REQUIRED TEXTS:

SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS (on Moodle course page):
Davis, Angela. “Women in Egypt: A Personal View” from Women, Culture, and Politics.

REQUIREMENTS:
Your participation is the key to making this course intellectually stimulating and socially vibrant. Our careful reflection on what you and others are saying, and on communicating your different opinions with both respect and precision will make these following tasks exciting:

A) Forum (including use of supplementary readings, resources at the end of chapters in the course textbooks, and radio/other news sources)
B) Mini-essays
C) Oral presentations

A) FORUM: You will be part of an assigned group and submit entries when it is the turn for your group. Each of you in the group must post on Moodle, BY SUNDAY MIDNIGHT, ONE question involving one or more of the texts assigned for the Monday of the upcoming week. You may reflect briefly on an aspect of the past week’s discussion if you consider it relevant. Check Moodle to read the list of questions already posted, to look for correlations, before you post your entry. Please imagine
questions that elicit responses about the implications of textual content, rather than 'yes'/‘no’ or factual research. I encourage use of the external sources listed in (A) above. The question should be followed by a short comment on the relationship of your query to a point of personal interest in the materials assigned. The question and comment should total no longer than 200 words.

Please be prepared to summarize your point in class as a quick refresher. 5 points will be deducted from your grade if you are later than the deadline, and your entry will not be recorded.

Please make sure you know when your group is due. You will, however, be graded individually, based on your own entry. When you miss your turn, 5 points will be deducted from your grade and you must wait for the next time your group is due. For grading guidelines, please see page 4 of the syllabus.

B) MINI-ESSAYS: an in-class assignment in which a prompt and a structure will be offered by the instructor and on which you will write for about 20-30 minutes. The focus will be on the readings from recent past sessions; you will have access to your books and notes, and extra credit will be given for using short, relevant quotations from the assigned materials. The assignment is completed and will be collected in class. Absences cannot be made up or compensated. You will be graded individually. In the last weeks of the semester, there is an option to revise up to 2 of the mini-essays.

PLAGIARISM is defined as the use of another’s ideas without acknowledgement. Since this is considered a serious matter, please consult a style handbook on the correct way to record another person’s opinions; ask me if you are still confused. Please visit www.clic.edu/plagiarism/index for a very informative tutorial.

C) ORAL PRESENTATIONS: a one-time in-class activity for which you will present in pairs. This is a graded requirement that is based on the material assigned for the date that you sign up. You will be graded individually.

Advantages: Your moment in the spotlight! You may grasp this opportunity to display your individuality and teamwork in expressing ideas.

Disadvantages: None.

What do you do?
  • Provide a Title to your presentation that indicates your argument about the texts;
• Outline (not summarize) particular aspects/themes/ideas of the texts for that day; points will be deducted for summarizing the texts;
• Compare/contrast these texts and previous/outside readings to support your opinion/argument; bring in a visual image or soundtrack to highlight a point;
• Pose a couple of questions based on your opinions to elicit discussion.

**Time allotted:** 15 minutes maximum (please observe time-limit). You are most welcome to consult me beforehand about the presentation, if you have any questions about organization and format. My suggestion is that the presentation be uninterrupted, followed by a general discussion.

Reminder: Sign up for the oral presentation as early in the semester as you can and make a note of this event in your diary. **You are responsible for remembering the date.** If you have to cancel a scheduled presentation, please let me know well in advance. You may reschedule but only once.

Participation in class discussion, in the online forum, and in oral presentations, is extremely important. One suggestion is to write comments/questions in your notebook while reading and/or consulting past class notes.

**CONFERENCES:** I value individual conferences highly and encourage them since, for all of the above, frequent communication is necessary. My office hours are printed on pages 1 and 5 of this syllabus. Leave a note, with your preferred contact information, in my mailbox (or slip it under my office door), or e-mail me, or talk with me after class if you wish to make an appointment other than the times indicated, for any aspect of the class. I urge you to take advantage of this practice. I take great pride in knowing you individually. **Please time your appointments or questions with at least 24 hours notice, if not visiting during office hours.** I am not available between Friday 5 p.m. and Monday noon.

Regular attendance is the basis of good performance on your part, and is an inspiration for me to work harder. I will make a record of your attendance. Remember, attendance also means punctuality, an important aspect of your presence as a member
of the class. Please inform me in advance, by email, voicemail, or in person if you plan to be absent. When it is an emergency, please also leave a message as soon as is possible.

Please see the attached grade-guide (page 4 of syllabus).

I have been asked by the Dean of Students’ Office to include the following statement in the syllabus and I am pleased to do so—I am committed to providing assistance to help you be successful in this course. Reasonable accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. The Associate Dean of Students, Lisa Landreman, will serve as the coordinator for services for students with disabilities. It is important to meet with her at the beginning of the semester to ensure that your accommodations are approved and in place to begin the semester successfully. The Associate Dean can be reached in the Office of Student Affairs, 119 Weyerhaeuser, by phone at 651-696-6220, or email llandrem@macalester.edu.

P.S. This is an exciting and rigorous course. You must meet all the requirements outlined above, consistently and productively, so that you may reap the maximum benefit. Inability to complete the various assignments, to participate in an alert manner, or to present one’s original and honest opinions, will result in great disappointment for you and for me. It will defeat the purpose of exploration.

Having said all this, I WELCOME YOU AND I HOPE YOU ENJOY THIS COURSE!!
For the Forum:
A for entries that raise thought-provoking questions, establish unique/interesting/significant connections to one’s disciplinary interests, within/between texts, or to issues external to the class, maintain precision and clarity of thought, and provide succinct summaries of relevant ideas discussed.
B for entries that adequately summarize selected/relevant ideas from class-discussion, establish a valid and straightforward connection to one’s disciplinary interests.
C for entries that summarize ideas in a sketchy manner, leave connections unclear, and dwells on obvious details that are not stimulating in their significance.

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When averaging final grades, any number at the upper limit that carries a +0.5 value will be rounded to the next highest number at the discretion of the instructor, e.g., a final average of 89.5 could become 90, meaning a final grade of A-/B+ rather than a B+ (which is not bad in itself). That will enhance the value of your performance, and give you some advantage and a lot of credit!

GRADE DISTRIBUTION FOR THE COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

| Mini-essays | 40% |
| Oral Presentation | 20% |
| Forum | 10% |
| Participation | 20% |
| Attendance | 10% |

If you have any questions or suggestions, feel free to talk to me.

WGSS 105 Fall 2013
Transnational Perspectives on Gender, Race, Sexuality, and Class
Sonita Sarker

Class: Old Main 009
Office: OM 317/Mailbox OM 409
PH: 696-6316

Hours: MWF 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Office: MW 4:30—6 p.m./appt.
E-mail: sarker@macalester.edu

Abbreviations: Women’s Lives (WL), Gender Through the Prism of Difference (PD)

WEEK 1
Wed, September 4
Introduction

Fri, September 6
POINTS OF VIEW: LOCAL and GLOBAL
“The Social Construction of Gender” and “Patriarchy, the System” (WL 64-76).

WEEK 2
Mon, September 9  “What it means…” (PD 72-81); discussion of previous readings contd.; discussion of presentations and mini-essays.

Wed, September 11  “Identities and Social Locations” (WL 91-103); PRACTICE MINI-ESSAY

Fri, September 13  “Optional Ethnicities” (WL 130-137); The Take-Away Exercise.

WEEK 3
Mon, September 16  “Jews in the U.S.” (WL 119-130); discussion of “Optional Ethnicities” contd.; PRESENTATION #1.

Wed, September 18  PD, pp. 233-244 and pp. 259-267.

Fri, September 20  “Dude…” (PD 464-475); “Confessions” (PD 532-536); Smith (supplement); The Take-Away Exercise; PRESENTATION #2.

WEEK 4
Mon, September 23  HISTORIES AND THEORIES
“Antiglobalization Pedagogies and Feminism” (PD 58-64). MINI-ESSAY #1

Wed, September 25  WL, pp. 3-49; “Ageism and Feminism” (PD 26-37).

Thu, September 26  Screening and discussion of “Miss Representation” (7pm Hall of Fame).

Fri, September 27  WL, pp. 76-88; discussion of film (contd.); review of all past readings.

WEEK 5
Mon, September 30  “Theorizing Difference from Multiracial Feminism” (PD 19-25). Walker (supplement); PRESENTATION #3.

Wed, October 2  BODY IMAGE and SEXUALITY
Davis (supplement); WL, pp. 149-180.

Fri, October 4  WL, pp. 180-204; PD, pp. 145-162; The Take-Away Exercise.

WEEK 6
Mon, October 7  PD, pp. 197-231; MINI-ESSAY #2.

Wed, October 9  MOM-DAD-CHILD(REN), a.k.a. THE FAMILY
PD, pp. 269-323.

Fri, October 11  PD, pp. 353-369; The Take-Away Exercise.

WEEK 7
Mon, October 14  HEALTH
“Women’s Health” (WL 207-224); PRESENTATION #4.


Fri, October 18  WL, pp. 274-297; The Take-Away Exercise.
PRESENTATION #5

WEEK 8
Mon, October 21  ECOLOGY

Wed, October 23  Discussion of articles on ecology contd.; review of readings.

Friday, October 25 – Sunday, October 27  FALL BREAK

WEEK 9
Mon, October 28  ECONOMIC & POLITICAL CHANGE
Wed, October 30  WL, pp. 371-392; Falk (supplement).
PRESENTATION #7.

Thu, October 31  “The Rio Declaration” (PD 508-510); “A Women’s History Report Card…” (PD 527-531). Screening and discussion of 1-800-INDIA (7 pm, Hall of Fame)

Fri, November 1  Discussion of film contd.; WL, pp. 346-362; The Take-Away Exercise. PRESENTATION #8.

WEEK 10

Mon, November 4  WL, pp. 401-410; discussion on previous readings (WL 346-362) contd. MINI-ESSAY #3.


Fri, November 8  WL, pp. 410-438; The Take-Away Exercise.
PRESENTATION #9.

WEEK 11

Mon, November 11  PD, pp. 163-196.

Wed, November 13  LAW and ORDER
“Doing Time, Doing Masculinity” (PD 82-86);
PRESENTATION #10.

Fri, November 15  “We’re all Sisters” (PD 511-526); The Take-Away Exercise.

WEEK 12


Wed, November 20  WL, pp. 512-533; PRESENTATION #11.

Fri, November 22  “Deploying Race…” (PD 114-124); The Take-Away
Exercise.

WEEK 13
Mon, November 25          “Brides of Palestine” (PD 131-143); PRESENTATION #12.
Wed, November 27          WL, pp. 614-636; review of all past readings.

Fri, November 29—Sun, December 1  Thanksgiving Break

WEEKS 14 and 15  Refresh and Review

Optional Mini-Essay Revisions DUE Thursday, December 12, by 5 p.m. through Macalester Email