## Sabancı University

## Fall 2020

## GEN 341

## Myths of Gender

Monday 8.40 – 10.30

Tuesday 8.40 – 9.30

*Discussion Sessions*

Monday 10.40 – 11.30

Monday 12.40 – 13.30

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**Office Hour:** Tuesday 14.40-15.30

or by appointment

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Overview

What is gender? Why is the study of gender significant for understanding ourselves, our everyday lives, the choices we make, the relationships we cultivate, as well as the multi-faceted dynamics of our contemporary world? This course aims to develop a critical awareness of how gender and sexuality have shaped and have been shaped by political, religious, economic, scientific, and cultural practices and discourses in different parts of the world, including Turkey.

In these extraordinary times of a pandemic challenge and online learning, this class will give us a chance to reflect on the workings of gender in the context of uncertainty, crisis, and transformation. The pandemic is introducing major changes to almost everything that we have taken for granted as our “normal” lives and selves. This is a precious moment to become aware of what we have taken for granted and how it is being or can be transformed for a better world and a better life, however we define “better.” How can creativity be understood – and unleashed – in relation to and beyond gender? Is it possible to imagine a post-gender world? To borrow from feminist scholar Dina Georgis: What is a “better story” of the planet, of human life, of ourselves? Where do we see this “better story” unfolding? What forms is it taking and who are its creative subjects?

In other words, this class will bring together a critical discussion of how “myths of gender” have historically shaped life in different parts of the world and how they are being challenged and reimagined in contemporary times. All the participants in the class will be invited to contribute examples from their everyday lives and fields of interests to help us develop a more inclusive and comprehensive understanding of how gender is both shaping our world and our lives, and is being reimagined in creative ways.

The class will be held synchronously on Zoom and will be *very interactive*. We will be using breakout rooms, the chat, the poll, working together on drive documents and other options that online teaching make possible. Although it is possible to get a passing grade with successful exam performance, your learning, as well as your grade, will be greatly enhanced with online participation and presence during the class hour. Since much of the learning will be mutual and interactive, everyone will be asked to keep their videos on, be “present” as active listeners and active participants, both in the large room and in the small break-out rooms that will be used regularly and frequently.

***Requirements and Grading:***

***Attendance and participation* (extra 10 points)** Since this will be a very interactive class, attendance is strongly encouraged and class participation will play a major role in your learning experience. Regular attendance and participation during the regular class hours will give you an extra credit of up to 10 points in your final grade.

The discussion sessions will greatly enhance your learning in the class and attendance is strongly encouraged, but attendance and participation in discussion sessions is not included in these extra points.

***Reflection Journal* (40 points)** For a total of 8 weeks (of your choice – except exam weeks, due Monday 8.30), submit a reflection journal (2 double-spaced pages) that discusses the readings of that week and relates them to your own experiences. You will have a chance to discuss these journals during the Discussion Sessions. More details about the reflection journal will be offered in the first week of classes.

***Midterm Exams* (20 points x 2)** There will be two midterm exams during the semester, on November 9th and December 7th, during the regular class hour.

***Final Exam* (20 points)** The final exam will take place during the time announced by the university and will cover all the readings and discussions of the semester.

***Discussion Sessions*** will introduce new material (visuals, videos, digital sources, etc.) to discuss in relation to the course readings and lectures; give you a chance to reflect deeply on the readings and lectures; provide an interactive space for you to articulate and develop your own ideas and learn from those of others; and enable you to share and get feedback on the analysis in your reflection journals. In short, they will greatly enhance your learning in this course. \* You can only attend the section for which you are registered.

Please make sure to review the university policies on:

***Academic Integrity*** [*http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/academic-integrity-statement*](http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/academic-integrity-statement)

***Academic Freedom*** [*http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/statement-of-academic-freedom*](http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/statement-of-academic-freedom)

***Non-Discrimination***[*http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/non-discrimination-statement*](http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/non-discrimination-statement)

***Sexual Harassment***[*http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/sexual-harassment-policy-statement*](http://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/sexual-harassment-policy-statement)

**Gender and Sexuality: Basic Concepts**

**October 5 – Monday**

Introduction

**October 6 – Tuesday**

* Visit [Women’s Museum Istanbul](http://www.istanbulkadinmuzesi.org/)’s Online Exhibition
* Read the Sabancı University statements and policies on gender:

[Sexual Harassment Policy Statement](https://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/sexual-harassment-policy-statement)

[Domestic Violence Prevention and Support Statement](https://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/node/41)

* Familiarize yourself with SU Gender (Sabancı University [Gender and Women’s Studies Center of Excellence](https://sugender.sabanciuniv.edu/en))

**“The Personal is Political”… and Intersectional**

**October 12 – Monday**

* Kathie Sarachild (1970 [1968]) “A Program for Feminist Consciousness-Raising” in *Notes from the Second Year: Women’s Liberation – Major Writings of the Radical Feminists,* eds. Shulamith Firestone and Anna Koedt. New York: Radical Feminism, pp.78-80.
* Carol Hanish (2000 [1970]) “The Personal is Political” in *Radical Feminism: A Documentary Reader,* ed. Barbara A. Crow. New York: New York University Press, pp.113-116.
* Renee Heberle “The Personal is Political” in *Oxford Handbook of Feminist Theory*, eds. Lisa Disch and Mary Hawkesworth. Oxford University Press, pp.593-609.

**October 13 – Tuesday**

* June Jordan (1985 [1982]) “Report from the Bahamas” in *On Call: Political Essays.* Boston: South End Press, pp. 39-49.
* Cynthia Enloe (2004) *The Curious Feminist: Searching for Women in a New Age of Empire,* University of California Press, Berkeley, 2004, pp.1-18 and 69-82.

**October 19 – Monday**

* The Combahee River Collective (1997 [1977]) “A Black Feminist Statement” in *The Second Wave: A Reader in Feminist Theory,* ed. Linda Nicholson. New York: Routledge, pp. 63-70.
* bell hooks (1981) “Black Women and Feminism” in *Ain’I I a Woman? black women and feminism.* Boston: South End Press, pp.159-196.
* Audre Lorde (1984) “The Transformation of Silence into Language and Action” (pp.40-44), “The Master’s Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master’s House” (pp.110-113) and “Eye to Eye: Black Women, Hatred and Anger” in *Sister Outside: Essays and Speeches.* Berkeley: The Crossing Press.

**October 20 – Tuesday**

* bell hooks (1989) “feminism: a transformational politic” (pp.19-27) and “*Ain’t I a Woman*: looking back” (pp.148-154) in *talking back: thinking feminist, thinking black.* Boston: South End Press.
* Learn about the [founders of Black Lives Matter](https://blacklivesmatter.com/herstory/)

**Embodied Histories, Unruly Desires and Becoming Bodies**

**October 26 – Monday** Guest Lecturer: Akanksha Misra

* Yasin Tunç (2018) “Delineation of a politico-scientific complex to govern the "abnormal" child: mental hygiene, vocational curriculum, and Republican imaginations of re/productive citizenry, Turkey (1930-1950)” *Paedagogica Historica,* 54(1-2):204-220.
* Brandon Ambrosino (2017) “[The invention of heterosexuality](https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20170315-the-invention-of-heterosexuality)” BBC Future, March 16.
* Phillip Martin (2019) “[Caste in America: Even with a Harvard pedigree, caste follows ‘like a shadow](https://www.pri.org/stories/2019-03-05/even-harvard-pedigree-caste-follows-shadow)’” *The World – WGBH News, prio.org,* March 5. (listening option available on the website) (Skim)
* Sanjana Pegu (2018) “[Why understanding Brahminical Patriarchy is of utmost importance](https://feminisminindia.com/2018/11/23/brahminical-patriarchy-understanding/)” *feminisminindia.com*, November 23. (Skim)
* Watch: [Young Indian adults and parents talk about sex](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ElkOgzolU5k&list=RDCMUCZSNzBgFub_WWil6TOTYwAg&start_radio=1&t=199) (Netflix, Sex Education series)
* Watch: “[Türkiye'de Cinsel Eğitim: Rayka Kumru](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LAp3H3-rlzA)” (Özgür Uysal, İnce İşler)

*Recommended:*

* Mary-Lou Rasmussen (2010) “Secularism, religion and ‘progressive’ sex education” *Sexualities* 13(6) 699–712.

**October 27 – Tuesday**

* Carla Rice (2018) “The Spectacle of the Child Woman: Troubling Girls and the Science of Early Puberty” *Feminist Studies* 44(3): 535-566.

**Analyzing Gender**

**November 2 – Monday**

* Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw (1991) “Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color,” *Stanford Law Review*43(6): 1241-1299.

**November 3 – Tuesday**

* Joan Scott, “Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis” *The American Historical Review,* 1986, 91(5):1053-1075.

**November 9 – Monday**

*Midterm Exam I*

**Sex, Gender and Science**

**November 10 – Tuesday**

* Carla Rice (2018) “The Spectacle of the Child Woman: Troubling Girls and the Science of Early Puberty” *Feminist Studies* 44(3): 535-566.

**November 16 – Monday**

* Claire Ainsworth (2015) “[Sex Redefined](https://www.nature.com/news/sex-redefined-1.16943)” *Nature,* February 18.
* Emily Martin (1991)“The Egg and the Sperm: How Science Constructed a Romance Based on Stereotypical Male-Female Roles,” *Signs* 16(3):485-501.

**November 17 – Tuesday**

* Do the Harvard University Implicit Association Test on “Gender and Science”

<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/selectatest.html>

* Rebecca Jordan-Young and Raffaella I. Rumiati (2012) “Hardwired for Sexism? Approaches to Sex/Gender in Neuroscience” *Neuroethics* (5):305–315.

*Recommended:*

* Anne Faust Sterling (2000) *Sexing the Body: Gender Politics and the Construction of Sexuality*. New York: New York Basic Books.

**Genders and Sexualities**

**November 23 – Monday**

* Film Screening and discussion

**November 24 – Tuesday**

* Katrina Karzakis and Rebecca M. Jordan-Young (2018) “The Powers of Testosterone: Obscuring Race and Regional Bias in the Regulation of Women Athletes” *Feminist Formations*, 30(2): 1-39.

**November 30 – Monday**

* C. J. Pascoe (2005) “**‘**Dude, You’re a Fag’: Adolescent Masculinity and the Fag Discourse” *Sexualities* 8(3):329-346.

**December 1 – Tuesday**

* Evelyn Blackwood (2011) “(Trans)Gender: Tomboi Embodiment” in in *A Companion to the Anthropology of Body and Embodiment,* ed. Frances E. Mascia-Lees. Wiley Blackwell. pp. 207-222.

**December 7 – Monday**

*Midterm Exam II*

**(Un)Doing Gender, Reimagining Feminism**

**December 8 – Tuesday**

* Dicle Koğacıoğlu (2004) “‘The Tradition Effect: Framing Honor Crimes in Turkey,” *Differences*, 15(2):118-152.

*Recommended*

* Judith Butler (1988) “Performative Acts and Gender Constitution: An Essay in Phenomenology and Feminist Theory” *Theater Journal* 40(4): 519-531.

**December 14 – Monday**

* Watch: Judith Butler “[Your Behaviour Creates Your Gender](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bo7o2LYATDc&feature=emb_logo)” (2011)
* Donna Haraway (1991) “A Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology and Socialist-Feminism in the Late Twentieth Century” in *Simians, Cyborgs, and Women: The Reinvention of Nature*. New York: Routledge, pp.149-181.

**December 15 – Tuesday**

* Discussion of Studio Ghibli films: Make sure to have watched one of the following films by Hayao Miyazaki:
  + *Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind* (1984)
  + *My Neighbor Totoro* (1988)
  + *Kiki’s Delivery Service* (1989)
  + *Mononoke Hime / Princess Mononoke* (1997)
  + *Spirited Away* (2001)
* Gabrielle Bellot (2016) “[Hayao Miyazaki and the Art of Being a Woman](https://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2016/10/hayao-miyazaki-and-the-art-of-being-a-woman/503978/)” [www.theatlantic.com](http://www.theatlantic.com), October 19.
* Acquaint yourself with the [Bechdel Test](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bechdel_test)

**December 21 – Monday** Guest Lecturers: Fulya Kama Özelkan – İlayda Ece Ova

* Kaitlynn Mendes, Jessica Ringrose, and Jessalynn Keller (2019) *Digital Feminist Activism: Girls and Women Fight Back Against Rape Culture*. New York: Oxford University Press. pp.175-189. (Read the Introduction & Conclusion and skim through the rest)
* Munro, Ealasaid. 2013. “Feminism: A Fourth Wave?” *Political Insight* 4 (2): 22–25. <https://doi.org/10.1111/2041-9066.12021>.
* [2010-2020: Hashtaglerle Feminist Aktivizm](https://www.catlakzemin.com/2010-2020-feminist-hashtaglerle-dijital-aktivizm/) (Çatlak Zemin, December 2019)

*Recommended:*

* Marcela A. Fuentes (2019) “#NiUnaMenos (#NotOneWomanLess): Hashtag Performativity, Memory and Direct Action Against Gender Violence in Argentina” in *Women Mobilizing Memory,* eds. A. Altınay, M. J. Contreras, M. Hirsch, J. Howard, B. Karaca, and A. Solomon. New York: Columbia Univ. Press, pp. 172–91.

**December 22 – Tuesday** Guest Lecturer: Zeynep Gülru Göker

* Zeynep Gülru Göker, “Memories, Stories and Deliberation: Digital Sisterhood on Feminist Websites in Turkey” *European Journal of Women’s Studies* 26(3): 313-328.

**Gender and the City**

**December 28 – Monday** Guest Lecturer: Ayten Alkan

* Alkan, Ayten (2009) “Giriş: Cinsiyet Dinamiklerinin Peşinden Mekânın İzini Sürmek” *Cins Cins Mekân*, der. A. Alkan. İstanbul: Varlık Yayınları, s. 7-36.
* Leslie Kern (2019) *Feminist Şehir*, çev. Beyza Sumer Aydaş, İstanbul: Sel. (selections)

*Recommended:*

* Richard Sennett (2001) *Ten ve Taş: Batı Uygarlığı'nda Beden ve Şehir*, çev. Tuncay Birkan, İstanbul: Metis.

**December 29 – Tuesday**

* Bürge Abiral, Ayşe Gül Altınay, Dilara Çalışkan and Armanc Yıldız (2019) “Curious Steps: Mobilizing Memory through Collective Walking and Storytelling in Istanbul” in *Women Mobilizing Memory,* eds. Ayşe Gül Altınay, Maria Jose Contreras, Marianne Hirsch, Jean Howard, Banu Karaca, and Alisa Solomon. New York: Columbia University Press, pp. 84-104.
* Watch: Silvina der Meguerditchian, dir. (2014) “Gender and Memory Tour of Beyoğlu” <https://vimeo.com/107553682>

**Reimagining the Past and Art for Another Future:**

**Women’s Museum Istanbul**

**January 4 – Monday**

* Linda Nochlin (2018) “Why Have There Been No Great Women Artists? (1971)” in *Women, Art, and Power and Other Essays.* New York: Routledge, pp. 145-178.
* Meral Akkent (2017) “Appreciating Each Other’s Cultural Heritage, Rewriting Women’s History” in *Women’s Museums: Centre of Social Memory and Place of Inclusion / Kadın Müzesi: Toplumsal Bellek Merkezi ve Kapsayıcı Mekan*, ed. Meral Akkent. Istanbul: Güldünya Yayınları, pp.150-165.
* Meral Akkent (2020) “‘Bana Bırakacağınız Gelecek: İklim ve Kız Çocukları’ Sergisi – Kız Çocuklarından Al Haberi” (Söyleşi: Nehir Kovar), *1+1 Forum*, 26 Aralık. <https://birartibir.org/ekoloji/978-kiz-cocuklarindan-al-haberi>
* Visit [Women’s Museum Istanbul](http://www.istanbulkadinmuzesi.org/)’s Online Exhibition and familiarize yourself with at least 3 entries

**January 5 – Tuesday**

Final discussion