

GEN 341: Myths of Gender
Sabancı University
Fall 2022

Time & Place:

Thursday 14:40-16:30 FASS 1099
Friday 15:40-16:30 FASS G025
Friday 16:40-17:30 FASS G025 (*Discussion section*)

Instructor: Zeynep Gülru Göker

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Office hours: Friday 14:40-15:30 (or by appointment)

Teaching Assistant: Aslı Aygüneş

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Office hours: Thursday 11:40-12:30 (or by appointment)

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 held physically on campus during class hours on November 24, 2022. 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. Make-up quizzes will be administered only for those who have a valid excuse for their absence (i.e. report validated by the Health Center)

Important information:

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

*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.

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

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

*Sabanci 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).

Weekly Course Content & Readings:

WEEK 1. INTRODUCTION

October 6, Thursday

No readings.

October 7, Friday

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

WEEK 2. OPPRESSION, PRIVILEGE AND INEQUALITY

October 13, Thursday

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

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

In class:

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

October 14, Friday

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)

WEEK 3. UNDERSTANDING, LEARNING, DOING GENDER

October 20, Thursday

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

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

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

In class:

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

October 21, Friday

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

In class:

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](#)."

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

WEEK 4. MASCULINITIES

October 27, Thursday

Cenk Özbay and Ozan Soybakış, "Political Masculinities: Gender, Power, and Change in Turkey," *Social Politics*, Vol. 27, No. 1, 2022. (pp. 27-50)

October 28, Friday

Republic Holiday eve (no classes after 12 pm)

WEEK 5. THE POLITICS OF DESIRE AND SEXUALITY

November 3, Thursday

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

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)

November 4, Friday

Rahil Roodsaz and Nella Van Den Brandt, “Properly Gay? The Construction of Ethnosexual Subjectivity in Sexual Counter-Narratives of Civil Society Agents,” *Lambda Nordica*, Vol. 2-3, 2017. (pp. 68-92).

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)

Optional: Melinda Herron, “A Revised Approach to Racism in Youth Multiculture: The Significance of Schoolyard Conversations about Sex, Dating and Desire,” *Journal of Youth Studies*, Vol. 21, No. 2, 2018. (pp. 144-160)

WEEK 6. GENDER, FAMILY AND LABOR

November 10, Thursday

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

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](#).

November 11, Friday

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

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)

WEEK 7. GENDER, LAW AND POLITICS

November 17, Thursday

Gökçeçişek Ayata and Ayşen Candaş. "Turkey (Chapter 10)" in *Feminist Advocacy, Family Law and Violence Against Women: International Perspectives*, ed. Mahnaz Afkhami, Yakın Ertürk and Ann Elizabeth Mayer. London: Routledge, 2019. (pp. 178-197).

Guest speaker: Elif Ege, *The Purple Roof Foundation*;

November 18, Friday

Berrin Koyuncu and Ahu Sumbas, "Discussing Women's Representation in Local Politics in Turkey: The Case of Female Mayorship," *Women's Studies International Forum*, Vol. 58, 2016. (pp. 41-50).

WEEK 8. MIDTERM WEEK

November 24, Thursday

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

November 25, Friday

In-class activity: TBA.

WEEK 9. FEMINISM BEYOND THE WAVES

December 1, Thursday

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

Stacy Gillis and Rebecca Munford, "Genealogies and Generations: The Politics and Praxis of Third Wave Feminism," *Women's History Review*, Vol. 13, No. 2, 2004. (pp. 165-182)

December 2, Friday

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

WEEK 10. GENDER, RELIGION AND POLITICS

December 8, Thursday

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)

Alberta Giorgi, "Gender, Religion, and Political Agency: Mapping the Field," *Revista Critica de Ciencias Sociais*, 110, September 2016. (pp. 51-72)

In class:

Listen: [Laura Bush' radio address after 9/11](#).

December 9, Friday

Olga Sasunkevich, "Beyond Anti-Genderism: Gender, Sexuality and Religion in Eastern Europe," *Religion and Gender*, Vol. 11, 2021. (pp. 105-112).

WEEK 11. INTERSECTIONS, COALITIONS, ALLIANCES

December 15, Thursday

Selin Çağatay, "Women's Coalitions beyond the Laicism–Islamism Divide in Turkey: Towards an Inclusive Struggle for Gender Equality?," *Social Inclusion*, Vol. 6, No. 4, 2018. (pp. 48-58).

Aslı Zengin, "Mortal Life of Trans/Feminism: Notes on "Gender Killings" in Turkey," *Transgender Studies Quarterly*," Vol. 3, No. 1-2, 2016. (pp. 266-271).

December 16, Friday

Phillip M. Ayoub and Lauren Bauman, "Migration and Queer Mobilisations: How Migration Facilitates Cross-border LGBTQ Activism," *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, Vol. 45, No. 15, 2019. (pp. 2758-2778).

WEEK 12. DIGITAL & PERFORMATIVE ACTIVISMS

December 22, Thursday

Jia Tan, "Digital Masquerading: Feminist Media Activism in China," *Crime Media Culture*, Vol. 13. No. 2, 2017. (pp. 171-186).

Paromita Pain, "'It Took Me Quite a Long Time to Develop a Voice': Examining Feminist Digital Activism in the Indian #MeToo Movement," *New Media & Society*, Vol. 23, No. 1, 2021. (pp. 3139-3155).

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

December 23, Friday

Onur Kılıç, "'Every Parade of Ours is a Pride Parade': Exploring LGBTI+ digital activism in Turkey," *Sexualities*, December 2021 (pp. 1-17).

WEEK 13. RE-THINKING RESISTANCE

December 29, Thursday

Jasmine Linabary, Danielle Corple and Cheryl Cooky, "Feminist Activism in Digital Space: Postfeminist Contradictions in #WhyIStayed," *New Media & Society*, Vol. 22, No. 10, 2020. (pp. 1827-1848).

Sue Jackson, "Young Feminists, Feminism and Digital Media," *Feminism & Psychology*, Vol. 28, No. 1, 2018. (pp. 32-49).

December 30, Friday

Debbie Ging, "Bros v. Hos: Postfeminism, Anti-feminism and the Toxic Turn in Digital Politics," *Gender Hate Online*, 2019. (pp. 45-67).

Optional: Valentina Errázuriz (2021) A Digital Room of Their Own: Chilean Students Struggling Against Patriarchy in Digital Sites, *Feminist Media Studies*, 21:2, 281-297

Week 14. UNIVERSITIES AS GENDERED SPACES?

January 5, Thursday

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

Marilyn J. Preston and Garrett Drew Hoffman, “Traditionally Heterogendered Institutions: Discourses Surrounding LGBTQ College Students,” *Journal of LGBTYouth*, Vol. 12, No. 1, 2015. (pp. 64-86)

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

January 6, Friday

Wrap-up and closing

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