

Feminist Anthropology
(ANG 6930/ANT 4930)
Spring 2023
T | Period 8 - 10 (3:00 PM – 6:00 PM)
TUR 2336

Instructor: Dr. Marit Ostebo
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Office hours: Friday 10:30 AM -12:30 PM

Course description

This seminar offers an introduction to feminist anthropology. We will explore the historical developments of feminist anthropology and the transformations and expansions that characterizes feminist anthropology in the twenty-first century. Particular emphasis will be given to how feminist anthropology, both theoretically and methodologically have challenged and contributed to the wider field of anthropology. Through a close reading of selected classic and contemporary anthropological texts we will explore a wide range of issues such as politics of representation, our positionality as researchers, race, class, gender, sexuality, violence, marginalization, embodiment, power, and agency.

You will also be introduced to pedagogical tools associated with Team-Based-Learning.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course a successful student will have:

- 1) Acquired knowledge about
 - a. The history of feminist anthropology
 - b. The relationship between feminism(s), activism and anthropology
 - c. Key theoretical and methodological debates within feminist anthropology
 - d. The contribution of feminist anthropology to debates about ethnographic writing
- 2) Developed the ability to critically analyze and discuss
 - a. Different theoretical positions within feminist anthropology

- b. Key concepts such as gender, embodiment, positionality, representation, power, equality, identity, intersectionality etc.
 - c. The interplay between structure and agency in feminist anthropology
- 3) Developed an ability to
 - a. Reflect on the influence of personal identity and positionality on ethnographic research and writing
 - b. Employ theoretical perspectives from feminist anthropology to critically discuss key issues relevant to your own research interest
 - c. Use relevant research to explore and test ideas and to support or refute generalization
- 4) Gained an understanding of key principles and techniques in feminist ethnographic research
- 5) Improved ability to research a topic in anthropology and write a scholarly paper that presents the research

Required Books (most are available on course reserve, either as e-books or hard copies)

Davis, D-A & Craven, Christa (2023) *Feminist Ethnography. Thinking through Methodologies, Challenges, and Possibilities* (second edition)

Abu-Lughod, Lila (1993) *Writing Women's Worlds*

Wekker, Gloria (2006) *The Politics of Passion: Women's Sexual Culture in the Afro-Surinamese Diaspora*.

Hurston, Zora Neale (2018) *Barracoon. The Story of the Last "Black Cargo"*

Mahmood, Saba (2005) *Politics of Piety. The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject*

Wolf, Margery (1992) *A Thrice Told Tale. Feminism, Postmodernism & Ethnographic Responsibility*

Behar, R. (1996) *The Vulnerable Observer: Anthropology That Breaks Your Heart*

PDF files of other required readings will be made available on Canvas

CLASS SCHEDULE

(Note: I reserve the right to modify the course schedule).

INTRODUCTION

January 10

Davis & Craven (2023) Timeline & Introduction (pp.xxi-6)

MODULE 1: THEORIZING AND HISTORICIZING FEMINIST ANTHROPOLOGY

January 17

Davis & Craven (2023) Chapter 1 & 2

Lewin, Ellen & Silverstein, Leni M. eds. (2016) Introduction: Anthropologies and Feminisms: Mapping our Intellectual Journey. In *Mapping Feminist Anthropology in the Twenty-First Century*

hooks, b. (1991) Theory as liberatory practice

January 24

Hurston, Zora Neale (2018) Barracoon. The Story of the Last “Black Cargo”

MODULE 2: DEBATING AND MAKING FEMINIST ETHNOGRAPHY

January 31

Davis & Craven (2023) Chapter 3 & 4

Ortner, Sherry B. (1972) Is Female to Male as nature is to Culture? *Feminist Studies*, 1 (2): 5-31

Rogers, Susan Carol (1975) Female Forms of Power and the Myth of Male Dominance: A Model of Female/Male Interaction in Peasant Society. *American Ethnologist*, 2 (4): 727-756

February 7

Abu-Lughod, Lila (1993) *Writing Women's Worlds*

February 14

Wekker, Gloria (2006) The Politics of Passion: Women's Sexual Culture in the Afro-Surinamese Diaspora.

February 21

Wekker, Gloria (2006) The Politics of Passion: Women's Sexual Culture in the Afro-Surinamese Diaspora.

February 28

Mahmood, Saba (2005) *Politics of Piety. The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject* pp. 1 -117

March 7

Mahmood, Saba (2005) *Politics of Piety. The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject* pp. 118 – 199)

SPRINGBREAK

MODULE 3: PRODUCING FEMINIST ETHNOGRAPHY – CHALLENGES AND POSSIBILITIES

March 21

Davis & Craven (2023) Chapter 5 & 6

Navarro, T. (2017) But Some of Us Are Broke: Race, Gender, and the Neoliberalization of the Academy

Waterston, A. (2019) Intimate ethnography and the anthropological imagination: Dialectical aspects of the personal and political in *My Father's Wars*

Tamale, S. (2020) Feminists and the Struggle for Africa's Decolonial Reconstruction

March 28

Wolf, Margery (1992) A Thrice Told Tale. Feminism, Postmodernism & Ethnographic Responsibility

April 4

Behar, R. (2022) The Vulnerable Observer: Anthropology That Breaks Your Heart (25th Anniversary Edition)

Happy 25th Anniversary to the Vulnerable Observer

<https://www.beaconbroadside.com/broadside/2021/10/happy-25th-anniversary-to-the-vulnerable-observer.html?fbclid=IwAR0A0nkZally-Wv780K-zE7fVFbvMliBaYUex-einSoVTNvbrjsI84u7K8s>

MODULE 4: FEMINIST ACTIVIST ETHNOGRAPHY

April 11

Davis & Craven (2023) Chapter 7 & 8

Lamphere, Louise (2016) Feminist Anthropology Engages Social Movements: Theory, Ethnography & Activism. In *Mapping Feminist Anthropology in the Twenty-First Century*

Bolles, A. Lynn (2016) The Curious Relationship of Feminist Anthropology and Women's Studies. In *Mapping Feminist Anthropology in the Twenty-First Century*

April 18

TBD

April 25

Last day of class. No readings.

CLASS REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Attendance (100 points)

Since the course only meets once a week, full attendance in all classes is essential. More than one absence may lower your grade. If you have an excusable absence (see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>) let me know in advance and I will consider whether you must make up for the absence in one or another way.

Oral Participation in Class (100 points)

You are expected to keep up with the readings and to come to class well prepared and make thoughtful, relevant contributions to class discussions.

Reflections on Canvas/ Preparing applications for class discussions (40 points each)

Each week you will, as part of preparation for class, do an individual assignment linked to the readings. Some weeks, your assignment will be to post reflections and responses on the Canvas discussion board. On other weeks, you will be asked to prepare applications that we will use in class. More instruction on how to prepare the applications will be given in class. The applications are modeled after the Team-Based-Learning methodology and preparing the applications and doing them in class will give you a pedagogical tool that you potentially can use in your future teaching or professional life.

Formal Proposal for Research Essay (100 points)

For this assignment, you will write a detailed proposal outlining your plans for your research paper. There is no length requirement for this document, but I expect that a successful proposal for this assignment would be around 3 single-spaced pages. See further instructions on Canvas.

Final Research Essay (300 points)

The final research essay is due at the end of the semester. Choose a topic which is relevant to the course and to your research interest. I strongly encourage you to meet with me at the beginning of the semester to discuss your topic. The essay should reflect an engagement with theoretical perspectives and topics you have been introduced to through readings and class discussions and should include proper referencing and a bibliography.

Length requirements for graduate students: 4-5000 words

Length requirements for undergraduate students: 2000 words

UF POLICIES

Academic Honesty

When students enroll at UF they commit themselves to honesty and integrity. As a result of completing the registration form at the University of Florida, every student has signed the following statement: "I understand the University of Florida expects its students to be honest in all their academic work. I agree to adhere to this commitment to academic honesty and understand that my failure to comply with this commitment may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from the University." On work submitted for credit by UF students, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment."

Campus Helping Resources

Students experiencing crisis or personal problems that interfere with their general wellbeing are encouraged to utilize the university's counseling resources. The UF Counseling and Wellness Center provides confidential counseling services at no cost for currently enrolled students.

1. Counseling and Wellness Center, <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>

2. Student Health Care Center: <http://shcc.ufl.edu/>

For an overview of various resources see <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/getting-help>

Disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter, which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Technical assistance

For issues with technical difficulties for E-learning please contact the UF Help Desk at:

- Learning-support@ufl.edu
- (352) 392-HELP - select option 2
- <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>

RECOMMENDED READINGS

Hernandez, Graciela (1995) Multiple Subjectivities and Strategic Positionality: Zora Neale Hurston's Experimental Ethnographies. In *Women Writing Culture*

Deloria, Ella Cara (2009) *Waterlily*

Rosaldo, Michelle Z. (1980) The Use and Abuse of Anthropology: Reflections on Feminism and Cross-Cultural Understanding

Roberts, Elizabeth F. S. (2016) When Nature/Culture Implodes: Feminist Anthropology and Biotechnology. In *Mapping Feminist Anthropology in the Twenty-First Century*

- Abu-Lughod, Lila (1995) A Tale of Two Pregnancies. In *Women Writing Culture*
- Bangstad, Sindre (2011) Saba Mahmood and Anthropological Feminism after Virtue.
- Davis, Dána-Ain (2019) Reproductive Injustice: Racism, Pregnancy, and Premature Birth
- Adely, F. (2019) Decolonizing our questions/decolonizing our answers
- Mohanty, C.T. (1988) Under Western Eyes: Feminist scholarship and Colonial Discourses
- Stout, Noelle (2014). *After Love: Queer Intimacy and Erotic Economies in Post-Soviet Cuba* **OR**
- Tong, R. (2011) Introduction: The Diversity of Feminist Thinking & Post-modern and Third-Wave Feminism
- Williams, E. L. (2020) The practical ethics of Johnnetta Betsch Cole: The life of a Black feminist anthropologist
- Behar, R. & Gordon, Deborah A. (1995) *Women Writing Culture*
- Barnes, R. J. D. (2015) Raising the Race: Black Career Women Redefine Marriage, Motherhood, and Community (Available on course reserve as hard copy)
- Lewin, Ellen & Silverstein, Leni M. eds. (2016) *Mapping Feminist Anthropology in the Twenty-First Century*
- Stout, Noelle (2014). *After Love: Queer Intimacy and Erotic Economies in Post-Soviet Cuba*.
- Karim, L. (2013) Analyzing Women's Empowerment: Microfinance and Garment Labor in Bangladesh
- Hodgson, D. (2017) Gender, Justice, and the Problem of Culture. From Customary Law to Human Rights in Tanzania
- Hurston, Zora Neale (2008 edition) *Mules and Men*
- Karim, L. (2011) *Microfinance and its Discontents. Women in Debt in Bangladesh*
- Narayan, Uma (1998) Essence of Culture and a Sense of History: A Feminist Critique of Cultural Essentialism
- Rofel, Lisa (2003) The Outsider Within: Margery Wolf and Feminist Anthropology
- Trinch, Shonna and Cassidy, Barbara (2020) Engaging F-words to create change: Rape, representation, and performance

Where are the Ladies, Didier Fassin? #EASA2016 Keynote <http://allegralaboratory.net/where-are-the-ladies-didier-fassin-easa2016-keynote/>