

Women's Studies 156A
Race and Gender

Professor: Karen Kim
Spring Quarter, 2008
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 12:30-2:00
Krieger Hall, Room 369
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Course Description:

This course examines the intersections of race and gender in the formation of feminist theory and practice. It looks closely at the ways that prevailing notions of both race and gender are mutually transformed by an intersectional approach and highlights the particularly rich and dynamic contributions of black feminist theorizing for a range of critical topics and issues. To that end, the course pays special attention to the political framing of three major contemporary fronts of feminist movement – domestic violence, sexual assault, reproductive justice – and to the form and substance of the divergent collective efforts that women have organized under these overlapping banners.

Course Requirements:

Participation – 20%
Response Papers (2) – 20%
Midterm Exam – 25%
Final Exam – 35%

Policies and Addendums:

- Students who do not attend class during week one and who have not made prior arrangements with the instructor will be dropped from the class.
- Students who miss more than two (2) classes will lose participation points.
- Lecture notes will not be made available to students in the event of a missed class. Students are responsible for making arrangements with classmates to share notes.
- Students are responsible for noting assignment due dates and exam dates. In the event that students miss the due date for the submission of a response paper, they will receive no credit. No late or make-up papers will be accepted.

- All submitted work must be proofread for errors. Submissions with errors may not be accepted for credit.
- Office hours will be held weekly at the designated time. Students unable to attend office hours during the scheduled time may contact the instructor to arrange an alternate meeting time. Office hours are an opportunity to pursue clarification, review readings, and seek greater familiarity with the material.
- The syllabus is subject to changes in content and scheduling. Any such changes will be announced in class and students will be held responsible accordingly.
- The course reading material is extensive and demanding. Students are expected to demonstrate a high level of commitment to and engagement with the material. Careless readings and uninformed opinions will not be entertained in class discussion.
- Students are required to bring a highlighter and the course reader to every class.

Required Texts:

- Course Reader (available from www.universityreaders.com).
- Additional readings on EEE course website.

Schedule:

Week 1

Tuesday, 4/1

Introduction

Thursday, 4/3

- hooks, “Black Women: Shaping Feminist Theory” [reader – available in PDF upon purchase]

Week 2

Tuesday, 4/8

- hooks (cont’d)

Thursday, 4/10

- Crenshaw, “Mapping the Margins” [reader – available in PDF upon purchase]

Week 3

Tuesday, 4/15

- Crenshaw (cont’d)

Thursday, 4/17

Discussion Day

Week 4

Tuesday, 4/22

- Simmons, “The War Against Black Women and the Making of NO!” [reader]
- Response Paper #1 DUE

Thursday, 4/24

- film viewing, *NO! The Rape Documentary*

Week 5

Tuesday, 4/29

Midterm Exam Review

Thursday, 5/1

MIDTERM EXAM

Week 6

Tuesday, 5/6

- Solinger, “The Population Bomb and the Sexual Revolution: Toward Choice” [reader]

Thursday, 5/8

- Solinger (cont’d)

Week 7

Tuesday, 5/13

- Ross, “The Color of Choice: White Supremacy and Reproductive Justice” [reader]

Thursday, 5/15

- Ross (cont’d)

Week 8

Tuesday, 5/20

- film viewing, *With a Vengeance*

Thursday, 5/22

- Roberts, “Unshackling Black Motherhood” [website]
- Response Paper #2 DUE

Week 9

Tuesday, 5/27

- Roberts (cont’d)

Thursday, 5/29

- Allard, “Crime, Punishment, and Economic Violence”

Week 10

Tuesday, 6/3

- Allard (cont’d)

Thursday, 6/5

Final Exam Preparation