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**WOMENSST 394H**  
**#41479**  
**Fall. 2017**

**Critical Race Feminism**  
**Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:30 – 3:45 pm**  
**South College Rm. W205**

**Professor Alex Deschamps**

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Office & Hours: Bartlett 7B » Thursdays 4:00 – 5:00 pm and & by appointment  
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**“There is no Women’s Movement, capital W, capital M. There are women’s movements, plural. And they are alive in communities of color”, Helen Zia.**

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### **Course Description**

This course will explore the intersection of race and gender and other components of social identity from an interdisciplinary perspective. It will address and respond to the unique challenges of the inter and intra relationships of women of color with feminism, locally and globally. One of the tasks will be to (re)-visit, (re)-vision, (re)-counter existing theories and bodies of knowledge, as well as analyze how historical and contemporary realities of women of color are profoundly influenced by a legacy of structural inequalities that is neither linear nor logical. The approach to this course will be to pay particular attention to critical analysis and intersectionality as well as the importance of understanding and applying knowledge – not just “knowing”. By the end of the semester students should be able to have mastered arguments regarding a number of Critical Race Feminist themes and issues with sensitivity, eloquence, and grounded analysis. *This course fulfills the theory requirement for majors. Prerequisite: WOMENSST 201 or any other 200 /300 level WGSS course.*

Though feminism has elevated itself to a theoretical status for quite some time now, anti-racist feminism continues to simply serve as a marginal sub-theme. “The Presence of the Absence” is a good point to begin. It is precisely where our work of inquiry and description, of analysis and transformation, and application, must begin. This course seeks to move us from being boxed into feminist theory and text as a variation on the theme of “woman” or being a component in referencing gender, race, and class, into the realization that is possible not only to hope for but also to make change. Whether we are non-white or white women and men, specific dominant aspects of our politics must be taken into consideration, and their homogenization questioned. Feminism is not a unified (nor unifying) phenomenon. It is riven with its own contradictions and peculiar turns and twists. This course is both a necessary intellectual and political task. Critical Race Feminism will be a working out of a legal, political, analytical, descriptive, theoretical paradigm. This course is also about becoming a scholar it should improve your performance – “praxis” across disciplines. It should be part of your initiation into a professional life.

## Course Policies and Expectations

*Academic Integrity Policy:* Plagiarism or cheating on any assignment will result in a failing grade for the course and other possible consequences. Do not turn work downloaded from the internet nor without citing your all sources. If you are unclear about what constitutes plagiarism or cheating, please talk with me. I would like you to read the UMass undergraduate Rights and Responsibilities.

*Academic Etiquette and Communication Policy:* Class will always begin and end promptly so please be on time. If you have extenuating circumstances, talk to me in advance. I expect all students to treat each other respectfully, to listen attentively, and to be mindful of how you respond to diverse opinions. We will talk about and demonstrate this in class. We will also discuss email etiquette and other effective ways of communication which will be part of your professional development.

*Respect:* We will pay attention to how we address one another, with respect to both names and pronouns. This will be a “conversation of learning” for everyone. Proper pronunciation as well as name and gender pronouns are important to build a community of scholars. Please advise me accordingly.

*Assignments and Papers:* All assignments and papers must be submitted on time as designated in the syllabus. They must always be typed, 12 point font, Times Roman with 1” margins. If you are experiencing difficulty, I would like you to be proactive and consult with me.

*Students with Disabilities:* If you are in need of academic accommodations to fully participate in the class, and if you have a documented disability, please visit the Office of Disability Services at the beginning of the semester so that the appropriate paperwork can be sent to me. This information is always private but important so I can help you be successful in completing the course.

*Writing:* Writing is a process and you should not hesitate to ask for help. Please talk to me early and also make use of the writing resources that the University offers.

## Course Grading and Requirements

Attendance and full participation in class discussions are mandatory. You will be allowed two (2) unexcused absences. Read the UMass Undergraduate Rights and responsibilities for examples of excused absences. You *must* tell me when you will be out due to Religious absences and note that these do not exonerate you from assignments (20 points). *You will lose 2 points if you do not participate in the Roundtable Conversations.*

Mid-term take home examination distributed on Thursday 10/12/2017 and due on Tuesday 10/17/2017, (25 points). **This date is mandatory.**

Three (3) critical analysis/response/position papers (3 pages maximum) on assigned readings. Dates are 09/19, 10/05, 11/14/2017 and in the course calendar. These will be used for class discussion. Papers should indicate how the readings and issues might influence your current interests, and academic perspectives (6 points each with a total of 18 points). Guidelines will be discussed and distributed.

Creativity Assignment due on 10/24/2017, (7 points). Guidelines will be distributed.

Final Paper (15-20 pages) due on 12/12/2017. This will be the basis for the final roundtable discussions. You will be given the opportunity to apply topics or issues to a specific research project that interests you- activism, identity, disciplinary, narrative, creativity or any combination. (30 points).

### Final Grading Scale

A (94-100)	A- (90-93)	B+ (87-89)	B (83-86)	B- (80-82)	C+ (77-79)
C (73-76)	C- (70-72)	D+ (67-69)	D (60-66)	F (59 or below)	

## Texts

### **Required:**

1. Adrien Katherine Wang. *Critical Race Feminism*, 2nd. Edition, 2003. New York University Press.
2. Patricia Hill Collins & Sirma Bilge. *Intersectionality*, 2016. Polity Press.
3. Selected articles and Essays on line.

### **Highly Recommended:**

Audre Lorde. *Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches*. Berkley CA: Crossing Press.

## Course Calendar

Tues. Sept. 05	<p><b><u>Introduction and Syllabus</u></b></p> <p>Why Race Feminism? Engaged Pedagogy of Critical Race Feminism. Historical and Contemporary Overviews. Implications for current national discourses.</p>
Thurs. Sept. 07 Readings:	<p><b><u>We Should All be Feminists: The Place of Race Feminism</u></b></p> <p>Ted Talks: Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche, et al.</p>
Tues. Sept. 12 Readings:	<p><b><u>Beginning Theoretical Conversations: Critical Thinking and Feminist Pedagogy</u></b></p> <p>[On Line]-Catherine Fox, <i>The Race to Truth: Disarticulating Critical Thinking from Whiteness</i> in <i>Pedagogy</i>, Volume 2, Issue 2, Spring 2002, pp. 197-212.</p> <p>[On line]-Sabrina Alimahomed, <i>Thinking Outside the Rainbow: Women of Color Redefining Queer Politics and Identity</i> in <i>Social Identities: Journal of the study of Race, Nation, and Culture</i>, 16:2, 151-168, 2010.</p>
Thurs. Sept. 14 Readings:	<p><b><u>Race and Feminism: Intersections and Interdisciplines</u></b></p> <p>[On line]-Joan Williams, <i>Dissolving the Sameness/Difference Debate: A post-Modern path Beyond Essentialism</i> in <i>Feminist and Critical Race Theory</i>, 1991. Duke Law Journal, 1991 (2) 296-323.</p> <p>[On Line]-Patricia Hill Collins, <i>Learning from the Outside Within: The Social Significance of Black Feminist Thought</i> in <i>Social Problems</i>, 1986, 33:6: S14-S32.</p> <p>[On Line]-Esther Ngan-Ling Chow, <i>The Development of Feminist Consciousness Among Asian American Women</i> in <i>Gender &amp; Society</i>, Vol. 3, Sept.1987, 284-299.</p>
Tues. Sept. 19	<p><b><u>Multiplicity: Contemporary and Interdisciplinary Feminist Theories, Praxis (1)</u></b></p> <p>[On Line]-<i>Intersectionality Queer Studies and Hybridity: Methodological Frameworks for Social Research</i> in <i>Journal of International Women's Studies</i>, Vol. 13 #2 March 2012, pp.19-32.</p> <p>[On Line]-Tara J. Yosso, <i>Whose Culture has Capital? A Critical Race Theory Discussion of Community Cultural Wealth</i> in <i>Race, Ethnicity and Education</i>, Vol. 8, No. 1, March 2005, 69-91.</p> <p>[On Line]-Patricia Williams Lessane, <i>Women of Color Facing Feminism: Creating Our Space at Liberation's Table</i> in <i>the Journal of Pan African Studies</i>, Vol. 1, No. 7, March 2007, 3-10.</p> <p>***Critical Analysis/Response/Position Paper 1 Due***</p>

Thurs. Sept. 21 Readings:	<b><u>Intersectionality: What and Why</u></b> [Text – Hill Collins & Bilge]-Chapters 1 -4, pp.1-113.
Tues. Sept. 26 Readings:	<b><u>Intersectionality: Theory and Praxis</u></b> [Text – Hill Collins & Bilge]-Chapters 5-7, pp.114-190.
Thurs. Sept. 28 Readings:	<b><u>Round Table Conversations 1</u></b> Guidelines will be distributed
Tues. Oct. 03 Readings:	<b><u>Debating and Analyzing Intersectionality, Praxis (2)</u></b> [On Line]-Kimberle Williams Crenshaw, <i>Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color</i> in Martha Albertson Fineman (ed). <i>The Public Nature of Private Violence</i> . 1994, NY: Routledge, 93-118. [On Line]-Susanne V. Knudsen, Intersectionality – <i>A Theoretical Inspiration in the Analysis of Minority Cultures and Identities</i> in <i>Textbooks, Caught in the Web or Lost in the Textbook</i> 2006, 61-76. 26 Nov. 2007.
Thurs. Oct. 05	<b><u>Multiplicity: Contemporary and Interdisciplinary Feminist Theories, Praxis (3)</u></b> [Text]-Adrien Wang, <i>Introduction</i> , 1-19. [On Line]-Dolores Delgado Bernal, <i>Critical Race Theory, Latino Critical Theory, and Critical Raced-Gendered Epistemologies: Recognizing Students of Color as Holders and Creators of Knowledge</i> in <i>Qualitative Inquiry</i> , Feb. 2002, vol. 8, No.1, 105-126. ***Critical Analysis/Response/Positions Paper 2 Due***
Tues. Oct.10	*** No Class. Monday's Class Schedule***
Thurs. Oct. 12 Readings	<b><u>Academies, Subjectivities, Sexualities, Histories</u></b> [Text]-Adrien Wang, Part II, (Grouped Selections).
Tues. Oct. 17	<b><u>Roundtable Conversations 2– Midterm Questions</u></b> ***Midterm Examination Due in class***
Thurs. Oct. 19 Readings:	<b><u>Speaking &amp; Writing Ourselves into Existence: Narrative Theory, Feminist Theory, Methodology, Epistemology</u></b> [Handout]-Judith Flores & Silvia Garcia, <i>Latina Testimonies: A Reflexive, Critical Analysis of a 'Latina Space' at a Predominantly White campus</i> , in <i>Race Ethnicity and Education</i> Vol. 12, No. 2, July 2009, 155-172. [Handout]-Daniel G. Solorzano & T J. Yosso, <i>Critical Race Methodology: Counter-Storytelling as an Analytical Framework for Education Research</i> , in <i>Qualitative</i> [Handout]-Sandra. K. Stanley, <i>Introduction</i> in Stanley K. Sandra in <i>Other Sisterhoods</i> , 1998, University of Illinois Press, 1-19.

Tues. Oct. 24 Readings:	<b><u>Motherhood and Family: A Legal Context, A Legal Analysis</u></b> [Text]–Adrien Wang, Part III, (Grouped Selections). *** <i>Creativity as Theory and Pedagogy Paper Due</i> ***
Thurs. Oct. 26 Readings:	<b><u>Motherhood and Family: A Legal Context, A Legal Analysis</u></b> [Text]–Adrien Wang, Part III. (Grouped Selections). *** <i>Last Date for Final Assignment Topic and Preliminary Bibliography Due</i> ***
Tues. Oct. 31 Readings:	<b><u>Race, Gender, and the Criminal Justice</u></b> [Text]–Adrien Wang, Part IV. (Grouped Selections)
Thurs. Nov. 02 Readings	<b><u>Gendering Domestic Violence: Multiple Perspectives</u></b> [Text]–Adrien Wang, Part V. (Grouped Selections)
Tues. Nov. 07 Readings:	<b><u>Theorizing Work as an Interdiscipline</u></b> [Text]–Adrien Wang, Part VI. (Grouped Selections)
Thurs. Nov. 09	<b><u>Roundtable Conversation 3 -Connections for Praxis</u></b> Margins, Center, Third Space: Institutional, Structural, Personal -
Tues. Nov. 14	<b><u>Final Assignment In-Class Consults</u></b> *** <i>Critical Analysis/Response/Positions Paper 3 Due</i> ***
Nov. 19 – 26	*** <i>Thanksgiving Break</i> ***
Tues. Nov. 28 Readings:	<b><u>Revisiting Intersectionality - Multiplicity, Local, Global and Praxis 3</u></b> [Text]–Adrien Wang, Part VII. [Text]- Hill Collins & Bilge, Chapter 8
Thurs. Nov. 30	<b><u>Student Roundtable Presentations</u></b>
Tues. Dec.05	<b><u>Student Roundtable Presentations</u></b>
Thurs. Dec. 07	<b><u>Student Roundtable Presentations</u></b>
Tues. Dec. 12	<b><u>(Re)-Orienting, (Re)-Visioning, (De)-Colonizing</u></b> *** <i>Final Papers Due</i> ***