

GEN 341: Myths of Gender
Sabancı University, Fall 2021
(Hybrid teaching)

Time and Place:

Mon. 8:40-9:30 (Online): <https://sabanciuniv.zoom.us/j/97594046340>

Tue. 9:40-11:30 (Physical): FASS 1089 (Pandemic seating capacity: 21 students)

Discussion Section: Mon. 9:40-10:30 (Online):

<https://sabanciuniv.zoom.us/j/96058385291?pwd=UDVKaGFTYjJ3YXE4dmR6QjNsOUxMQT09>

(passcode: discussion)

Instructor: Zeynep Gülru Göker

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Office hours (online): Mon. 10:30 – 12:30 (appointment via email)

Teaching Assistant: Aslı Aygüneş

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Office hours (online): Wed. 11:30 – 13:30 (appointment via email)

Please read carefully the [campus rules for the 2021-2021 academic year](#).

Course Description:

What is gender? What is sexuality? How are they related? What are various of myths of gender? Where do they come from? How do we learn or unlearn them? Where and how are they constructed, deconstructed and changed? How do gender norms and discourses shape our lives, institutions and societies? By asking such questions and using interdisciplinary concepts, tools and methods, this course aims to provide an understanding of the fundamental issues, concepts and debates in the study of gender. The class encourages the utilization of an intersectional gender perspective in the analysis of social issues, structures and systems of power as well as social and political change. It combines seminal readings in gender studies with contemporary articles, opinion pieces, podcast and video recordings and explores critical perspectives on some long-standing and other more recent debates in feminism and gender studies.

Forms of Assessment and Grading:

Midterm Exam (30 %)

The exam will be in held physically on campus during class hours on November 9, 2021. Exam room will be announced later.

Final Exam (30 %)

The exam will be held physically on campus, the date and place will be announced later.

Discussion Section Grade (10 %)

Discussion sections will be moderated by the Teaching Assistant. Discussion section grade will be given on the basis of attendance, active participation and contribution to discussions and activities.

Class Participation (15 %)

Unless indicated otherwise, you are expected to come to each class having read the assigned material and ready to engage in a conversation about it. Aside from coming to class, reading the assigned materials and

participating in class discussions, active participation requires paying attention, active listening and respect to others during class hours and group work/discussions. It also means being present in class and actively listening when others are speaking or presenting their work. This is a discussion based class. Participation grade will be given on the basis of active participation to class discussions as well as individual or group exercises, and on the level of preparation for the class (doing the readings, preparing questions, partaking in discussions, breakout room exercises). I will take attendance and it will reflect on your participation grade.

In-class pop quizzes and memos (15 %)

There will be 5 pop quizzes/in class short writing exercises throughout the semester. They will be short responses to the readings of the day. The quizzes will be administered on Mondays or Tuesdays. We will have 2 extra quizzes in case a make-up is needed for absences with a valid excuse.

Important information:

*Course content, requirements and policies are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

*All classes (online and physical) will be recorded; recordings will be available on SUCourse. Discussion sections will not be recorded.

*In their assignments and papers students are expected to give references properly, and avoid plagiarism at all costs. Make sure to familiarize yourself with the university's policy on plagiarism and academic integrity: <https://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/academic-integrity-statement>. Scientific and Applied Research Misconduct: <https://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/scientific-and-applied-research-misconduct>

*Students who fail to show up for the exams indicated in the Syllabus without a valid excuse and not taking the make-up examinations for such exams will receive N/A as their final grade.

*Students will have a chance to view their exams once their grades are submitted. I will only consider written objections to grades. I will expect a written statement carefully explaining why you deserve another grade.

*You must connect to the Zoom link for the course with your official Sabancı University e-mail account, and not utilize other email accounts.

*Sabancı University Statement of Academic Freedom:
<https://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/statement-academic-freedom>

*Sabancı University Nondiscrimination Statement:
<https://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/non-discrimination-statement>

*Sabancı University Sexual Harassment Policy Statement:
<https://www.sabanciuniv.edu/en/sexual-harassment-policy-statement>

Readings:

All mandatory readings and other materials are either posted on SUCourse or available online (click on hyperlinks).

The books below include some of the readings in the syllabus. They are good supplementary sources for those who would like to do further readings.

Susan M. Shaw and Janet Lee (Eds.) *Gendered Voices, Feminist Visions* (7th ed.). New York: Oxford University Press, 2020

Inderpal Grewal and Caren Kaplan (Eds.) *An Introduction to Women's Studies: Gender in a Transnational World* (2nd ed.) McGraw-Hill Education, 2005

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION

September 27, Monday.

No readings.

September 28, Tuesday

Adrienne Rich, *Claiming and Education*. In S. M. Shaw and J. Lee (Eds.) *Gendered Voices, Feminist Visions* 7th ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2020. (pp. 22-25)

Sara Ahmed, *Living a Feminist Life*. In *Gendered Voices, Feminist Visions* 7th ed. (pp. 25-28)

WEEK 2: OPPRESSION, PRIVILEGE AND INEQUALITY

October 4, Monday

Marilyn Frye, *Oppression*. In A. Minas (Ed.) *Gender Basics: Feminist Perspectives on Women and Men* (2nd ed.) Wadsworth, 2000. (pp. 10-16)

October 5, Tuesday

Patricia Hill Collins, “*Toward a New Vision*”: *Race, Class and Gender*. In *Gendered Voices, Feminist Visions* 7th ed. (pp.61-68)

Vivian May, Intersectionality. In *Gendered Voices, Feminist Visions* 7th ed. (pp. 68-72)

Evin Taylor, Cisgender Privilege. In *Gendered Voices, Feminist Visions* 7th ed. (pp. 80-82)

In class:

Watch: The Urgency of Intersectionality - Kimberle Crenshaw [TED talk](#)

WEEK 3: UNDERSTANDING, LEARNING, DOING GENDER

October 11, Monday

Judith Lorber, *The Social Construction of Gender*. In *Gendered Voices, Feminist Visions* 7th ed. (pp. 120-122)

[Sex and Gender 101](#). *Gender Equity in the Classroom and Beyond*, Chatham University Women’s Institute.

Suzannah Weiss, Teen Vogue, “[9 Things People Get Wrong About Being Non-Binary.](#)”

October 12, Tuesday

Ann Fausto-Sterling, *The Five Sexes: Revisited*. In *Gendered Voices, Feminist Visions* 7th ed. (pp. 115-119)

Jeré Longman (2019). The New York Times, “[Caster Semenya Barred From 800 Meters at World Championships.](#)”

Hayley Krischer (2019). The New York Times, “[Beyond Androgyny: Nonbinary Teenage Fashion](#)”

In class:

Watch: [Judith Butler: Your Behavior Creates Your Gender.](#)

Listen: Melissa Block. (2019). [“I Am A Woman’: Track Star Caster Semenya Continues Her Fight To Compete As Female.”](#) Morning Edition.

Optional:

Listen: 1A. (2019). [“Testosterone on The Track.”](#)

WEEK 4. GENDER, DESIRE AND SEXUALITY

October 18, Monday

Anne Fausto Sterling, “Frameworks of Desire”, *Daedalus*, Vol. 136, No. 2, 2007. (pp. 47-57)

October 19, Tuesday

Brandon Andrew Robinson, *Heteronormativity and Homonormativity*. In Nancy A. Naples (Ed.) *The Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of Gender and Sexuality Studies*. John Wiley & Sons, 2016. (pp. 1-2)

Michael Kimmel, *Masculinity as Homophobia*. In A.L. Ferber, K. Holcomb and T. Wentling (Eds.) *Sex, Gender, and Sexuality: The New Basics: An Anthology*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009. (pp. 58-70)

In class:

Listen: NPR, [Racial Desire in Online Dating](#).

Optional:

Kristen Schilt and Laurel Westbrook. “Doing Gender, Doing Heteronormativity: ‘Gender Normals,’ Transgender People, and the Social Maintenance of Heterosexuality”, *Gender & Society*, Vol. 23, No. 4, 2009. (pp. 440-464)

WEEK 5. FAMILY, WORK AND CARE

October 25, Monday

Emma Goldman, *Marriage and Love*. In *Gendered Voices, Feminist Visions* 7th ed. (pp. 417-419)

Katherine Goldstein, *Where are the Mothers*. In *Gendered Voices, Feminist Visions* 7th ed. (pp. 419-428)

October 26, Tuesday

Kathleen Gerson. “Moral Dilemmas, Moral Strategies, and the Transformation of Gender: Lessons from Two Generations of Work and Family Change”, *Gender & Society*, Vol. 16, No. 1, 2002. (pp. 8-28)

In class:

Watch: [The Second Shift: Arlie Hochschild](#).

Optional:

Noelle Chelsey, “Stay-At-Home Fathers and Breadwinning Mothers: Gender, Couple Dynamics, and Social Change”, *Gender and Society*, Vol. 25, No. 5, 2011 (pp: 642–664)

Anne Marie Slaughter. “[Why Women Still Can’t Have It All](#)”, *The Atlantic Magazine*, 2012.

WEEK 6. GENDER AND LABOR IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT

November 1, Monday

Barbara Ehrenreich, “Maid to Order: The Politics of Other Women’s Work”, *Harper’s Magazine*, 2000. (pp. 59-70)

November 2, Tuesday

Cynthia Enloe, *The Globetrotting Sneaker*. In C. Enloe, *The Curious Feminist*. CA: University of California Press, 2004. (pp. 43-56)

Vernadette V. Gonzalez and Robyn Magalit Rodriguez. *Filipina.com: Wives, Workers, Whores on Cyber Frontier*, In I. Grewal and C. Kaplan (Eds.) *An Introduction to Women’s Studies: Gender in a Transnational World* 2nd ed. McGraw-Hill Education, 2005. (pp. 375-379)

In class:

Watch: The Laws that Sex Workers Really Want - Juno Mac [TED Talk](#).

WEEK 7. MIDTERM WEEK

November 8, Monday

Overview

November 9, Tuesday

Midterm (During class hours, on campus, physical, room TBA)

WEEK 8. GENDER EQUALITY, LAW AND POLITICS

November 15, Monday

Hülya Şimga, *Human Rights or Women’s Human Rights?* In *A Question for Humanity: Sexism, Oppression and Women’s Rights*, LIT Verlag, 2019. (pp. 12-29).

November 16, Tuesday

Sarah Childs and Joni Lovendoski, *Political Representation*. In G. Waylen et al. *The Oxford Handbook of Gender and Politics*, 2013. (pp. 1-20)

Margot Wallström, *Speech on Sweden’s Feminist Foreign Policy*. In *Gendered Voices, Feminist Visions* 7th ed. (pp. 625-627)

Optional:

Carole Pateman, *Feminist Critiques of The Private/Public Divide*. An Introduction to Women's Studies: Gender in a Transnational World 2nd ed. (pp. 155-159)

WEEK 9. FEMINISM BEYOND THE WAVES

November 22, Monday

Constance Grady, [The Waves of Feminism, and Why People Keep Fighting Over Them, Explained](#), Vox, 2018.

November 23, Tuesday

Audre Lorde, *The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House*. New York University Institute for the Humanities (1979). (pp. 1-3)

Mridula Nath Chakrabarty, *Wa(i)ving It All Away: Producing Subject and Knowledge in Feminisms of Colours*. In S. Gillis, G. Howie and R. Munford (Eds.) *Third Wave Feminism: A Critical Exploration* 2nd ed. Palgrave MacMillan. (pp. 101-111)

WEEK 10. INTERSECTIONAL MOBILIZATION, SOLIDARITIES?

November 29, Monday

Lila Abu-Lughod. "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving? Anthropological Reflections on Cultural Relativism and Its Others", *American Anthropologist*, Vol. 104, No. 3, 2002. (pp. 783-790)

November 30, Tuesday

Alberta Giorgi. "Religious Feminists and the Intersectional Feminist Movements: Insights from a Case Study", *European Journal of Women's Studies*, 2020. (pp. 1-16)

R. Lucas Platero and Esther Ortega-Arjonilla, *Building Coalitions: Feminism and Trans* Activism in Spain*. In *Gendered Voices, Feminist Visions* 7th ed. (pp. 733-41)

WEEK 11. GENDER, EMOTIONS AND ACTIVISM IN A DIGITAL WORLD

December 6, Monday

Laurie Penny, *Most Women You Know are Angry*. In *Gendered Voices, Feminist Visions* 7th ed. (pp. 742-744)

Anna North. [The #MeToo Generation Gap is a Myth](#). Vox, 2018.

December 7, Tuesday

Hester Baer, "Redoing Feminism: Digital Activism, Body Politics, and Neoliberalism", *Feminist Media Studies*, Vol. 16, No. 1, 2016. (pp. 17-34)

WEEK 12. "IS BEYONCÉ A FEMINIST?": DEBATING POST-FEMINISM

December 13, Monday

Pamela Aronson. "Feminists or 'Postfeminists'? Young Women's Attitudes Toward Feminism and Gender Relations", *Gender & Society*, Vol. 17, No. 6, 2003. (pp. 903-922)

December 14, Tuesday

Henri Myrntinen, “Stabilizing or Challenging Patriarchy? Sketches of Selected “New” Political Masculinities”, *Men and Masculinities*, Vol. 22, No. 3, 2018. (pp. 563-581)

Janell Hobson, “[Celebrity Feminism: More Than a Gateway](#)”, *Signs Journal*, 2016.

WEEK 13. GENDER ON CAMPUS

December 20, Monday

Jessica Hyman Senior and Katherine Frees Senior, “[A Little Glitter Goes a Long Way: Safe Queer Spaces and Activism at USF](#)”, *Divisadero*, Fall 2018.

December 21, Tuesday

Katie Byron, “From Infantilizing to World Making: Safe Spaces and Trigger Warnings on Campus”, *Family Relations*, Vol. 66, 2016. (pp. 116-125)

Optional:

Yıldız Ecevit and Umut Beşpınar, “Sexual Harassment in Turkish Academia Through the Lens of Gendered Academic Citizenship”. In S. Sümer (Ed.) *Gendered Academic Citizenship*. Palgrave MacMillan, 2020. (pp. 199-228).

Documentary: [America Inside Out: The Age of Outrage](#), 2018.

Week 14. WRAP-UP AND CLOSING

December 27, Monday

In class reading to be distributed later by the instructor.

December 28, Tuesday

FINAL EXAM, TBA (On campus, physical, room TBA)