About the Course

Both gender and geography are dynamic constructs that shape our experience of the world at multiple scales, from the intimate level of the body to our place in the global economy. In this course we will use a gender lens to examine how power, difference and inequality are spatially organized, structured and contested. How are gender politics (re)produced in spaces such as the home, the workplace, the city, nation states and through imperial ties? How do we address the contradiction between social constructions and norms based on binary categories of male and female and the fluidity and flexibility of gender identities? How is geography implicated in this?

Our purpose in this course is to create a dynamic, focused, and inclusive intellectual environment in which learning is a collective process. To that end, we will analyze, critique, question and debate the weekly readings. My mantra is this: there is no "royal road" to knowledge—that is, there is no easy path—only through careful reading, taking notes, questioning and engaged discussion does the material contained in the texts become part of your intellectual repertoire. The course is designed as a seminar in which participation comprises a significant portion of the course grade. There will be little formal lecturing on my part. Instead, class time will be spent in open discussion and the use of a modified Socratic question and response method.

Learning Outcomes

Students will develop awareness of how and why particular spaces and practices are gendered and develop an understanding of the differential impacts and consequences entailed by the gendering of spaces and practices.

Students will be able to analyze a range of issues with respect to gendered processes operating across various scales.

Students will demonstrate engagement with key debates about the role of gender in geographic processes.

Course Grading and Requirements

1) Participation & Assignments 50%
2) Exam One 25%
3) Exam Two 25%

Total: 100%
Required Text

We will make extensive use of readings posted on Blackboard, articles accessed via the FIU library and newspapers available on-line. Therefore, make sure that your FIU library card is activated!!

**Important Dates**
- Paper One: January 31
- Paper Two: February 21
- Exam One: February 28
- Paper Three: April 18
- Exam Two: April 25

**Course Content**
Please note that all required readings should be completed before class. All students should complete all readings.

**Week 1: January 8/10** — **Introductions—Placing Geography**

**Film:** *Who’s Counting: Marilyn Waring on Sex, Lies, and Global Economics*

**Week 2: January 15/17** — **Home**

**Reading:** Domosh & Seager, Preface & Chapter 1: Home

**Week 3: January 22/24** — **Work & Performativity**


**Week 4: January 29/31** — **The City**

WEEK 5: FEBRUARY 5/7: BODIES & MOBILITIES


WEEK 6: FEBRUARY 12/14: NATIONS AND EMPIRES


WEEK 7: FEBRUARY 19/21: NATIONALISM/MANLINESS/MASCULINITY


WEEK 8: FEB. 26/28: REVIEW/EXAM ONE

WEEK 9: MARCH 5/7: INTERSECTIONALITY


WEEK 10: SPRING BREAK! MARCH 11-16

WEEK 11: MARCH 19/21: BEYOND BINARIES

READING: Fausto-Sterling. 2000. Sexing the Body: Gender Politics and the Construction of Sexuality, chapters 1, 2, & 4; Fausto-Sterling. 2012. Sex/Gender: Biology in a Social World, Chapters 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, & 10. National Geographic Special Issue: Gender Revolution.

WEEK 12: MARCH 26/28: WOMEN AND/IN SCIENCE

STEREOTYPICAL MALE-FEMALE ROLES. SIGNS 16(3): 485-501. SCHIEBINGER, LONDA (1 PAGE ON GENDER & SCIENCE) AND INTRO TO SPECIAL ISSUE OF SIGNS: FEMINISM INSIDE THE SCIENCES; ALSO CHOOSE ONE OF 3 ARTICLES ON SCIENTIFIC DISCIPLINES: ARCHEOLOGY, PHYSICS, OR EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY IN SIGNS 2003. 28(3).

WEEK 13: APRIL 2/4: THE ENVIRONMENT & “DEVELOPMENT”


WEEK 14: APRIL 9/11: FEMINIST POLITICAL ECOLOGY/FEMINIST ACTIVISM

READINGS: TBA

WEEK 15: APRIL 16/18: DISCUSSION/REVIEW

FINALS WEEK: EXAM TWO ON THURSDAY, APRIL 25 @ 12:00

Assignments

1) Paper One. (Due February 2). The first paper asks you to summarize, analyze and synthesize the readings thus far and to complement your synthesis with your personal observations and experience of space, place, and work. 5 pages double-spaced (minimum). 10% of grade.

2) Paper Two (Due February 23). In the second paper, you will bring your summary, analysis and synthesis up to date with the readings and then select from current events a topic or series of related topics and subject them to a gendered geographic analysis. 5 pages double-spaced (minimum). 10% of grade.

3) Paper Three (Due April 18). The third paper addresses a topic of your choice that relates to the course material. This is a longer paper that draws on both course readings and additional materials, including articles, books, and other sources. (Eight to ten pages, double spaced) 20% of grade.

A Note on Requirements

Attendance and participation is a very important part of this class. Complete all assigned readings before class. All lectures and discussion will assume a familiarity with the assigned readings. You are expected to come to all classes having completed all reading assignments, to be prepared to discuss the reading material, and to be able to participate in the class activities by sharing your thoughts, views and questions. Read critically! Make sure that you understand not only the content of the assigned readings but the significance and validity of the argument and analysis presented. You are responsible for all information, materials, and instructions disseminated during the class period. Lectures, films and readings are complementary but not identical, and the exams will be based on all sources. Therefore, attendance is essential to doing well in this class. At various times throughout the semester I will take attendance at the beginning of class.
Electronic Devices
Cell phones must be off for the duration of the class. Laptop use is permitted ONLY for the purpose of taking notes.

Make-Up Policy
No make up exams without either 1) a note from a doctor that a student was incapable of attending for medical reasons or 2) documentation of a death in the immediate family.

Policy on Plagiarism
Plagiarism is cheating. Don’t do it. The disciplinary action that will be taken in the case of plagiarism is explained in the section on “Academic Misconduct” in the Student Handbook. If you are uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism, check out the FIU library website: http://library.fiu.edu/assistance/plagiarism. In addition, we will spend time in class demonstrating and discussing proper use and citation of sources.