

GENDER, POWER, AGENCY

ANTHROPOLOGY 515B
Fall 2005

Instructor: David Sutton
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Course Description

Through a focus on contemporary ethnography, this seminar will explore the interrelationship of gender, power and agency, carefully exploring and redefining each term. We will be particularly interested to explore the sources of hierarchy and egalitarianism, the relationship of gender and “the state,” gender and “everyday life,” rethinking the “public vs. private” dichotomy, and the competing constructions of masculinity and femininity in different societies. The ethnographic focus will also allow us to explore how one writes about gender in relation to culture and history at the present moment. Readings from history and cultural studies will be included for the multi-disciplinary perspectives they provide.

Course Requirements:

Nine summaries of the readings, each a maximum of 1000 words

Class attendance and participation is absolutely required. You cannot have more than one unexcused absence.

Required Books: (available at the bookstores)

Wynne Maggi *“Our Women are Free”*

Silvia Federici *Caliban and the Witch*

Saba Mahmood *Politics of Piety*

Charles Osgerby *Playboys in Paradise*

Joy Parr *Domestic Goods*

Eduardo Archetti *Masculinties*

Heather Paxson *Making Modern Mothers*

Carla Freeman *High Tech and High Heels*

Catherine Lutz *Homefront: A Military City in the American Twentieth Century*

RECOMMENDED

Cynthia Enloe *The Curious Feminist*

Week 1 *Review (not required)*

Readings:

Michele Rosaldo "Woman, Culture & Society, an Overview."

Sherry Ortner "Is Male to Female as Nature is to Culture?"

Eleanor Leacock "Women's Status in Egalitarian Societies"

Week 2 *Gender, Power, Resistance*

Readings:

Annette Weiner "Reassessing Reproduction in Social Theory"

Shelly Errington "Recasting Sex, Gender and Power"

Sherry Ortner "Making Gender" and "Gender Hegemonies"

Belinda Leach "Agency and the Gendered Imagination: Women's Actions and Local Culture in Steelworker Families"

Howard Eilberg-Schwartz "The Father, the Phallus, and the Seminal Word"

Weeks 3-4 Genders and (pre)-States: On the sources of male-dominance and female power.

Federici

Maggi

Weeks 5-6 *Religion, the State and Gendered Agency: Resistances and Compliances.*

Readings:

Mahmood

Paxson

Week 7 TBA

Week 8 break

Weeks 9-12 *Masculinity, Femininity and the Everyday: Sports, Play, Domestic Life, Militarization*

Osgerby

Parr

Archetti

Lutz

Enloe readings

Week 13 *Gendered Globalization*

Freeman

Week 14 TBA