

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
Department of History
Fall 2005

History 753- Seminar in Comparative World History: Gender and Popular Rebellion

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Course Description:

This course explores the ways in which both tropes of gender and women's actions structure colonial power, and hence play an important role in imperial crises of authority. The approach is thematic and comparative. The first third of the course looks at various issues concerning women, including sex, prostitution, rape, "native" cultural practices, and orientalist photography, examining how they serve as grounds for debate on colonial hierarchies of authority.

Second, we investigate the gendered elements of large-scale rebellions and revolutions as well as more everyday acts of resistance to colonial power. What roles do women play in such upheavals as Mau-Mau? How does gender as a cultural system both mark and affect challenges to authority in France, Nicaragua and Cuba? What role do notions of masculinity play in these rebellions? How do they inform male revolutionary identity, and structure the partial inclusion of women in nationalist movements?

In the last part of the course, we look at immigrant, transnational populations in Latin America and the Caribbean in order to evaluate how gender relations continue to shape post-colonial societies. We also survey more contemporary forms of female rebellion that involve direct "street" democracy, and finally, explore the newly "colonized" lives of women in a globalized international economy.

Requirements:

1) Active participation in class. The core of our work in the course will be reading and discussion of abundant materials. Taking the time and energy to contribute to class discussion, whether with a comment, question, doubt, or criticism, is a crucial component of this. Active participation does not always mean speaking a lot, but it does mean listening to and engaging other people's ideas and comments, and being willing to risk asking a "stupid" question in order to move the discussion forward. The seminar's success depends on it!

2) Written work: Students are required to write thirty pages over the course of the semester, in one of three forms:

- three ten page papers;
- two fifteen page papers, or
- one thirty page paper.

The topics of these papers are to be decided by the students, according to their own research interests and intellectual agenda. However, they must get approval for their plan of writing from both professors by presenting it in writing by October 1.

The deadlines for the papers are as follows, and the papers are due by **NOON** on the designated day:

- Three paper plan: October 7, November 11, December 19
- Two paper plan: October 28, December 19
- One paper plan: December 19

3) Grading: Class participation: 40%
Written Work: 60%

AVAILABILITY OF READINGS: The books assigned are available at the University Bookstore, and on 3-hour reserve at the College Library in Helen C. White Hall; they are designated with an * on the syllabus. The articles or book chapters are part of a Xerox Packet available at the Humanities Copy Center, 1650 Humanities, and on 3-hour reserve in Helen C. White Hall.

SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS AND READINGS:

Sept. 7- Introduction and Organizational Meeting

Reading: Micol Seigel, "Beyond Compare: Comparative Method after the Transnational Turn," *Radical History Review*, Issue 91 (Winter 2005), pp. 62-90.

UNIT I- GENDER AND COLONIALISM

Sept. 14- Women Go-Betweens Under Colonialism: Mexico and *La Malinche*

Reading: *Sandra Messinger Cypess, *La Malinche in Mexican Literature: From History to Myth* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1991).

Octavio Paz, "The Sons of La Malinche," in *The Labyrinth of Solitude: Life and Thought in Mexico*, trans. Lysander Kemp (New York: Grove Press, 1961), pp. 65-88.

Frances Karttunen, "Rethinking Malinche," in Susan Schroeder, Stephanie Wood, and Robert Haskett, eds., *Indian Women of Early Mexico* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1997), pp. 290-312, 420-24.

Rita Cano Alcalá, "From Chingada to Chingona: La Malinche Redefined Or, A Long Line of Hermanas," *Aztlán*, 26:2 (Fall 2001), pp. 33-61.

Julia C. Wells, "Eva's Men: Gender and Power at the Cape of Good Hope," in Tony Ballantyne and Antoinette Burton, eds., *Bodies in Contact: Rethinking Colonial Encounters in World History* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2005), pp. 84-105.

Sept. 21- Women as Ground for Colonial Debates: India and Kenya

Reading: Lata Mani, *The Debate on Sati in Colonial India*, Chapters 2 and 5, pp. 42-82, 204-11; 158-90, 221-24.

Florencia E. Mallon, "Constructing Mestizaje in Latin America: Authenticity, Marginality and Gender in the Claiming of Ethnic Identities," *Journal of Latin American Anthropology*, 2 (1), 1996, pp. 170-181.

Lata Mani, "Contentious Traditions: The Debate on Sati in Colonial India," in Kumkum Sangari and Sudesh Vaid (eds.), *Recasting Women: Essays in Indian Colonial History* (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 1990), pp. 88-126.

Ranajit Guha, "Chandra's Death," *Subaltern Studies: Writings on South Asian History and Society*, Vol. V (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1986), pp. 92-125.

Lynn M. Thomas, "Imperial Concerns and 'Women's Affairs': State Efforts to Regulate Clitoridectomy and Eradicate Abortion in Meru, Kenya, c. 1910-1950," *The Journal of African History*, Vol. 39, No. 1 (1998), pp. 121-45.

Lynn M. Thomas, "'Ngaitana (I will circumcise myself)': The Gender and Generational Politics of the 1956 Ban on Clitoridectomy in Meru, Kenya," *Gender and History*, Vol. 8, No. 3 (November 1996), pp. 338-63.

Sept. 28- Race, Gender, Modernity: A Visual Economy of Colonialism

Reading: *Deborah Poole, *Vision, Race and Modernity* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1997).

*Malek Alloula, *The Colonial Harem* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1986).

Laura Wexler, *Tender Violence: Domestic Visions in an Age of U.S. Imperialism* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2000), pp. 15-51; 305-307

Oct. 5- Race, Sexuality, Colonialism: Prostitution

Reading: *Luise White, *The Comforts of Home: Prostitution in Colonial Nairobi* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1990).

Philippa Levine, *Prostitution, Race and Politics: Policing Venereal Disease in the British Empire* (New York: Routledge, 2003), pp.177-229, 379-92.

Eileen J. Suárez Findlay, *Imposing Decency: The Politics of Sexuality and Race in Puerto Rico, 1870-1920* (Durham: Duke University Press, 1999), pp. 77-109, 240-52; 167-201, 273-84.

Oct. 12- Gender and "Regimes of Intimacy"

Reading: *Ann Laura Stoler, *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002). pp. 1-21, 41-161, 205-17.

Jenny Sharpe, "The Civilizing Mission Disfigured," in *Allegories of Empire: The Figure of Woman in the Colonial Text* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1993), pp.57-82; 174-178.

Emma Jinhua Teng, "An Island of Women: Gender in Qing Travel Writing about Taiwan," in Ballantyne and Burton, eds., *Bodies in Contact*, pp. 38-53.

UNIT II- GENDER, REBELLION AND REVOLUTION

Oct. 19- Gender and Everyday Forms of Resistance

Reading: *Steve J. Stern, *The Secret History of Gender: Women, Men, and Power in Late Colonial Mexico* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1995), pp. 11-41, 45-49, 66-111, 124-213, 228-51, 297-344.

Heidi Gengenbach, "Tattooed Secrets: Women's History in Magude District, Southern Mozambique," in Ballantyne and Burton, *Bodies in Contact*, pp. 253-73.

Fiona Mackenzie, "Political Economy of the Environment, Gender, and Resistance under Colonialism: Murang'a District, Kenya, 1910-1950," *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, Vol. 25, No. 2 (1991), pp. 226-56.

Heidi Tinsman, "Good Wives and Unfaithful Men: Gender Negotiations and Sexual Conflicts in the Chilean Agrarian Reform, 1964-1973," *Hispanic American Historical Review*, 81:3-4 (August-November 2001), pp. 587-619.

Oct. 26- The "Family Romance" of the French Revolution

Reading: *Lynn Hunt, *The Family Romance of the French Revolution* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993).

Elizabeth Colwill, "Sex, Savagery and Slavery in the Shaping of the French Body Politic," in Sara E. Melzer and Kathryn Norberg (eds.), *From the Royal to the Republican Body: Incorporating the Political in Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century France* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998), pp. 198-223.

John Garrigus, "Sons of the Same Father": Gender, Race and Citizenship in French Saint-Domingue, 1760-1792" in Christine Adams, Jack R. Censer, and Lisa Jane Graham (eds.), *Visions and Revisions of Eighteenth-Century France* (University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1997), pp. 137-53.

Nov. 2- Postcolonial/ National Liberation in Latin America

Reading: *Roger N. Lancaster, *Life is Hard: Machismo, Danger, and the Intimacy of Power in Nicaragua* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1992).

María Josefina Saldaña-Portillo, "The Authorized Subjects of Revolution: Ernesto 'Che' Guevara and Mario Payeras," in Saldaña-Portillo, *The Revolutionary Imagination in the Americas*, pp. 63-108, 299-303.

María Josefina Saldaña-Portillo, "Irresistible Seduction: Rural Subjectivity under Sandinista Agricultural Policy," in Saldaña-Portillo, *The Revolutionary Imagination in the Americas and the Age of Development* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2003), pp. 109-47, 303-308.

Margaret Randall, *Gathering Rage: The Failure of 20th Century Revolutions to Develop a Feminist Agenda* (New York: Monthly Review Press, 1992), pp. 42-86, 180-85, 120-53, 188-91.

Ian Lekus, "Queer Harvests: Homosexuality, the U.S. New Left, and the Venceremos Brigades to Cuba," *Radical History Review*, Issue 89 (Spring 2004), pp. 57-91.

Nov. 9- Gender and Anticolonial Revolts: Mau Mau in Kenya

Reading: *Tabitha Kanogo, *Squatters and the Roots of Mau Mau, 1905-63* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 1987).

Derek Peterson, "Wordy Women: Gender Trouble and the Oral Politics of the East African Revival in Northern Gikuyuland," *Journal of African History*, 42 (2001), pp. 469-89.

Cora Ann Presley, "The Mau Mau Rebellion, Kikuyu Women, and Social Change," *Canadian Journal of African Studies*, Vol. 22, No. 3 (1988), pp. 502-27.

Luise White, "Separating the Men from the Boys: Constructions of Gender, Sexuality, and Terrorism in Central Kenya, 1939-1959," *The International Journal of African Historical Studies*, Vol. 23, No. 1 (1990), pp. 1-25.

Nov. 16- Discourses of Masculinity, Discourses of Rebellion

Reading: Dipesh Chakravarty, "Adda, Calcutta: Dwelling in Modernity," in Dilip Parameshwar Gaonkar (ed.), *Alternative modernities* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2001), pp. 123-64.

Partha Chatterjee, "The Nationalist Resolution of the Women's Question," in Sangari and Vaid (eds.), *Recasting Women*, pp. 233-53.

Mrinalini Singha, "Gender and Imperialism: Colonial Policy and the Ideology of Moral Imperialism in Late Nineteenth Century Bengal," in Michael S. Kimmel (ed.), *Changing Men: New Directions on Research on Men and Masculinity* (Beverly Hills, Ca: Sage Publications, 1987), pp. 217-231.

Florencia E. Mallon, "Barbudos, Warriors, and Rotos: The MIR, Masculinity, and Power in the Chilean Agrarian Reform, 1965-74," in Matthew C. Gutmann (ed.), *Changing Men and Masculinities in Latin America* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2003), pp. 179-215.

UNIT III- GENDER AND POSTCOLONIALISM

Nov. 23- Movie: "Kandahar" directed by Iranian director Mohsen Makhmalbaf, 2001.

Shot on the border of Iran and Afghanistan, Kandahar is the story of a young female journalist named Nafas who escaped Afghanistan with her family but must return and race against time in an attempt to rescue her sister. The sister, maimed by a landmine and distraught over the constant persecution simply for being a woman, has written to Nafas vowing that she will commit suicide by the

next solar eclipse. Nafas must disguise herself as an Afghan wife by wearing the traditional head-to-toe covering of the burka in order to find her sister in the Taliban-controlled city of Kandahar.

The film is inspired by the real-life experience of actress Nelofer Pazira, who plays Nafas. In 1989, she fled her homeland of Afghanistan and later received a similar letter not from a sister, but from a long-time friend who wanted to end her life.

Reading: Leila Ahmed, *Women and Gender in Islam* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1992), pp. 127-207, 266-75.

Nov. 30- Race, Migration and Transnationalism: Costa Rica in Comparative Perspective

Reading: * Lara Putnam, *The Company They Kept: Migrants and the Politics of Gender in Caribbean Costa Rica, 1870-1960* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2002).

Verene Shepherd, "Gender, Migration and Settlement: The Indentureship and Post-indentureship Experience of Indian Females in Jamaica, 1845-1943," in Verene Shepherd, Bridget Brereton, and Barbara Bailey (eds.), *Engendering History: Caribbean Women in Historical Perspective* (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1995), pp.233-57.

Tejaswini Niranjana, "'Left to the Imagination': Indian Nationalisms and Female Sexuality in Trinidad," in Gaonkar (ed.), *Alternative modernities*, pp. 248-71.

Dec. 7- Gender, Memory, and Mobilization

Reading: *Temma Kaplan, *Taking Back the Streets: Women, Youth and Direct Democracy* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004).

Erella Shadmi, "Between Resistance and Compliance, Feminism and Nationalism: Women in Black in Israel," *Women's Studies International Forum*, 23:1 (2000), pp. 23-34.

Gila Svirsky, "Local Coalitions, Global Partners: The Women's Peace Movement in Israel and Beyond," *Signs*, 29:2 (Winter 2003), pp. 543-50.

Myrna Kostash, "Visible Silence: Women in Black in Edmonton," *Signs*, 29:2 (Winter 2003), pp. 591-93.

Dec. 14- Gender, Labor, and Globalization

Reading: *Jane Collins, *Threads: Gender, Labor and Power in the Global Apparel Industry* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003).

*Ching Kwan Lee, *Gender and the South China Miracle: Two Worlds of Factory Women* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998), pp. 66-159, 187-92.

Please note: Half the class will be responsible for a close reading of each book, and for a skim read of the other one, TBD.