

Syllabus

Conf. 723 Conflict and Gender

Fall 2003: Tuesdays, 1:30-4:10 pm
ICAR (CBR2) Room A 105

Professor: Sandra Cheldelin
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Office hours by appointment

Introduction

In this course we will consider gender as a powerful idea that shapes the way we see others and others see us. Social and cultural conceptions of gender—at home and around the world—has led to significant disparities in economic status, education, health, legal rights and other cultural indices of success. It has been used to justify such violence as sexual and physical abuse, rape, mutilation, imprisonment and killing. We will consider these many implications of the social construction of gender including the way language both shapes and reflects gendered attitudes, behaviors, expectations, and norms. We will examine our own relationships to gender at the micro, meso and macro levels including an individual, interactional and structural analysis. Themes of power, performance and privilege—and their implications—will be woven throughout the course.

Required Readings

The following books are available in the campus bookstore. (If you are concerned about the cost of the books, consider splitting the costs with other students in the class and sharing copies. This requires some organization and advance preparation—you cannot all do the reading at the last minute—but is feasible.)

Chesler, Phyllis. *Woman's Inhumanity to Woman* New York: Thunder's Mountain Press/Nation Books, 2001.

Crawford, Mary. *Talking Difference: On Gender and Language*. Sage: Thousand Oaks, 1995.

Fadiman, Anne. *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down*. New York: Noonday, 1997.

Tannen, Deborah *The Argument Culture: Moving From Debate to Dialogue*. New York: Random House, 1998.

In addition to the required books, there is a collection of articles, chapters and suggested other books for you to consider as you develop your presentations and papers. Be sure to read and be prepared to discuss those that are required prior to the week the topic will be considered in class. The week-by-week schedule, below, includes all required (and suggested) readings from the collection of articles and books

Assignments

Gender Interviews: 20%

Choose two people in your life who belong to different generations and interview them about their ideas concerning gender, privilege and the development of gendered identities. Ask them to share their personal experience and also to reflect on changes in society related to gender that have happened in the past several years..

Summarize the interviews and write a reflective piece addressing generational differences or similarities, surprise, insights, connections between their perspectives and the literature, and questions that experience generated for you.

Questions for Interviews due: September 2, 2003

Paper due following week: September 9, 2003

Class Presentations: 20%

Choose a novel, 2-3 short stories or a feature film related to gender and conflict, and present your choice(s) to the class, covering:

- Summary of themes and storyline
- Analysis of gendered aspects of story including references to conflict and gender readings
- Questions for discussion

Due as scheduled with presentation

Virtual gender museum section: 60%

Choose a topic within the options for class; develop a “virtual museum” component of project that includes visuals, summary of issue, etc. A short paper (7-10 pages) including referencing required and outside course readings, analysis, reflection and integration. Use a consistent scholarly style for citations.

Due as scheduled; paper due 1 week following presentation

Evaluation

This course will be conducted as a seminar:

- Students are required to complete all assigned readings and suggested readings as designated during the class

- Because participation is essential to an effective seminar, students missing more than one scheduled session should contact the professor to discuss alternative arrangements
- Students are requested to let the professor know in advance if they will not be in attendance at class
- Students are also encouraged to participate in community and campus events related to course themes
- Late work will only be accepted in case of family or personal illness.

Class Schedule and Readings

THEME I: PROLOGUE IMAGES OF GENDER & THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTIONIST DEBATE

Week 1: 8.26.03

Topics

Introduction to gender and conflict: power, performance and privilege
Overview of course and syllabus
Discussion of Gender and Conflict Graphic
Discussion of student presentation topics

Week 2: 9.2.03

Topics:

Social constructionist debate—nature vs. nurture
Student presentation schedule
Presentation by Ami Carpenter: Essentialism and Social Construction
Submit questions for 3 interviews on gender; conduct interviews and write up for next week

Required Readings

- Bleir, *Science and gender: a critique of biology and its theories on women*, New York: Pergamon Press
- Connell, R. W. (1987). "Masculinities" *Gender and Power*
- Crawford, Chapters 1 & 2
- Katz, P.A., Eagly, A., Remer, P., Silverstein, L., Travis, C. and Yoder, J. (2000, Summer). "Open letter" *Psychology of women newsletter*, 18, 23.

Recommended:

- Fausto-Sterling, A. (1992). *Myths of gender: biological theories about women and men* (2nd ed.). New York: Basic Books
- Hrdy, S.B. (1998) "Raising Darwin's consciousness: females and evolutionary theory" in B.M. Clinchy and J.K. Norem (Eds) *The gender and psychology reader* (pp. 265-271). New York: New York University Press
- Taylor, A. and Beinstein Miller, J. (1994) "The necessity of seeing gender in conflict" In *Conflict and Gender*, Cresskill, NJ: Hampton Press.
- Lewontin, R.C., Rose, S., and Kamin, L.J. (1984) *Not in our genes: biology, ideology, and human nature*. New York: Pantheon Books
- Rose, S. (1998). *Lifelines: biology beyond determinism*. New York: Oxford University Press
- Zuckerman, M. (1998). "Some dubious premises in research and theory on racial differences: scientific, social and ethic issues" In P.B. Organista, K.M. Chun, and G. Marin (eds), *Readings in ethnic psychology* (pp. 59-69). New York: Routledge

Week 3: 9.9.03

Topics

Gender and Language

Living with gender and sexism

Paper due on interviews (20%)

Required Readings

- Barrett, Michele, (1999) "The concept of difference" In *Imagination in theory, culture, writing, words and things*. New York: New York University Press
- Chesler, Chapter 3
- Crawford, Chapters 1, 2, and 4

Recommended Activities:

- An Evening of Remembrance
6:30-9:30 pm
GMU Dewberry Hall, lower level of Johnson Center

Week 4: 9.16.03

Topics

Psychoanalytic theories impacting concept of gender

Other psychologists' contribution to concept of gender

Gender and sexual identity

Role of schools in gender construction

Required Readings

- Chodorow, N. (1974). "Family structure and feminine personality." In M. S. Rosaldo and L. Lamphere (Eds.) *Women, culture, and society* (pp 43-66). Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.
- Crawford, Chapter 3
- Freud, S (1925/1989) "Some Psychical Consequences of Anatomical Distinction Between the Sexes" in *The Freud Reader* (pp. 670-678). New York: Norton (Original work published 1925).
- Mead, M. 1974" "On Freud's view of female psychology." In J. Strouse (Ed.) *Women & analysis: Dialogues on psychoanalytic views of femininity* (pp 95-106). New York: Grossman.

THEME II: GENDER AND THE FAMILY AND RELATIONSHIPS

Week 5: 9.23.03

Topics

Family and Gender
Relationship aggression
Issues across cultures

Required Readings

- Bronstein, P. (2001) "Parenting" in J. Worell (Ed.) *Encyclopedia of women and gender* (pp. 795-808). San Diego, CA: Academic Press
- Bronstein, P. (1984). "Differences in mothers' and fathers' behavior to children: a cross-cultural comparison." *Developmental psychology*, 20, 995-1003.
- Chesler, Chapter 2

Recommended Readings

- Bronstein, P., Briones, M. Brooks, T. and Cowan, B. (1996). "Gender and family factors as predictors of late adolescent emotional expressiveness and adjustment: a longitudinal study" *Sex roles*, 34, 739-765.
- Mead, M. (1963). *Sex and temperament in three primitive societies*. New York: Morrow (Original work published in 1935).
- Whiting, B.B. and Edwards, C.P. (1988) *Children of different worlds: the formation of social behavior*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Week 6: 9.30.03

Topics

Family stories (from interviews)
The mother-daughter & father-son relationships

Required Readings

- Brooks, T. and Bronstein, P. (1996 March) *Cross cultural comparison of mothers' and fathers' behaviors toward girls and boys*. Poster presented at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research on Adolescence. Boston.
- Chesler, Chapters 4, 5, 6, and 7

THEME III: GENDER AND SEXUALITY: THE MARKETPLACE

Week 7: 10.7.03

Topics

Media
Literature
Film
Television

Required Readings (continued Week 9)

- Chesler, Chapters 2 and 4
- Tannen, Chapters 2 and 3
- Allen, *(En)gendering the truth politics of news discourse*
- Jansen, S. (2002) "International news: masculinity, paradox and possibilities" Chapter 9 in *Media, gender and technology*, Rowman: Littlefield Publishers, pp 211-231
- Lukic, J. (2000) "Media representations of man and women in times of war and crisis: the case of Serbia" Chapter 14 in Gal, S. and Kigman, G. *Reproducing gender: politics, publics and everyday life after socialism*. Princeton University Press, pp 393-419.
- Perse, E.M (2001) "Models of media effects" Chapter 2 in *Media effects and society*. New Jersey: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, pp 23-52.

Recommended Readings:

- Fuludi, *Backlash: the undeclared war on American women*
- Rhodes, *Media images, feminist issues*
- Sreberny, *Television, gender and democratization in the Middle East*

Week 8: 10.14.03 NO CLASS (COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY)

Week 9: 10.21.03

Topics

Media
Literature
Film
Television

Student Presenters

Required Readings

See list for Week 7, continued

THEME IV: GENDER AND THE LAW

Week 10: 10.28.03

Topics

Law and gender
Women's rights

Student Presenters

Required Readings

- Tannen, Chapter 5
- Swiss, S. and Giller, J.E. (1993) "Rape as Crime of War" *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 270 (5, August 4): 612-615

THEME V: GENDER AND HEALTH

Week 11: 11.04.03

Topics

Who am I?
Who gets to say?
Epidemiology

Student Presenters

Required Readings

- Fadiman
- Agger, *The blue room. Trauma and testimony among refugee women: a psycho-social exploration*
- Montiel, *Political trauma and recovery in a protected conflict: understanding contextual effects*
- Freud, S. (1937). "The Girl Who Couldn't Breathe" (A.A. Brill, Trans.) In J. Breuer and S. Freud, *Studies on hysteria* (pp13-24). New York: Nervous and Mental Disease Publishing. (Originally published in 1895).

**THEME VI:
GENDER AND CONFLICT
GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS AND WORK**

Week 12: 11.11.03

Topics

Gender and leadership
Impact of technology

Student Presenters

Required Readings

- Bass, B., Avolio, B. and Atwater, L. (1996) *Transformational and transactional leadership of men and women*
- Denmark, F. (1993). "Women, leadership and empowerment" in *Psychology of women quarterly*
- Fuchs Epstein, C. (1991). "Ways men and women lead" in *Harvard business review*.
- Korabik, K. (1990) "Androgyny and leadership style" in *Journal of Business Ethics*.

Week 13: 11.18.03

Topics

Student Presenters

Required Readings

- Gray, B. (1994). "The gender-based foundations of negotiation theory" from *Research on negotiations in organizations*. Vol. 4 JAI Press, Ltd.
- Kolb, D. and Putnam, L.L. (1994) *Through the looking glass: negotiation theory refracted through the lens of gender*. Unpublished paper.
- Watson, C. (1994) "Gender differences in negotiation behavior and outcomes: fact or artifact?" From *Conflict and Gender*, Cresskill, NJ: Hampton Press.

**THEME VII:
GENDER AND VIOLENCE—
DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL CONDITIONS OF WAR**

Week 14: 11.25.03

Topics

War and violence

Victims of war

Rape and genocide

Guest presenter: Karen Bhangoo: Conflict and Gender: Victims of War

Student Presenters

Required Readings

- Bloom, M.M. (2002) "War and the politics of rape: ethnic versus non-ethnic conflicts" *International Peace Review*, January

Recommended Readings

- Moser, C.O.N. and Clark, F.C., Eds., (2001) *Victims, perpetrators, or actors? Gender, armed conflict and political violence*. London, UK, Zed Books.
- Turshen M. and Twagiramariya, C. (1998) *What women do in wartime: gender and conflict in Africa*, London, UK and New York, Zed Books, 1998.

**THEME VIII:
PREVENTION, RESOLUTION, POST-WAR CONSTRUCTION**

Week 15: 12.02.03

Topics

Humanitarian work

Prevention

Post-war construction

Peacebuilding

Student Presenters

Recommended Readings

- Bouta, T. and Frerks, G. (2002) *Women's roles in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction*. Clingendael Institute, Conflict Research Unit, Netherlands Institute of International Relations.
- IRINNEWS.ORG <http://www.irinnews.org>

- Mosse, J.C. (1993) *Half the world, half a change: an introduction to gender and development*. Oxford, UK, Oxfam.
- Pankhurst, D. (1998) *Women, gender and peacebuilding*, UK.
- Rehn, E. and Eirleaf, E.J. (Eds.) *Women, war and peace: the independent experts' assessment on the impact of armed conflict on women and women's roles in peace-building*. New York, UNIFEM (see website)
- Vivanathan, N.L. and Duggan, (Eds.) (1997). *The women, gender and development reader*. London, UK, Zed Books

Week 16: 12.09.03

Topics

Wrap-up, celebration and evaluation