GLOBAL GENDER VIOLENCE (GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE)
ANT4930:1C14 * ANG6930:1C13 * WST4930:13A5 * WST6935:13A6
University of Florida, Fall Semester 2012

Instructor: Sharon Abramowitz
Office Hours: Wednesday 12:00-2:00pm
Office: Grinter #494, (352) 273-4763
Email: sabramowitz@ufl.edu, cell (617) 599-0191

Course Meetings: Wednesdays Periods 10-E1 (5:10-8:10pm), Turlington 1315
Course Website: On UF E-learning (Sakai)

Synopsis:
The relationship between culture and gender-based violence is talked about a lot in public media, public health literatures, and feminist discourse, but it is rare that a sustained effort is made to understand how culture intersects with gender-based violence. Does culture have protective effects? Does culture create pathways for particular kinds of violence, but prohibit others? Do cultural patterns shape relations that have violent potentialities, or try to foreclose possibilities for violence?

These questions are not easy to answer, especially in light of the vast domain of social action that constitutes what we have come to think of as gender-based violence: domestic abuse, sexual violence, female circumcision, structural sexual and gender inequalities, etc. But the questions must be asked – if only to deal seriously with the ways in which “culture” facilitates pervasive forms of sexual and gender violence, and to absolve “culture” of responsibility in domains in which it can be demonstrated that other forces are at work. In this seminar, we will use an anthropological perspective to review transnational global gender violence issues, politics, and international development and humanitarian interventions.

Therefore, this course has one overriding goal: to study the single crucial question – “What is the relationship between culture, gender, and violence?” using a diversity of texts, including memoir, film, ethnography, feminist analyses, and fiction. In order to do so, our task each week will be to advance our understanding of what culture is, what violence is and how it operates, and what gender is. We will achieve this goal by reading broadly in feminism, social theory, economics, law, anthropology, and sociology literatures.

Course Goals:
- To investigate and define the meaning of gender-based violence
- To understand various approaches to cultural analysis, and be able to apply these approaches to a specified domain of human experience
- To explore a range of materials, including poetry, memoir, ethnography, history, academic writing, and fiction in order to build a rigorous culture-driven examination of gender-based violence
- To have a clear understanding of the multi-scalar impacts of gender-based violence in intimate, societal, and global contexts
- That each student should conclude the course with an individually-determined answer to the question “What is the relationship between culture and gender-based violence?”

Requirements:
Class Participation (35%)
Online Discussion: (45% (3%/class)
Final Paper (30%)

Class Structure:
Due to the nature of this course, the class has an unusual structure. We are going to treat this class like a collaborative exercise, or a “readings group,” in which peer-scholars trying answer, together, a limited set of questions. Consequently, there are only two categories of assignments for this course: online discussion postings, and a final paper. NOTE: there is considerable flexibility regarding the assigned readings each week (although students will be responsible for reading a base quantity of readings).
Course Readings:
The course is set up thematically, with each class meeting dedicated to a specific topic. Within that topic, students will be able to choose the readings that they find to be most interesting or attractive to them, that week. The assigned textbooks are presented as options, but students may explore more widely, and are encouraged to do so. Undergraduates should seek out approximately 150 pages/week (unless if selected texts are densely theoretical), Graduate students should seek out approximately 250 pages per week. To the best of the instructor’s ability, readings will be made available through the website, the bookstore, or at the reserves desk – but this may not always be possible.

Class Participation:
Students must attend class, come to class prepared to participate in discussion of the readings, write weekly postings on the course discussion board, and help facilitate class discussion. This is a topic-driven seminar course. As the grade distribution suggests, class participation is central to succeeding in the course. Every student in the class must act as a co-facilitator for at least one weekly class meeting – a role that entails reviewing the readings, presenting the material to their classmates, crafting discussion questions, and preparing critical responses to co-presenters’ presentations.

Online Discussion:
All students are responsible for submitting a weekly response to the readings by midnight before the day of class in the online discussion forum. Each entry should not exceed 500 words, it should state which readings the student has read for the week, and it should express some meaningful critical summary and commentary on those readings. Entries should not exceed 500 words.

Final Paper
Final papers will be due on the last day of class. Different requirements pertain for undergraduate and graduate students.

Undergraduate final papers must involve a thoughtful answer to the question “What is the relationship between culture and gender-based violence,” and may draw upon any contextual and cultural application you choose. The final paper may include new research, or it may draw entirely upon material from the course. The final paper grade also includes a final presentation of your paper on the last day of class. The paper must be 6 single-spaced pages in length, or 3000-3500 words, exclusive of the bibliography. For reference format, please use MLA, APA, or Chicago Style conventions.

Graduate final papers must be full-length research papers on a topic of their choice – preferably one that advances their progress towards dissertation. The topic must also speak to the theme of the course – “the relationship between culture and gender-based violence,” but graduate students may interpret this requirement loosely, in consultation with the professor. The paper must be 12-14 single-spaced pages in length, or 3000-3500 words, exclusive of the bibliography. For reference format, please use MLA, APA, or Chicago Style conventions.

A Note on Paper Submissions: The Professor Abhors Reading Papers in Double Spaced Format. Please submit single-spaced papers. If you submit Double Spaced Papers, you do so at your own risk!

Grades
Final grades will be based on the following scale: A (94-100), A- (90-93), B+ (87-89), B (84-86), B-(80-83), C+(77-79), C (74-76), C-(70-73), D+(67-69), D (64-66), D-(60-63), E (<60).

Extra Credit
+1 point to final grade: Throughout the semester, I will give you the opportunity to attend topical events on-campus or off-campus and complete a 1-page essay, including summary and critique, about the event. Both elements must be present for EC to be awarded.

Course Readings
Recommended:
Foucault, Michel. The History Sexuality Vol 1-3.

All books are available on reserve at Library West.
Additional readings will be posted at the course website at least one week prior to class.

Course Conduct
- Put your cellphones on vibrate.
- Try not to check email or play Angry Birds on your iPhones during class.
- Read a lot.
- Write a little.
- Ask questions.
- Talk to each other.
- Be nice.
- Talk to me.
- Pay attention to the world around you.
- Don’t cheat. (See below)

Attendance Policy
Students and auditors are responsible for satisfying all academic objectives as defined by the instructor, to include mandatory attendance at class meetings. Students are entitled to one “freebie” absence so long as they communicate their intent to the professor at least one week prior to class, and a discussion board posting is still required. All other absences count against the grade from the first class meeting. Attendance is required at all class meetings. Excused absences will require appropriate documentation. Assignments missed due to excused absences will be accepted, without a penalty, within 1 week after the absence. Work missed due to unexcused absences will be be accepted, but will be penalized, as the Late Assignment Policy explains.

In general, acceptable reasons for absence from class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused. Other sound reasons may be offered.
Policy on Late Assignments
Due to the structure of the course, all assignments must be submitted on time. You are required to complete all online discussion submissions by the stated due date (the night before class). Late discussion submissions will not be accepted. I will not assign grades of “incomplete” except under extreme circumstances (and only if you have completed 50% of the coursework). You must provide documentation of such circumstances from an appropriate authority.

Academic Honor Code
Students are expected to uphold the Academic Honor Code of the University of Florida. The Academic Honor Code is based on the premise that each student has the responsibility (1) to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity in the student's own work, (2) to refuse to tolerate violations of academic integrity in the University community, and (3) to foster a high sense of integrity and responsibility on the part of the University community. Please see the following website for a complete explanation of the Academic Honor Code: www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html.

Americans with Disabilities Act
Students with disabilities, who need reasonable modifications to complete assignments successfully and otherwise satisfy course criteria, are encouraged to meet with the instructor as early in the course as possible to identify and plan specific modifications. Students requesting accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office and then provide documentation to the instructor. For more information about services available to University of Florida students:

Dean of Students Office Disability Resource Center
202 Peabody Hall or 0020 Reid Hall
Phone: (352) 392-1261 Phone: (352) 392-8570

University of Florida Counseling Services
Resources are available on-campus for students that feel like they are struggling in their personal or academic life. These resources include:
- University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal and career counseling
- Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS), Student Health Care Center, 392-1161, sexual counseling
- Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601, career development assistance and counseling.
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<tr>
<th>Week Date</th>
<th>Topic and Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 8/22</td>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Palmer, Craig and Thornhill, Randy Natural History of Rape: Biological Bases of Sexual Coercion Chapters 1, 3, 5, 6 (online through Smathers)</td>
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<td>Merry, Sally. Gender Violence, A Cultural Perspective. (book on reserve)</td>
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<td>2 8/29</td>
<td><strong>A Study in Contrasts: Gender Protection and Gender Vulnerability</strong></td>
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<td>Ostebo, Marit (na) “Wayuu – Women’s Respect and Rights among the Arsi Oromo of Southeast Ethiopia.” (resources)</td>
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<td>Bourdieu, ‘The Objective Limits of Objectivism,” and “Structures and the Habitus” in Outline of A Theory of Practice (in resources)</td>
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<td>3 9/5</td>
<td><strong>Constructions</strong></td>
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<td>Butler, Gender Trouble (book)</td>
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<td>Rosaldo (1980) The use and abuse of anthropology: Reflections on feminism and cross-cultural understanding” Signs (resources)</td>
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<td>De Beauvoir, The Second Sex (Vol II) (full-text of book in resources)</td>
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<td>Wollstonecraft, Vindication of the Rights of Woman (full-text in resources)</td>
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<td>Rosaldo &amp; Lamphere. Women, Culture, and Society (reserve)</td>
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<td>4 9/12</td>
<td><strong>Masculinities</strong></td>
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<td>R.W. Connell, Masculinities (book)</td>
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<td>Nancy Chodorow. 2002. ‘The Enemy Outside: Thoughts on the Psychodynamics of Extreme Violence with Special Attention to Men and Masculinity.” In Masculinity Studies and Feminist Theory: New Directions , Judith Kegan Gardiner, ed. (available as ebook through Smathers)</td>
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<td>Clifford Geertz, “Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight”</td>
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<td>5 9/19</td>
<td><strong>Rape</strong></td>
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<td>Brownmiller, Against Our Will</td>
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<td>Cahill, “Foucault, Rape, and the Construction of the Feminine Body” (resources)</td>
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<td>Davis, Angela. “Race, Racism, and the Myth of the Black Racist.” Women, Race, and Class. (use Google ebook)</td>
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<td>Mead, Margaret Sex and Temperament in Three Primitive Societies (Google Books)</td>
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<td>6 9/25</td>
<td><strong>Reschedule</strong></td>
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<td>Week</td>
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Amy, Lori. *The Wars We Inherit: Military Life, Gender Violence, and Memory*  
| 9/17 | Domestic Violence | Visiting scholar: Andrea Allen  
Hautzinger, *Violence in the City of Women* (book)  
Nader, Laura “Disputing without the Force of Law” *The Yale Law Journal* 88(5) pp.998-1021 (resources)  
Malinowski, “Anthropology as the Basis of Social Science.” (resources)  
| 10/24 | Reproducing Violence | Bridges, *Reproducing Race: An Ethnography of Pregnancy as a Site of Racialization* (book)  
Davis, Angela. “Racism, Birth Control, and Reproductive Rights.” *Women, Race, & Class. Chapter 12* (reserve) |
| 11/31 | Prostitution | Moon, *Sex Among Allies*  
Marx, “Part I Section A. Idealism and Materialism” and “Part III Miscellaneous: The Family” in *The German Ideology* (resources) |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
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Kara, *Sex Trafficking: Inside the Business of Modern Slavery.* Columbia U.P. |
| 11/7 | Cultural Symbolism  
Levi-Strauss (1966) “The Scope of Anthropology.” *Current Anthropology* 7(2) pp.112-123 (resources)  
Veiling  
Mahmood, *Politics of Piety: The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject* (e-book through library)  
**Female Genital Cutting**  
Kassindja *Do They Hear You When you Cry* (pp.1-110) (book in library)  
Abusharaf, *Female Circumcision* (edited volume – choose a few chapters esp. intro and ch11, or other chapters) (book – on reserve)  
**Closed Communities**  
**Dowry Deaths**  
**Honor Killings**  
| 13   | Crimes Against Humanity  
Movie: Toni Bringa’s *We Are All Neighbors* (VHS on reserve)  
Wenona Giles and Jennifer Hindman, *Sites of Violence: Gender and Conflict Zones*  
De Waal, Frans. “Primates – A Natural Heritage of Conflict Resolution.” *Science*  
| 11/14 | Intervention  
Merry, *Human Rights and Gender Violence*  
Abramowitz and Moran, “The Problem is the Culture?” |
| 11/28 | In Progress |
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<th>15</th>
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<th>In Progress</th>
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**GBV and Globalization**

- Turshen, *The Aftermath: Women in Post-conflict Transformation*
- Peggs, James. *The Suttees’ Cry to Britain: Containing Extracts From Essays Published in India and Parliamentary Papers on the Burning of Vindo Widows* (2010 reprint of pre-1925 document)

- Ehrenreich and Hochschild, *Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy*
- *The Killing Fields: Harvest of Women*
- *The Daughters of Juarez: A True Story of Serial Murder South of the Border*

Final paper due at 5pm. Final paper presentations during last day of class.
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Amy, Lori. The Wars We Inherit: Military Life, Gender Violence, and Memory. Temple University Press.


Buchwald, Emilie and Pamela Fletcher. Transforming a Rape Culture.

Richard Allen Burns. 2003. “This is my Rifle, This is my Gun…. Gunlore in the Military.” New Directions in Folklore , Issue 7.


Michel Foucault, The History of Sexuality Vol. 1-3


Joshua Goldstein. 2001. War and Gender: How Gender Shapes the War System and Vice Versa.


Menchu, I, Rigoberta Menchu: An Indian Woman in Guatemala

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Peggy Sanday. 1990. Fraternity Gang Rape: Sex, Brotherhood and Privilege on the College Campus.
Wardlow, Holly. Wayward Women: Sexuality and Agency in a New Guinea Society