THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
MONA UNIT
Institute of Gender and Development Studies (IGDS)

GS35B/GEND 3502 – THE PHILOSOPHY OF GENDER IN CARIBBEAN
THOUGHT

Lecturers:
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Venue: Room 04(Humanities and Education)
Lecture Time: Mondays and Thursday 5-8pm
Office Hours- walk in between 9am - 5pm

IGDS Mona Unit Information for Students
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COURSE RATIONALE, FORMAT AND ASSESSMENT

Welcome to GS35B/GEND 3502 - The Philosophy of Gender in Caribbean Thought. This Level 3 course looks at the way in which Feminism as an activist movement has contributed to the meanings of social phenomena and the identification and achievement of optimistic goals of sexual equality and justice for which it ultimately strives. The course attempts to conceptualize how Caribbean Feminist Theory has offered new descriptions and explanations of social phenomena such as race, ethnicity, and social-economic class as they are experienced in the Caribbean.

This course is highly recommended for undergraduate students who intend to pursue the MSc. Gender and Development Studies as well as undergraduate students who intend to use gender as a category for analysis in their graduate research. Undergraduate students completing a Minor or Major in Gender and Development, as well as graduate students in Gender Studies, will therefore find it useful.

The course will expose you to many concepts, debates and methods that will be relevant to any academic course you undertake. It will also expose you to the logical process involved in thinking through the dynamics of gender in everyday life.

Course Level: 3 – This is a qualifying course for graduate studies. Assessment is based on 40% course work and 60% final examination. Students must gain a pass mark of 50% across both course work and examinations.

Length of Course: 1 Semester/Summer
Credits: 3
Pre-Requisites: At least two undergraduate first and second level gender courses, and/or a background in philosophy. (e.g. AR20M; AR22C)

Course Objectives:
At the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- Trace the development of feminisms, Caribbean feminisms and the underlying philosophical issues (Philosophy/feminism/Caribbean feminism).
- Use the relevant ideas, debates, tools and methods involved in the study of Philosophy of Gender in Caribbean Thought
- Understand and explain the philosophical discourses in Caribbean history (Engendering History) including the sexual division of labour in Caribbean societies (making women visible in C history+ explanations’ for the Sexual/gender DL)
- Distinguish between orthodox political theory and practice in the Caribbean, using the example of the life of one prominent Caribbean political leader
- Discuss the impact of gender on concepts of justice and equality
• Know milestones in the history of the Caribbean feminist movement and feminist activism and the contribution of this movement to social transformation in the Caribbean

Course Content:

1. The archaeology of gender – development and history of the sexual division of labour.
2. Philosophy of Sex & Gender, Love (The history of desire): sex, love and gender relations.
3. Feminism and Political theory in the Caribbean: the feminist challenge to the orthodoxy of politics – the gendered framework of political theory. (feminism; and philosophy; political theory) (gender, governance and political leadership).
4. Gender Justice and Gender Equality – the impact of gender on a philosophy of justice; the impact of tradition and culture on gender justice in Caribbean feminist discourse. Examine the gender dimensions of other kinds of injustice in the Caribbean (age; disability; socio-economic class).
5. Feminism as Social Movement – the potential of feminism for social transformation and social justice including areas such as gender and HIV; and gender, governance and political leadership.

Course Readings:    The course readings have a very high level of Caribbean content in order to familiarize students with key ideas and concepts of Caribbean scholars in gender studies. The readings will also enable students to engage in their own thinking about gender and philosophical issues in the Caribbean. They will also help students to develop the necessary skills to critique and build on these ideas to advance the discipline of gender studies in the Caribbean.

Students who have not done GS3A/GEND 3501- The Philosophy of Gender may wish to refer to the readings and philosophical debates explored, provided the conceptual and methodological base. If you have not done GEND 3501 it is important that you become familiar with the references and content of the Semester 1 course.

Teaching Methodologies:    This is a reading/seminar course which will make use of independent reading, research, individual or group presentations and tutoring.

Course Assessment:

• One major course work essay of approximately 2500 words which will be assessed by two internal examiners. 30%
• Student participation and presentation 10%
• 2 hour written examination (2 questions) 60%
Section 1: The Archaeology of Gender: The Development of Ideas and Thought in Gender and the Sexual Division of Labour.

IDEAS

Introducing concepts
Introduction to the course
Course overview and introductions
Why study the philosophy of gender in Caribbean thought?
How can this course be used?

STUDENTS ROSTER FOR WEEKLY TUTORIAL PRESENTATIONS

Core Readings
- Kate Young, “Notes on the social relations of gender” Ch 7 in Gender in Caribbean Development, Patricia Mohammed and Catherine Shepherd Eds, Canoe Press, UWI, Jamaica, 1999, pp 92-103
- Wollstonecraft, Mary, A Vindication of the Rights of Woman, Peter Edes, Boston, 1792

Seminar Two – Ideas, Debates, Tools & Methods for studying the Philosophy of Gender in Caribbean Thought

TOOLS
How to study philosophy of gender in Caribbean thought

Course Readings
- Copi & Cohen, Introduction to Logic

Seminar THREE – Engendering Caribbean History

Core Readings

(Amy Ashwood Garvey- Tony Martin ??)/ Rupert Lewis on Garvey?

Seminar FOUR: Sexual Division of Labour

Core Readings


Recommended Readings


Section 2: The Philosophy of sex, sexuality, love and gender relations in the Caribbean.

Seminar Five– Introduction to the Philosophy of sex and love in the Caribbean

Readings

• Carolyn Cooper, Sexuality in Dancehall Queen
• Imani Tafari: Blood Bullets and Guns
• Beckles, Hilary, Sex and Gender in the Historiography of Caribbean Slavery: Engendering History; Caribbean Women in Historical Perspective. Verene Shepherd, Barbara Bailey and Bridget Brereton (Eds.). James Curry, Ian Randle, Kingston 1995. pp125-140.

**Seminar Six – Philosophy of sexuality and gender relations in the Caribbean**

**Readings**
• Patricia Mohammed, “Sexuality”

**Seminar SEVEN - Philosophical issues of sex, love, sexuality and gender relations in the Caribbean Culture**

**Readings**
• Brinda Mehta, “Sexuality, Violence and the Female Body Erotic” Ch 6 in Diasporic (Dis)locations: Indo-Caribbean Women Writers Negotiate the Kala Pani, University of the West Indies Press, Jamaica, 2004, pp 192-226
• Carolyn Cooper, Sexuality in Dancehall Queen
• Imani Tafari: Blood Bullets and Guns

**Section 3: Feminism and Political Theory: The feminist challenges:**

Seminar EIGHT – Concepts in Feminism Theory and male responses to these theories

**Core Readings**


**Section 4: Gender Justice and Gender Equality -** the impact of gender on a philosophy of justice; the impact of tradition and culture on gender justice.

**Seminar NINE**

**Core Readings**

- Jan Garrett, “Martha Nussbaum on Capabilities and Human Rights”, Online resource

**Seminar TEN – Philosophical Issues of Gender Justice in the Caribbean**
Readings


Section 5: Feminism as Social Movement: The Potential of Feminism for Social Transformation.

Seminar ELEVEN
Core Readings


Presentation Questions:
1. Outline and critique the work of one of the following Caribbean feminist writers and their contribution to gender and philosophy in the Caribbean: Pat Mohammed; Rhoda Reddock; Eudine Barriteau; Barbara Bailey; June Castello; Andaiye; Linnette Vassell; Pansy Hamilton, Beverley Manley, Maxine Henry-Wilson, Peggy Antrobus, Pat Ellis (Women’s Organisations); Dorienne Rowan Campbell; Glenda Simms, Mark Figueroa; Linden Lewis.
OR
2. Write a critical assessment of the feminist movement in the Caribbean in response to the writing of a Caribbean feminist of your choosing.

Readings

- Peggy Antrobus, “The Rise and Fall of Feminist Politics in the Caribbean Women’s Movement 1975-1995” Lucille Mathurin Mair Lecture 2000, Centre for Gender and Development Studies, Mona Unit, University of the West Indies, Jamaica, 2000


Seminar TWELVE – Course Synthesis and Review

ADDITIONAL READINGS

Session 3: Engendering Caribbean History


Reddock, R. "Caribbean Women and The Struggle of the 1930’s." Caribbean Affairs, 1, 86-96 1989

Senior, O. Working Miracles. Barbados: University of the West Indies, 1991


Beckles, H. Natural Rebels New Jersey: Rutgers University Press 1989
• Alison Wylie, “Gender Theory and the Archaeological Record: Why is there no archaeology of Gender?” in Engendering Archaeology: Women and Pre-History, Joan M. Gero and Margaret W. Conkey, Eds, Blackwell, Oxford and Cambridge, USA, 1992, Ch 2, pp 31-54


Section 3: Feminism and Political Theory: The feminist challenge to the orthodoxy of politics: the gendered framework of political theory


• Frantz Fanon, A Dying Colonialism, Grove Press Inc. New York, 1965 Ch 1 and Appendix “Algeria Unveiled” pp 35-67

Section 4: Gender Justice and Gender Equality - the impact of gender on a philosophy of justice; the impact of tradition and culture on gender justice Recommended


Section 5: Feminism as Social Movement : The Potential of Feminism for Social Transformation.


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

Chevannes, Barry, Learning to be a Man, University of the West Indies Press, Jamaica, 2001


hocks, bell “Feminist Politics ”in hooks (ed) Feminism is For Everybody, South End Press, Cambridge, 2000 pp1-6
Grosz, Elizabeth *Volatile Bodies*. Indiana University Press, Bloomington and Indianapolis, 1994
Jayawardena, Kumari, *Feminism and Nationalism in the Third World*, Zed Press, 1986
Nussbaum, Martha, *Sex and Social Justice*, Oxford University Press, 1999
Wollstonecraft, Mary, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, Peter Edes, Boston, 1792

**Journals:**
Feminist Review
Feminist Theory
Frontiers: Journal of Women’s Studies
Small Axe
The Psychology of Women Quarterly