 592]
Health and Disability in Local and
Global Contexts**

Michele Friedner

This is a course about intersections. Disability cuts across age, gender, class, caste, occupation, religion- or does it? By some measures, people with disabilities are the largest minority group in the world today. In this course, we critically examine both the experiences of people with disabilities in a global context as well as the politics and processes of writing about such experiences. Indeed, questions of representation are perhaps at the core of this course. Is there such a thing as an international disability experience? What role have the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of People with Disabilities and international organizations such as the United Nations, the World Health Organization, and other non-governmental social and human service agencies played in the creation of specific understandings of disability experience? What does it mean to be disabled in different social, economic, and political contexts in today's world?

In the beginning of the course, we will develop a foundation from which to talk about local and global contexts as well as disability. We will consider issues of development, globalization, and transnationalism. We will ask whether disability is a universal category and we will consider how experiences of health, illness, disability, and debility vary. We will engage in "concept work" by analyzing the relationships between disability and impairment and we will critically evaluate the different models employed to think about disability. In doing so, we will rethink (perhaps) previously taken for granted understandings of disability and we will also engage with broader questions about international development, human rights, the boundaries of the nation, the family and other kinship affiliations, and identity and community formation. How is disability both a productive analytic and a lens for thinking about pressing questions and concerns in today's world? We will read diverse texts such as human rights documents, anthropological ethnographies, autobiographies, and social theory. We will also review position papers and reports written by non-governmental organizations and international bodies such as the United Nations. And we will watch relevant films that will enrich our understanding of disability in an international context.

Wednesdays

11:00-2:00pm

HSC

**HAX 668
Emerging Topics in Disability Studies**

Pamela Block

Disability studies is an area study that focuses on the experiences and representation of disability across multiple realms – including social, environmental, cultural, regional, historical, economic and political. This is an emerging field with new research and topic areas developing constantly. This course will allow focus on the intersections of disability with other emerging area studies such as gender, class, sexuality, race and global studies. It will also encompass study of different emerging disciplinary areas of disability studies in the social sciences, health sciences, humanities, business, and technology. We will explore the connections between disability activism, art, and scholarship in the 21st century. Finally the course will trace emerging regional distinctions in disability studies research and scholarship, especially between Northern and Southern Countries.

Tuesdays

10:00-1:00pm

RRAMP