

CRITICAL RACE FEMINISMS

FALL 2020

WGSS 230 – Politics of Reproduction **Tuesday, Thursday 1:00-2:15 p.m.** **Banu Subramaniam**

From the Black Panther Party and Young Lords in the 1970s to SisterSong and Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice in the 1990s to Ferguson and Familia: Trans Queer Liberation Movement in the present, communities of color and socialist feminists have fought for a comprehensive reproductive freedom platform--birth control and abortion to be sure, but also the right to raise wanted children that are safe, cherished, and educated. The names of these issues have included freedom from sterilization, high quality affordable day care, IVF, immigrant justice, social reproduction and wages for housework, welfare and neoliberalism, foreclosure and affordable housing.

WGSS 286 – History of Sexuality and Race in the U.S. **UWW Section – Kirsten Leng** **Section 1 – Tuesday, Thursday 11:30-12:45 p.m. – Kirsten Leng** **Section 2 – Monday, Wednesday 2:30-3:45 p.m. – Derek Siegel**

This course is an introduction to the interdisciplinary feminist study of sexuality. Its primary goal is to provide a forum for students to consider the history of sexuality and race in the U.S. both in terms of theoretical frameworks within women's and gender studies, and in terms of a range of sites where those theoretical approaches become material, are negotiated, or are shifted. The course is a fully interdisciplinary innovation. It will emphasize the links rather than differences between theory and practice and between cultural, material, and historical approaches to the body, gender, and sexuality. Throughout the course we will consider contemporary sexual politics "from the science of sex and sexuality to marriage debates" in light of histories of racial and sexual formations. (Gen. Ed. HS, DU)

WGSS 395J – Imagining Justice **Tuesday 6:00-8:30 p.m.** **Laura Ciolkowski**

This course will be conducted inside the Hampshire County Jail and House of Corrections in Northampton and will enroll an equal number of students from UMass and students who are incarcerated in the facility. As a member of this course, you will be joining an international community of educators and students who are committed to dialogue and scholarly learning inside prisons and jails. Permission by Instructor is required for admission to this course. Please contact Linda Hillenbrand at lindah@umass.edu for an application.

Depending upon the status of Covid-19 in September, the format of this class may be adjusted or entry into the jail delayed to accommodate the needs of students both inside and outside the facility. However, regardless of all other factors, this course will run for UMass students in fall 2020.

This course is an interdisciplinary exploration of the critical, aspirational, artistic, and creative forms that Justice takes in literature and the humanities more broadly. What sorts of ethical, social, and political questions are animated by writers and thinkers who seek to imagine and build a different world? What are the tangled roots of inequality and the legacies of sexual, racial, and economic injustice? How do writers, poets, artists, and “freedom dreamers,” as Robin D.G. Kelley so memorably called them, labor to expose injustice and re-invent our universe? Ursula Le Guin has written, “We will not know our own injustice if we cannot imagine justice. We will not be free if we do not imagine freedom. We cannot demand that anyone try to attain justice and freedom who has not had a chance to imagine them as attainable.” Taking Le Guin’s focus on the radical imagination as a starting point, this course explores the relationship between literature, the arts, and a wide range of social justice projects. Topics will include: Afrofuturism; utopian and dystopian fiction; art and social justice; bioethics and literature; prison writing, poetry, and the literature of restorative and transformative justice; diaspora studies and literary and artistic representations of movement, forced migration and displacement.

AFROM 391K – Black Love, Sex and Marriage in the U.S.

Monday, Wednesday 2:30-3:45 p.m.

Traci Parker

This course explores African American love, sexual encounters, and marriage from slavery to present. It pays special attention to intraracial relationships among African Americans in the Civil Rights and Black Power Movements and beyond; but it also considers interracial relationships; sexual violence; reproduction and reproductive rights; childrearing and family; pleasure, happiness, and desire; pornography (or more broadly, the commodification and exploitation of black bodies); autonomy and property; and disease and medicine. As we interrogate these topics, we will investigate the political, economic, and social drivers of the aforementioned and their implications on black experiences.

POLISCI 392AP – Activism, Participation and Protest

Wednesday 2:30-5:00 p.m.

Sonia Alvarez

This course examines contemporary forms of political activism, participation, and protest. Drawing on select case studies, principally from Latin America, the U.S, and Europe, we will pay particular attention to the dynamic development of feminisms, anti-racist/Black mobilizations, anti-austerity and pro-democracy protests, and LGBTQ organizing.

AMHERST COLLEGE

SWAG 208/BLST 345/ENG 276/FAMS 379 – Black Feminist Literary Traditions

Tuesday, Thursday 11:50-1:10 p.m.

Aneeka Henderson

Through a close reading of texts by African American authors, we will critically examine the characterization of female protagonists, with a specific focus on how writers negotiate

literary forms alongside race, gender, sexuality, and class in their work. Coupled with our explication of poems, short stories, novels, and literary criticism, we will explore the stakes of adaptation in visual culture. Students will analyze the film and television adaptations of twentieth-century fiction. Authors will include Toni Morrison, Lorraine Hansberry, Alice Walker, and Gloria Naylor. Expectations include three writing projects, a group presentation, and various in-class assignments.

SWAG 235/BLST 236 – Black Sexualities

Tuesday, Thursday 3:50-5:10 p.m.

Khary Polk

From the modern era to the contemporary moment, the intersection of race, gender, and class has been especially salient for people of African descent—for men as well as for women. How might the category of sexuality act as an additional optic through which to view and reframe contemporary and historical debates concerning the construction of black identity? In what ways have traditional understandings of masculinity and femininity contributed to an understanding of African American life and culture as invariably heterosexual? How have black lesbian, gay, and transgendered persons effected political change through their theoretical articulations of identity, difference, and power? In this interdisciplinary course, we will address these questions through an examination of the complex roles gender and sexuality play in the lives of people of African descent. Remaining attentive to the ways black people have claimed social and sexual agency in spite of systemic modes of inequality, we will engage with critical race theory, black feminist thought, queer-of-color critique, literature, art, film, “new media” and erotica, as well as scholarship from anthropology, sociology, and history.

SWAG 329/BLST 377/ENGL 368 – Bad Black Women

Monday, Wednesday 2:00-3:20 p.m.

Aneeka Henderson

History has long valorized passive, obedient, and long-suffering African American women alongside assertive male protagonists and savants. This course provides an alternative narrative to this representation by exploring the ways in which African American female characters, writers, and artists have challenged ideals of stoicism and submission. Using an interdisciplinary focus, we will critically examine transgression across time and space in diverse twentieth- and early twenty-first century literary, sonic, and visual texts. Expectations include three writing projects, a group presentation, and various in-class assignments.

SWAG 372/AMST 370 – Indigenous Feminisms

Tuesday, Thursday 10:00-11:20 a.m.

Jennifer Hamilton

This course introduces students to the interdisciplinary field of Indigenous feminisms, and explores how questions of sex, gender, and sexuality have been articulated in relation to concerns such as sovereignty, colonization, and imperialism. We will explore how

Indigenous feminists engage with or challenge other modes of feminist thought and activism. We will focus on how Indigenous ways of knowing and being can challenge how we conduct research and produce knowledge. While we will concentrate on work produced within the context of Native North America, we will also be attentive to transnational dimensions of Indigenous feminist histories, political movements, and world-building. Specific topics include movements to recognize missing and murdered Indigenous women; Indigenous feminist science and technology studies; and, Indigenous futurisms.

SWAG 380/HIST 380/AMST 380 – Women of Color and the Emergence of U.S. Third World Feminist Left

Tuesday, Thursday 10:00-11:20 a.m.

Lili Kim

This research seminar investigates the active role taken by Asian American women and other women of color in the emergence of the U.S. Third World Feminist Left during the 1960s and 1970s. This movement saw ending imperialism and colonialism as a necessary part of their fight against racism, sexism, and capitalism in the United States and beyond and drew inspiration from Third World feminism and decolonization activities. Third World feminism posits that women's activism in the Third World do not originate from the ideologies of the First World and specifically centers Third World women's radicalism in their local/national contexts and struggles. Organizations such as the Third World Women's Alliance (TWWA) in New York City, which grew out of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), brought together Black, Puerto Rican, and Asian American women in the socialist fight to end imperialism, sexism, capitalism, and racism. The images of revolutionary Third World women engaged in anti-colonial struggles in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East, especially during the Vietnam War era, inspired U.S.-based feminists of color and helped them embrace leftist Third World solidarity politics. Students will utilize the rich archival sources found in the Sophia Smith Collection (TWWA records, Miriam Ching Yoon Louie papers, National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum papers) as well as the Triple Jeopardy newspapers found in the Marshall I. Bloom papers at the Amherst College Archives and Special Collections to produce a 12-15-page research paper and will publicly present their collective work.

SWAG 400 – Contemporary Debates: Gender, Exile and Belonging

Wednesday 2:00-4:45 p.m.

Krupa Shandilya

In the context of the current immigration crisis worldwide, the current iteration of this seminar will explore the way concepts of home, belonging, exile and citizenship are gendered. Who belongs to a nation? What impact do race, religion, gender, sexuality, and class have on how nations mark citizenship? Topics include cultural conservatism, Islamophobia, and anti-immigrant sentiments that mold the discourses of citizenship and belonging. The seminar will place South Asia in a comparative context, drawing on case studies from other nations (including Hong Kong, Vietnam, Nigeria and Haiti) of the global south. Texts include Chimamanda Adichie's *Americanah*, Edward Said's *Reflections on Exile*,

Mohsin Hamid's *Reluctant Fundamentalist*, and Viet Thanh Nguyen's *The Sympathizer* among others

SWAG 436/HIST 436 – Race, Gender, Sexuality in the Military

Tuesday 1:00-3:45 p.m.

Jen Manion

This course introduces students to critical theories of difference in thinking and writing about the past. We will read major works that chart the history of the very concepts of race, gender, and sexuality. We will explore how these ideas were both advanced and contested by various groups over the years by reading primary sources such as newspaper articles, personal letters, court records, and organizational papers. Movements for women's rights, racial justice, and LGBTQ liberation have dramatically shaped these debates and their implications. In particular, feminist theory, critical race theory, and queer theory provide powerful arguments about how we formulate research questions, what constitutes a legitimate archive, and why writing history matters. Students will learn to identify and work with an archive to craft a major research paper in some aspect of U.S. history while engaging the relevant historic arguments about race, gender, and/or sexuality.

HAMPSHIRE COLLEGE

CSI 357 – Black and Asian American Solidarities

Thursday 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Lili Kim

In the wake of COVID-19 pandemic that laid bare the inequalities of our society and the recent murder of George Floyd and other Black Americans, alliances between communities of color have never been so critically important. This course examines the history of Black and Asian American feminist solidarities and activism in their fight against racism, sexism, capitalism, and imperialism. The course will begin with the history of Anti-Asian violence in the United States that dates back to 1850s when the Chinese people arrived on the West Coast during the Gold Rush, and focus on the height of Asian American and Black feminist activism in the long 1960s. The emergence of the U.S. Third World Feminist Left during the 1960s and 1970s saw ending imperialism and colonialism as a necessary part of their fight and drew inspiration from Third World feminism and decolonization activities. The images of revolutionary Third World women engaged in anti-colonial struggles in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East, especially during the Vietnam War era, inspired U.S.-based feminists of color and helped them embrace leftist Third World solidarity politics. Organizations such as the Third World Women's Alliance (TWWA) in New York city, which grew out of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), brought together Black, Puerto Rican, and Asian American women in the socialist fight to end imperialism, sexism, capitalism, and racism. Utilizing the rich archival sources found in the Sophia Smith Collection (TWWA records, Miriam Ching Yoon Louie papers, National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum papers) as well as the Triple Jeopardy newspapers found in the

Marshall I. Bloom papers at the Amherst College Archives and Special Collections, students will have an opportunity to work together to produce a substantial research project.

MOUNT HOLYOKE COLLEGE

GNDST 204CR/LATST 204CR – Latinx/Indigenities

Monday, Wednesday 11:00-12:15 p.m.

Raquel Madrigal

An evolving field, Latina/o Studies has begun to critically and comparatively question the terms of Indigeneity in relation to Native communities in the U.S. land mass. This course seeks to understand the emergence of critical Latinx/Indigenous perspectives as they relate to Latinas/os/xes in the United States, and their uneven connections to various transnational forms of Indigeneity rooted in ancestral land-based ties in the United States, Mexico, and Central and South America. We will examine current discussions of Chicanidad, migrant Indigeneity, colonialisms, empire, and Indigenous sovereignty.

GNDST 204RP/LATST 250RP/CST 249RP - Race, Racism, and Power

Tuesday, Thursday 11:30-12:45 p.m.

Justin Crumbaugh

This course analyzes the concepts of race and racism from an interdisciplinary perspective, with focus on Latinas/os/x in the United States. It explores the sociocultural, political, economic, and historical forces that interact with each other in the production of racial categories and racial "difference." In particular, we focus on racial ideologies, racial formation theory, and processes of racialization, as well as the relationship between race and ethnicity. The course examines racial inequality from a historical perspective and investigates how racial categories evolve and form across contexts. The analysis that develops will ultimately allow us to think rigorously about social inequality, resistance and liberation.

GNDST 212BW/CST 249BW - Black Women and the Politics of Survival

Riche Barnes

Contemporary Black women in Africa and the Diaspora are concerned with the sea of economic and political troubles facing their communities, and grappling with how to affirm their own identities while transforming societal notions of gender and family. In this course, we will explore the "intersectionality" of race, gender, sexuality, class, transnational identity; reproductive health; homophobia and heteronormativity, along with the effects of racism, unequal forms of economic development, and globalization on Black communities. The overall aim of this course is to link contemporary Black women's theory and practice to a history and tradition of survival and resistance.

GNDST 333AE - Race, Gender and Sexual Aesthetics in the Global Era
Sarah Smith

Reading across a spectrum of disciplinary focuses (e.g. philosophies of aesthetics, post-structural feminisms, Black cultural studies, and queer of color critique) this course asks the question what is the nature of aesthetics when it negotiates modes of difference? This course explores the history and debates on aesthetics as it relates to race, gender, and sexuality with particular emphasis on Black diaspora theory and cultural production. Drawing on sensation, exhibitions, active discussion, observation, and experimentation, emphasis will be placed on developing a fine-tuned approach to aesthetic inquiry and appreciation.

GNDST 333FM/CST 349FM/LATST 350FM – Latina Feminism(s)
Monday, Wednesday 1:30-2:45 p.m.
Raquel Madrigal

What is Latina Feminism? How does it differ from and/or intersect with "other" feminisms? In this seminar, we will explore the relationship between Latina feminist theory, knowledge production, and social change in the United States. This interdisciplinary course explores Latina feminism in relation to methodology and epistemology through a historical lens. This will help us to better understand how Latina feminist approaches can inform our research questions, allow us to analyze women's experiences and women's history, and challenge patriarchy and gender inequality. We will explore topics related to knowledge production, philosophies of the "self," positionality, inequality, the body, reproductive justice, representation, and community. Our approach in this class will employ an intersectional approach to feminist theory that understands the interconnectedness between multiple forms of oppression, including race, class, sexuality, and ability. Our goal is to develop a robust understanding of how Latina feminist methodologies and epistemologies can be tools for social change.

AFCNA 341TM/ENGL 350 – Toni Morrison
Carol Bailey

This course will examine the work and the centralized black world of the last American Nobel laureate in literature, Toni Morrison. Morrison is the author of eleven novels and multiple other works, including nonfiction and criticism. In a career that has spanned over forty years and has informed countless artists and writers, Morrison's expansive cultural reach can hardly be measured accurately. In this course we will endeavor to critically analyze the arc and the import of many of Morrison's writings. Readings include: *The Bluest Eye*, *Sula*, *Song of Solomon*, *Jazz*, *Playing in the Dark*, *Paradise*, and *A Mercy*.

SWG 211 – Girls in the System: Gender, Youth and Justice
Monday, Wednesday 2:45-4:00 p.m.
Adina Giannelli

This interdisciplinary course will consider the issue of gender, race, sexuality, and class in the juvenile justice system. Drawing on gender and sexuality studies, criminal justice, and sociological literature, social critiques, policy papers, case law, documentary film, personal narratives, and fiction, we will critically examine the history of the juvenile justice system; what it means to be in “the system”; the role of “justice” in the juvenile system; and review some of the major issues faced by the youth who are subject to this system. In addition, we will consider the role of youth action and resistance against the system.

SWG 241 – White supremacy in the Age of Trump
Tuesday, Thursday 3:15-4:30 p.m.
Loretta Ross

This course will analyze the history, prevalence, and current manifestations of the white supremacist movement by examining ideological components, tactics and strategies, and its relationship to mainstream politics. We will also research and discuss the relationship between white supremacy and white privilege, and explore how to build a human rights movement to counter the white supremacist movement in the U.S. Students will develop analytical writing and research skills, while engaging in multiple cultural perspectives. The overall goal is to develop the capacity to understand the range of possible responses to white supremacy, both its legal and extralegal forms.

ARH 278 – Race and Gender in the History of Photography
Kathleen Pierce

This course introduces the history of photography, emphasizing the ways photographs represent, mediate, construct, and communicate histories of race, gender, sex, sexuality, intimacy, and desire. We will study a variety of photographic images, from the daguerreotype to digital media, from fine arts photography to vernacular images. We will consider objects that have forged connections among loved ones, substantiated memories, or served as evidence, considering critical questions about photography’s relationship to identity, affect, knowledge production, and power. The course focuses on race and gender, and also attends closely to photography’s relationship to identity broadly speaking, including class, ability, and religion.