

COURSE TITLE : **GENDER IN CARIBBEAN CULTURE I: Theoretical Issues, History And Theology**

COURSE CODE : **GEND 2001, Semester III, 2008/2009**

LECTURER : **Mrs. Shakira Maxwell**

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ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR : **Ms. Erika Ellis**

Course Office : Institute of Gender and Development Studies
Sir Alister McIntyre Buildings, Building #6
Tel : 977 :7365 or Ext 2644

Lecture Times : Monday, 5:00pm – 8:00pm and Wednesday 5:00 – 8:00pm

Lecture Room : To be announced

Tutorial Times : To be announced

Office Hours : Available on request

Course Concept

Gender Studies is an outgrowth of Women's Studies and both of these areas of study have emerged directly out of the Women's Movement. Unlike Women's Studies where the central focus is the understanding and interpretation of women's lives, Gender Studies examines the ongoing construction of both masculinity and femininity in society and the relationships between them. In doing this, Gender Studies aims at developing a more incisive understanding of why sexual difference has created a hierarchical imbalance between male and female in society.

Religion has been one of the bases upon which understandings of the world and human relationships have been built. History has been used as an authoritative record of human activity. Many of the issues that are raised in this course have their origin in history and theology, the disciplinary product of religion. Using the Caribbean culture as the backdrop, the notion of 'natural' gender and related issues will be explored in the context of gender discourses.

Please take the time to read the information contained in this document; it is all-encompassing and very important. Historically, there has been a strong positive correlation between students' attention to this outline and their enjoyment of this course.



Course Objectives

Students who participate in the course should, by the end of the sessions, be able to:

- i. trace the evolution of the various meanings attributed to 'sex' and 'gender'
- ii. discuss the ways in which various conceptual understandings of these terms have implications for men, women and the social relations of gender
- iii. examine feminist theory as it relates to the construction of masculinity and femininity in the Caribbean
- iv. critically examine the social, artificial and fluid nature of gender
- v. employ gender as a category of analysis in the consideration of history and theology

Course Guidelines

The course encourages participation and experiential learning. The presence of the body without an active and participating spirit will not yield any learning outcomes. To this end, students are expected to take an active role in class discussions. Attendance at the two-hour weekly lecture/presentation/discussion session is essential and students are required to prepare for and participate in weekly tutorials. Students are reminded, in particular, that the university regulations prescribe compulsory attendance at tutorials and also reinforce the need for attendance at lectures.

Assessment

Coursework (Essay Assignment)	30% of final grade
Tutorials – participation and presentation	10% of final grade
Final Examination	60% of final grade

Coursework

Early in the Semester, a list of essay topics covering the first section of the course will be distributed, and from this list, students should choose one topic. You will also be expected to give a presentation during a tutorial on one of the tutorial questions which are to be found in the course outline. The presentation should give the main arguments that you are developing in your paper. Guidelines for the presentation will also be given. Assignments should be handed in during the class on the date specified. A receipt will, at that time, be issued as proof of submission. ***Late assignments will not be accepted unless accompanied by a certified letter from the University Medical Health Centre.***

Coursework assignments are due **no later than Monday June 22, 2009** and should be submitted during the lecture.

Guidelines for Coursework Essay

The coursework assignment accounts for 30% of the final grade and will be assessed based on the following:

- Content – the presentation and development of good and relevant ideas; the grasp of key concepts
- Argumentation – the support of the ideas and key concepts by accurate referencing, the logical and coherent development of the points/position being advanced. Students must show evidence, therefore, of wide reading going beyond the recommended literature in the course outline

- Use of appropriate writing techniques that include good grammar and proper referencing. Please note that footnotes and the bibliography are used to inform the reader of additional information that the writer considers important but does not require in the body of the text.

The list of essays for the coursework assignment is to be found on the last page of this document.

Tutorial Presentation

Students are required at the beginning of the semester to select one of the coursework questions and indicate the choice to the tutor. The student is required to make a presentation that adequately responds to the question and to involve the class in the discussion.

Readings

Essential Readings are listed below and should be consulted throughout the Semester. There is also a list of readings that are recommended for a more comprehensive understanding of the issues. Readings specific to Lectures/Tutorials are listed to allow students to prepare for these sessions. However, students are encouraged to read outside of the literature recommended in this document. Many of the texts, journal articles, and papers for GEND 2001 will be found in the RBC section of the Library. A course packet will be made available from the Institute of Gender and Development Studies. Students are encouraged to research and to make use of relevant information found on the World Wide Web, radio, television and other printed material and these, when used, *must be properly referenced*.

Proper referencing of material is an imperative in academic work. Students are encouraged, therefore, to use a specific style of referencing and to stick to it. Should you feel uncertain of doing this, you should consult **A Manual for the Writing of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations** by Kate Turabian in 1987 and published in Chicago by the University of Chicago Press, 1987. Proper referencing will be one of the areas to which grades will be assigned in your assignments.

Essential Texts

Barrow, Christine. (ed) 1998. Caribbean Portraits: Essays on Gender Ideologies and Identities. Kingston: Ian Randle Publishers.

Feminist Review No.59 1998. "Rethinking Caribbean Difference" edited by Patricia Mohammed.

hooks, bell. 2000 Feminist Theory: from Margin to Center Cambridge, Massachusetts: South End Press

hooks, bell. 2000. Feminism is for Everybody. Cambridge, Massachusetts: South End Press

Kimmel, Michael 2000. The Gendered Society London: Oxford University Press

Lindsay, Linda L. 1994. Gender Roles: A Sociological Perspective. Englewoods Cliff: Prentice Hall.

Mohammed, Patricia and Catherine Shepherd (eds). 1999 Gender in Caribbean Development. Mona: UWI Second Edition

Shepherd, Verene, Bridget Brereton and Bailey, Barbara (eds). 1995 Engendering History: Caribbean Women In Historical Perspective. Kingston : Ian Randle Publishers.

Tong, Rosemary. 1992 Feminist Thought : A Comprehensive Introduction. London Routledge.

Working Paper No. 3 1996. Differentiating Caribbean Womanhood. Mona: UWI

Recommended Texts

Barriteau, Eudine (ed). 2003. Confronting Power, Theorizing Gender. Kingston, UWI Press.

Beckles, Hilary. 1999. Centering Woman. Kingston: Ian Randle Publishers.

Bush, Barbara. 1990. Slave Women in the Caribbean Society. Indianapolis: Indiana University Press.

Lerner, Gerda. 1986. The Creation of Patriarchy. Oxford University Press

Mohammed, Patricia and Althea Perkins. 1999. Caribbean Women at the Cross Roads : the Paradox of Motherhood Among Women of Barbados, St. Lucia and Dominica. Jamaica: Canoe Press.

Senior, Olive. 1993. Working Miracles: Women's Lives in the English-Speaking Caribbean. London: James Currie

Course Schedule

Sessions 1 and 2 (June 01 and 03)

Thinking Gender: Introduction to Main Concepts and Ideas in Gender Theory

Readings:

Bhasin, Kamla. 1993. What is Patriarchy? New Delhi: Khali Press pp 3 –19 (course packet)

hooks, bell. 2000. "Feminist Politics: Where We Stand." Feminism is for Everybody. Cambridge, Massachusetts: South End Press. 67-71

Johnson, Allan G. 1997. "Where are We?". The Gender Knot . Temple University Press. Philadelphia. 3 – 23

Kauffman, Michael. 1992. " A Framework for Research on Men and Masculinity." Men's Studies Review. Vol 7, No. 3. 14-19

Kimmel, Michael. 2000. " Introduction". The Gendered Society. New York: Oxford University Press. 1-17

Lindsay, Linda. 1994. " The Sociology of Gender: The Theoretical Perspectives and Feminist Frameworks. Gender Roles. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice Hall. 1-19

Mohammed, Patricia. 1995. " The Representation of Masculinity in Caribbean Feminist Thought or What Masculinity Has Made of Men in the Caribbean". The XXth Caribbean Studies Association Conference. Willemstad, Curacao. (course packet)

Whelehan, Imelda. 1995. " Men in Feminism". Modern Feminist Thought. New York: New York University Press. 177 -193 (course packet)

Young, Kate. 1988. " Notes on the Social Relations of Gender". Gender in Caribbean Development(eds) Mohammed, Patricia and Catherine Shepherd. Mona: UWI.

Session 3 (June 08)

What More Do Women Want? Feminism and the Politics of Transformation.

Readings:

Jackson, Stevi and Jackie Jones. 1998 "Thinking for Ourselves: An Introduction to Feminist Theorising". Contemporary Feminist Theories. Eds. Stevi Jackson and Jackie Jones. New York University Press: New York. 1- 11 (Course Packet)

Hill Collins, Patricia. 2000. "Distinguishing Features of Black Feminist Thought." Black Feminist Thought. Great Britain: Routledge. Second Edition. 21- 43

Tong, Rosemary. 1997 Feminist Thought. Great Britain: Routledge. Pp 72-94; 95-136.

Wieringa, Saskia.2002. "Essentialism versus Constructivism: Time For a Rapprochement?" In Patricia Mohammed (ed) Gendered Realities. Mona: UWI Press. Pp 3 - 21

By the end of the lecture you should be able to:

- i. trace the evolution of gender and feminist theory
- ii. critically assess the contribution of liberal, radical, Marxist , socialist, psycho-analytic, postmodern and black feminisms to scholarship and the status of women
- iii. review the extent to which 'transformation' has been an effective vehicle for feminist politics.

Tutorial Activity for the Week beginning June 08

Clarification of main issues

In this session students are expected to seek clarification for any of the issues raised in the first lecture. This means that no student is assigned to present this week but all have a responsibility to ensure that they review the work done in the previous lecture so that they can be in a position to participate in useful discussions.

Sessions 4 (June 10)

The Evolution of Gender and Feminist Theory – Caribbean Perspectives

Readings

Andaiye.2002 The Lucille Mathurin Mair Lecture 2002. The Angle You Look From Determines What you See: Towards a Critique of Feminist Politics in the Caribbean. Kingston: Center for Gender and Development Studies, Mona Unit.

Antrobus, Peggy. 2000 The Lucille Mathurin Mair Lecture 2002. The Rise and Fall of Feminist Politics in the Caribbean Women's Movement 1975 -1995. Kingston: Center for Gender and Development Studies, Mona Unit.

Barriteau Foster, Eudine. 1992. " The Construct of Postmodern Feminist Theory for Caribbean Social Science Research". Social and Economic Studies(Vol.41:2)

Castello, June. 2006. "Where Have All the Feminists Gone: Learning the Lessons of a Long Time Passed in the Women's Movement in the Caribbean." Kingston: *Caribbean Quarterly*. Pp 1 - 13

Leo-Rhynie, Elsa. 1992 "Moving From the Periphery". Women and Development Studies 10th Anniversary Symposium. Mona: UWI

Reddock, Rhoda. 1999. " Feminism and Feminist Thought: An Historical Overview". In Gender in Caribbean Development. Pat Mohammed and Catherine Shepherd (Eds). Mona: UWI. Second Edition

By the end of the lecture you should be able to:

- i. trace the evolution of Caribbean feminisms
- ii. critically assess the contribution of Caribbean feminisms to Caribbean scholarship and
- iii. critically assess the contribution of Caribbean feminisms to the lives of women and men in the Caribbean.

Sessions 5 and 6 (June 15 and June 17)

Distinguishing Sex and Gender: Biological Determinism and the Social Construction of Gender Psychology and Sexual Difference

Readings

Brown, Janet and Barry Chevannes. 1995. " Findings of the Gender Socialisation Project." Mona: UWI, CCDC.

Hart, Keith (ed). 1996. " The Sexual Division of Labour". Women and the Sexual Division of Labour in the Caribbean. Barbados: Canoe Press. 11-32

Kimmel, Michael. 2000. "Ordained By Nature: biology constructs the sexes". The Gendered Society. New York: Oxford University Press. pp 21 -46

Kimmel, Michael. 1996. "Masculinity as Homophobia: Fear, Shame and Silence in the Construction of Gender Identity". Symposium on the Construction of Caribbean Masculinity: Towards a Research Agenda. St. Augustine:UWI

Lindsey, Linda. 1994. " Gender Role Development: The Impact of Biology and Psychology". Gender Roles. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice Hall, pp 19-46

Nanda, Serena 2000. "Multiple Genders Among North American Indians". Gender Diversity: Cross Cultural Variations. Illinois: Waveland Press. 11- 26 (Course Packet)

Plumwood, Val 1989. " Do We Need a Sex/ Gender Distinction?". Radical Philosophy. Vol 51.

By the end of the lectures you should be able to:

- i. understand the various theoretical debates surrounding biological determinism and sexual difference.
- ii. understand the interrelation between psychology and sexual difference

EITHER

Tutorial Activity for Week beginning June 15

Why is it important to establish a difference between the terms "sex" and "gender"? What were the initiatives that lead to the development of "gender" as a concept? Using as an example, one named Caribbean country, discuss the extent to which the separation has been useful in changing the ideological and material relations of gender.

OR

Write a letter to the editor of one of the regional newspapers outlining some of the problems that men have with feminists. In your letter propose a better set of guiding principles for relationships between men and women providing justification for your choice of these principles.

Session 7 (June 22) The Social Construction of Gender: The Primary Agents of Socialisation

Readings

Brown, Janet 1995. " Why man stay so, why woman stay so". WAND Occasional Paper

Francis -Brown, S. 1996 Media, Gender and Development. CARIMAC, UWI. see in particular chapters by E. Leo-Rhynie and H. Nicholson.

Leo-Rhynie, Elsa. 1998. " Socialisation and Development of Gender Identity." Christine Barrow. (ed) Caribbean Portraits: Essays on Gender Ideologies and Identities. Kingston: Ian Randle Publishers.

Lindsay, Linda . 1994. " Gender Role Development: The Socialisation Process." Gender Roles:A Sociological Perspective. Englewoods Cliff: Prentice Hall. pp 19- 46

Senior, Olive. 1993. " The Household Setting"; "Socialisation and Gender-Role Learning"; " Education and Gender-role Stereotyping". Working Miracles : Women's Lives in the English Speaking Caribbean. London and Indiana: James Currey and ISER. 8-24; 25 - 42; 43 -64.

By the end of the lecture you should be able to:

- i. identify the agents of socialization that create and reinforce the frameworks for acceptable feminine and masculine behaviour
- ii. understand the dynamic nature of these agents across different societies

Tutorial Activity for the Week beginning June 22

EITHER

- i. *Explain how biological differences between men and women create the basis for social difference and categorization.*

OR

Psychological differences between male and female are fixed at birth and, therefore, largely, account for the characterization of the masculine and feminine personality. Discuss this view with reference to the relevant literature.

Session 8 (June 24)

The Reinforcement and Challenge to "Natural" Gender: the Influence of Religion

Alexander, Valentina. 1996. "'A mouse in the jungle': the Black Christian woman's experience of the church and society in Britain." Ed. Delia Jarrett-Macauley. Reconstructing Womanhood, Reconstructing Feminisms. New York: Routledge. 36-57 (Course Packet)

Bonvillain, Nancy. 1995. "Gender and Religion". Women and Men: Cultural Constructions of Gender. Englewoods Cliff: Prentice Hall. 204-224

Castello, June. 2004. "Shake that 'Booty' in Jesus' Name: The Possibilities of a Liberation Theology of the Body for the Body of Christ in Jamaica". In Bailey, Barbara and Leo-Rhynie, Elsa (ed) Gender in the 21st Century. Kingston: Ian Randle Publishers. Pp 281 -300.

hooks, bell. 2000 "Beauty Within and Without." Feminism is for Everybody. Cambridge, Massachusetts: South End Press. 31-36

Kee, Alistair. 1986. "Religion and the Domination of Women." Domination or Liberation: The Role of Religion in Social Conflict. SCM Press. (Course Packet)

Kimmel, Michael. 2000. "The Gendered Classroom". The Gendered Society. New York: Oxford University Press. 150-171

Leo-Rhynie, Elsa. 1996. "Gender Issues in Education and Implications for Labour Force Participation". Ed. Keith Hart. Women and the Sexual Division of Labour in the Caribbean. Barbados: Canoe Press

Lindsay, Linda. 1994. "Religion and Patriarchy". Gender Roles: A Sociological Perspective. Englewoods Cliff: Prentice Hall. pp 288 – 309.

Rowe, Maureen. 1993. "Women and Rastafari". Caribbean Quarterly Monograph. UWI. Vol. 39, 3 and 4.

Sistren (ed) 1993. SISTREN: Women and Religion. Kingston. Vol. 15

By the end of the lecture you should be able to:

- i. understand the ways in which influences such as religion contribute to constructions of masculinity and femininity.
- ii. understand the ways in which influences such as religion reinforce or challenge notions of a "natural" gender.
- iii. identify within Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Rastafari tenets and practices that reinforce patriarchy

- iv. identify within Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Rastafri challenges to patriarchy.

Session 9 and 10 (June 29 and July 01)

Engendering History in the Caribbean

Readings

Beckles, Hilary. 2000. "Perfect Property: Enslaved Black Women in the Caribbean". In (ed) Eudine Barriteau Confronting Power, Theorizing Gender. Kingston: UWI Press pp 142-158

_____. 1996. "Masculinity as Portrayed in Slave Records." Symposium on the Construction of Caribbean Masculinity: Towards a Research Agenda. St. Augustine, UWI.

_____. 1995. "Sex and Gender in the Historiography of Caribbean Slavery". Eds. Verene Shepherd, Brereton and Bailey. Engendering History: Caribbean Women in Historical Perspective. Kingston : Ian Randle Publishers.

_____. 1989. Natural Rebels: A Social History of Enslaved Black Women in Barbados. Rutgers University Press.

Brereton, Bridgette. 1994 " Gendered Testimonies". Elsa Gouveia Lecture, Department of History, Mona.

Bush, Barbara. 1990. Slave Women in Caribbean Society 1650-1838. London and Indianapolis: James Currey. Chapters 1 and 2.

Ford-Smith, Honor. 1988. " Women and the Garvey Movement in Jamaica." Garvey: His Work and Impact. Eds. Rupert Lewis and Patrick Bryan.

Fox-Genovese, Elisabeth. 1992. "Placing Women in History". New Left Review. No. 132

Goodridge, Richard. 2003 " How Our lives Would Be Affected By the Custom Of Having Several Wives: The Intersection between African History and Gender Studies in the Caribbean." In (ed) Eudine Barriteau Confronting Power, Theorizing Gender. Kingston: UWI Press pp 126-141

Mohammed, Patricia. 1995. "Writing Gender into History: the Negotiation of Gender Relations Among Indian Men and Women in Post-Indenture Trinidad Society, 1917 – 47. Engendering History. 20-47

Moore, B.L and Johnson, M.A.2004. Neither Led nor Driven: Contesting British Cultural Imperialism in Jamaica, 1865-1920. Kingston: UWI Press pp 96- 136; 137 – 166.

Vassell, Linnette. 1994. Voices of Women in Jamaica 1889-1939. Mona: UWI, Department of History

By the end of the lectures you should be able to

- i. understand how constructions of masculinity and femininity have changed over time

- ii. be aware of how history has reflected the wider societal bias in the recording of contributions of men and women in history.

Tutorial Activities for the Week beginning June 29

In what ways does the educational system/mass media, through its structure and offering, reinforce patriarchal ideology as this relates to the subordination of women and the sexual division of labour?

Session 10 (July 06)

Gender, Colonialism and Nationalist Struggles

Readings

Charles, Carolle. 1995. "Gender and Politics in contemporary Haiti: the Duvalierist State, Transnationalism, and the Emergence of a new Feminism.(1980-1990) Feminist Studies 21, no1(Spring 1995):135-164

Colon-Warren, Alice E. and Idsa Alegria Ortega. "Shattering the Illusions of Development: The Changing Status of Women and Challenges for the Feminist Movement in Puerto Rico". Feminist Review. No.59. Summer 1998. 101-117

Hall, Catherine. 1995. "Gender Politics and Imperial Politics" Eds. Verene Shepherd, Brereton and Bailey. Engendering History: Caribbean Women in Historical Perspective. Kingston : Ian Randle Publishers.

McClintock, Anne. 1995. Imperial Leather. New York: Routledge. pp 21-56

N'zengou-Tayo, Marie-Jose. "Fanm se poto mitan: Haitian Women, the Pillar of Society". Feminist Review. No.59. Summer 1998. 118-142

Reddock, Rhoda. 1990. "Feminism, Nationalism and the Early Women's Movement." Caribbean Women Writers. Eds. Selwyn Cudjoe. Calloux: University of Massachussets. 61-81. (Course packet).

Robinson, Tracy. 2003. Beyond the Bill Of Rights: Sexing the Citizen." In (ed) Eudine Barriteau Confronting Power, Theorizing Gender. Kingston: UWI Press pp 231-261 (Course Packet)

By the end of the lecture you should be able to:

- i. understand the way in which colonialism has impacted on the construction of masculinity and femininity
- ii. make an evaluation of women's involvement in nationalist struggles and see to what extent this has challenged exiting notions of acceptable female behavior

Tutorial Activities for the Week beginning July 06

EITHER

- i. ***Outline how religious practice in Jamaica reinforces gender inequality and identify possible***
- ii. ***opportunities within religious practices of two religions for the improvement of gender relations.***

OR

If you were to conduct a review of the status of women in Jamaica over the past ninety years, what sources of data would you use and how do these sources help you to understand the status of women in the past?

Session 11 July 08

Synthesis and Revision for Examination

Additional Readings

hooks, bell 2000. " Visionary Feminism". Feminism is for Everybody. Cambridge, Massachusetts: South End Press. pp110-118

Kimmel, Michael 2000."A Degendered Society?". The Gendered Society. New York: Oxford University Press. 264- 268

Tutorial Activity for the week beginning July 13

Outline the involvement of women in nationalist struggles and explore to what extent there have been “accommodations” or revisions of patriarchy to facilitate the involvement of these women.

Coursework Essays

Write no more than 2,500 words on one of the following:

1. How relevant is the current focus on men’s problems in gender policy and public discussion in the Caribbean? Using illustrations from one named Caribbean territory evaluate the usefulness of feminist theory in addressing the problems of gender inequality in the Caribbean.
2. Conduct a review of any Caribbean newspaper’s coverage and treatment of a “gender issue” over a period of at least three months. How do the theories that have been used to explain the acquisition of a gender identity help you to understand both the gender issue under discussion and the media treatment of the issue? (Please note that the ‘issue’ must appear at least three times in the newspaper over the period under review.)
3. It has been argued that socialisation is not the cause of gender inequality. Discuss this viewpoint and assess the importance of the role of gender ideology in the construction of masculinity and femininity in a named Caribbean territory.