



GENDER, FEMINISM IN TRANSNATIONAL CONTEXTS

APA Program: Multi-Country: France, Morocco, Senegal

Language of instruction: French

US semester credits: 4.0

Contact hours: 36 hours (12 hours per host city)

Term: Fall 2019

Instructors: Paris - Dr. Aurelie Perrier, Professor, APA

Rabat - Dr. Taoufiq Sakhkhane

Dakar - Dr. Fatou Sow

Course Description

In this course we will identify and trace the centrality of gender to the processes and issues of colonialism, postcolonialism, nationalism, and transnationalism. We will also examine the ways in which feminism(s) have been shaped both by and within these different contexts from the late 19th century to the present. In order to address these questions, the course will examine the historical development of feminism in France and two of its former colonies, Morocco and Senegal. The course will introduce students to key aspects of gender and feminist theory, consider critiques of white feminism, and examine the relationship between gender, race, and class oppression.

The first part of the course looks at the collision of feminism and imperialism in the French context. The second part examines Moroccan women's fraught relationship to state nationalism and to Islam, while the last section focuses on Senegalese women's rights.

Learning Objective

- Introduce students to feminist theory and intersectional approaches.
- Familiarize students with major debates in the study of non-Western gender, while providing them with a sense of the interlinkages between gender and intimacy, on the one hand, and large scale sociopolitical processes on the other.
- Think critically about nationalism and its relationship to gendered processes.

Schedule

Paris - Feminism in the Imperial Center: France

Week 1 - Introduction to Gender and Feminist Theory

- What is intersectionality? Racism, sexism and class oppression

Week 2 - Colonial Feminism

- The gendered rhetoric of the French empire
- French feminists in North Africa

Week 3 - Feminism's "Others" in Contemporary France

- Veils and burqinis: do Muslim women need saving?
- White feminism and its discontent

Week 4 - Gender, Race and the French Nation

- Same-sex marriage, race and nationalism: the controversy over gay marriage
- French universalism and multiracial feminism

Rabat - Gender and Nationalism in Morocco

Week 5 - Women and National Culture

- Women and cultural authenticity in colonial and postcolonial Morocco
- Decolonizing feminism

Week 6 - Historicizing Islam

- Women in Islam: scriptures, tradition and history
- The Moroccan debate on the veil

Week 7 - Women and the State

- Gendered citizenship and state feminism
- Personal status laws and the 2004 *Mudawwana* reform

Week 8 - Feminism as Cultural Betrayal?

- Secular Moroccan feminists (Mernissi and Slimani)
- Islamic feminism: an authentic path for women? (Asma Lamrabet)

Dakar - Women's Rights in Postcolonial Senegal

Week 9 - Theory

- Introduction
- Theorizing women in African contexts

Week 10 - Religion

- Culture, religion, politics: the rise of religious and cultural fundamentalisms
- Revisiting religion and culture: towards a new secular social contract

Week 11 - Bodies

- Isn't my body mine ?
- Women's sexual, reproductive, and health rights in Senegal

Week 12 - Politics

- Women mobilizing politics in postcolonial contexts
- Conclusion

Assessment

Each host city professor will assign a grade based on the following components of a student's work. The final grade will be an average of the three grades.

Class participation (30%). Participation has several components: physical attendance, informed oral contribution to class discussions throughout the semester and surprise quizzes (testing reading of the material). Students are expected to come to all classes having completed the readings. Reading assignments listed under each class session should be completed before attending that class. Students may opt to submit an optional response paper on weekly readings for extra credit during the semester.

Written assignment (30%). You will be asked to write one 3-4 page analytical essay over the course of each four-week session of the course. A handout with more specific instructions for each assignment will be handed to students. The essays should draw on the assigned readings, lectures, and class discussions: no additional or outside research will be required. Late submissions will be docked one-third of a letter grade for every day they are late (for example, an A- essay submitted one day late will receive a B+). An essay that is seven days late automatically receives a failing grade.

Final examination (30%). The final exam will consist of short answer identifications and an essay question. A study guide will be issued for each of these exams. In the final exam the identifications will be drawn from the last half of the course (roughly Weeks 7-14), but the essay question may be cumulative.

Oral Presentation (10%). Lead a 30-minute discussion section by preparing questions for the class based on the week's readings.

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Paris

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