

## **Feminist Anthropology Spring 2014**

WST 6935(08E8)/4930(1588);  
ANG 6930(169A)/4930(1696)  
Mondays 12:50-3:50pm, Ustler Hall 108

Instructor: Professor Florence Babb  
Office hours: Fridays 1-3pm (204 Ustler)  
and by appointment: [fbabb@ufl.edu](mailto:fbabb@ufl.edu)

### **Course description and objective:**

This seminar will consider issues in feminist anthropology through reading and discussing theory, research, and exemplary scholarship in the field. We will ask challenging questions about feminist anthropology and the dilemmas of field research, including the fundamental question of whether there is indeed a feminist ethnographic methodology. We will discuss the feminist politics of ethnographic representation (by the researcher depicting the researched) and of positionality (of the researcher in relation to the researched). Studies from a wide range of societies will present opportunities for students to consider the relative merits of various approaches in feminist anthropology. Seminar participants will write position papers as well as a final paper, which will be presented at the end of the semester. Students will be expected to make every effort to attend a UF conference on feminist anthropology, as well as occasional other related events.

### **Course books, available at UF Bookstore or order online:**

Ellen Lewin, ed. *Feminist Anthropology: A Reader*. Blackwell Publishing, 2006.

Ruth Behar and Deborah A. Gordon (eds.), *Women Writing Culture*. University of California Press, 1995.

Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (with foreword by Edwidge Danticat), HarperCollins, 2000.

Margery Wolf, *A Thrice-Told Tale: Feminism, Postmodernism, and Ethnographic Responsibility*. Stanford University Press, 1992.

Lila Abu-Lughod, *Writing Women's Worlds: Bedouin Stories*, 15th Anniversary Ed., University of California Press, 2008.

Donna M. Goldstein, *Laughter Out of Place: Race, Class, Violence, and Sexuality in a Rio Shantytown*. University of California Press, 2003.

## **Course requirements and policies:**

### **Participation**

Because the course meets just once each week, full attendance in all classes is essential. If an urgent matter will keep you from attending class, please let me know by email ahead of time. More than one absence may lower your grade. Students are expected to come to class having done all the reading and to be ready to participate in discussion. Everyone will have an opportunity to play a part in facilitating the weekly discussion. [30 percent of course grade]

### **Position Papers**

Three 4-5pp double-spaced papers based on the reading will be assigned to ensure thoughtful attention to the reading. You will be graded on a 20 point scale for form and content. [30% of course grade]

### **Final Paper**

There will be a course paper of approximately 18-20pp based on additional reading and research, due at the end of the semester. I will expect to receive proposals for these papers by or before March 17, including short bibliographies of material to be used and referenced. These papers should draw on works on a specific topic of relevance to the course. Everyone is expected to give an oral presentation of their subject matter on April 21 [40% of course grade]

### **Academic Honesty**

The University of Florida's honor code requires all students to be honest in their academic work. University policies on cheating, plagiarism, and related issues are available at:  
<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/procedures/academicguide.html>

### **Accommodations**

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to me when requesting accommodation.

### **Grading**

<u>Grade scale:</u>	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
	93-100	90-92	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	59-below
grade points:	4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	0.67	0

See the following website on current grading policies:

<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

**Course readings:**

- Jan 6            **Introduction to Feminist Anthropology**  
 Florence E. Babb, "Feminist Anthropology," in *Theory in Social and Cultural Anthropology*. Edited by Jon McGee and Richard L. Warms. Vol. 1, pp.258-262. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- Louise Lamphere, "Feminist Anthropology," in the *International Encyclopedia of Anthropology*, 2013.
- Ellen Lewin, "Introduction," *Feminist Anthropology*, pp.1-38  
 Video: "Number Our Days"
- Jan 13            **Women and Gender in Anthropological Perspective**  
 Lewin, pp.39-146
- Jan 20            MLK day, no class
- Jan 27            **Positionality and Representation in Feminist Research**  
 Lewin, pp.147-288
- Feb 3            **Gender and Sexuality in Anthropological Research**  
 Lewin, pp.289-448  
**Position Paper 1 due**
- Feb 10           **Histories of Feminist Ethnography**  
 Behar and Gordon (eds.), pp.83-245
- Feb 17           **Readings** from the work of Louise Lamphere, Fran Mascia-Lees, Carolyn Martin Shaw, and Martin Manalansan (coming to UF conference)
- Lamphere, Louise, Rayna Rapp, and Gayle Rubin, "Anthropologists Are Talking About Feminist Anthropology," in *Ethnos* 72(3):408-426, 2007.
- Selections from *Woman, Culture, and Society*: Introduction by Rosaldo and Lamphere, and chapters by Rosaldo, Ortner, and Lamphere. Stanford University Press, 1974.
- Frances Mascia-Lees and co-authors Patricia Sharpe and Colleen Ballerino Cohen, "The Postmodernist Turn in Anthropology: Cautions from a Feminist Perspective?" in *Signs* 15(1):7-33, 1989.
- Carolyn Martin Shaw, "Sticks and Scones: Black and White Women in the Homecraft Movement in Colonial Zimbabwe," *Race /Ethnicity: Multidisciplinary Global Contexts* Vol. 1, No. 2, 253-278, 2008.

Martin F. Manalansan, "Queering the Chain of Care Paradigm." *Scholar and Feminist Online*. 6:3 Summer 2008 <<http://barnard.edu/sfonline>>

\_\_\_\_\_. "Servicing the World: Flexible Filipinos and the Unsecured Life." In A. Cvetkovich et.al. (eds.) *Political Emotions*. Pp. 215-228. Routledge, 2010.

[Feb 20-21] **WS conference** on Feminist Anthropology, Ustler Hall—please plan to attend!

Feb 24 **On Reading and Writing Feminist Ethnography**

Behar and Gordon (eds.), to p.82 and pp.247-335

Dorothy L. Hodgson, "'These Are Not Our Priorities': Maasai Women, Human Rights, and the Problem of Culture." In *Gender and Culture at the Limit of Rights*, ed. by Dorothy L. Hodgson. Pp 138-157. Philadelphia: U Penn Press, 2011.

Guest speaker: Dorothy Hodgson, Department of Anthropology, Rutgers U

Mar 3 Spring break, no class

Mar 10 **Zora Neale Hurston's Fiction and Ethnography**

*Their Eyes Were Watching God* and selections from *Mules and Men*

Video selection: "Jump at de Sun"

**Position Paper 2 due**

[Mar14] Lecture by Peggy McIntosh, Holland Hall 180

Mar 17 **Alternative Approaches to Fiction and Ethnography**

Margery Wolf, *A Thrice-Told Tale* (all)

**Final paper proposals due**

Mar 24 **Feminist Ethnographies**

Lila Abu-Lughod, *Writing Women's Worlds*, (all, including two prefaces)

Mar 31 Donna Goldstein, *Laughter Out of Place*, to p.135

Apr 7 Goldstein, to end

**Position Paper 3 due**

Apr 14 **Border Crossings and Intersectionality**

Behar and Gordon (eds.), pp. 337-441

Video: "Adio Kerida"

Apr 21 Last class: **presentations**

Apr 25 (Fri) **Final papers due**