GENA2192 Women, Men and Culture

Thursdays: 2.30-4.15pm
Venue: T.C. Cheng C4

Instructor: Dr. FAMING, Manynooch
Contact: nychma@cuhk.edu.hk
Office Hour: By appointment

This course takes an anthropological perspective to discuss a general human category, such as sexes and gender. Through this perspective the course will explore the process of how gender and the relationship between women and men are largely cultural and social products. Students will also be exploring cultural, belief system, political, economic, material, and environmental factors that are deemed to be part of such processes. This course will start from introducing core concerns, arguments, and approaches related to the constructions of gender. After the introductory sessions, we will focus, week by week, on common (or controversial) gender and sexual issues we encounter in lives. These weeks will be discussion intensive and relevant analysis and scholarly works will be introduced to deepen your understanding of gender and sexuality via the topics. Students are encouraged to examine their own gender identities and beliefs critically; to not only understand how our gender assumptions are shaped but also to develop their own gender statement.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

- acquire a holistic understanding of the making of gender;
- analyze contemporary gender related issues;
- develop their own gender and sexual statement;
- apply idea learned to their lives and have alternative choices to cope with related challenges.

Course Requirements:

The success of this course depends on students' commitment to participate and contribute to class discussion and willingness to stay curious and explore relevant thoughts among academic works and beyond. The following evaluation is designed to encourage these efforts.

A. Participation	10%
B. Self-identity reflection	30%
C. Mid-term Exam	60%

Course Requirements details

A. Participation **10%**

Attendance is mandatory. It is the university policy attendance alone carries no marks, but it plays a role in the final participation marks. Turn off your mobile phones during our weekly class meeting. Bonus points for those who volunteer to raise or answer questions.

B. One Self-identity Reflection **30% (Due date: 5 Mar. 2026, 4.30pm.)**

Students will reflect on one's own personhood and gender identity. This can also be defined by your biological sex, culture, society, religion, and sexual orientations or sexuality. This self-reflection must follow the marking criteria, specifically in-text citations and references. The total minimum words count is 1,000 but not exceeding 1,500 (excluding reference list).

C. Midterm Exam **60% (90min., 9 April 2026, 2.30-4pm)**

The course midterm exam will be held on Week14 of the course. Those who fail to attend must provide evidence of medical certificate in order to sit a make-up exam. The exam questions do not involve 'rote-learning'—that is, your memory of details such as historical dates, events, personages—but, rather, to test your understanding of analytical concepts and broad historical and cultural patterns in gender in different societies. The exam questions may include multiple-choice, true or false, matching, give short definitions, short answers and long answer. All test questions will be derived from lectures as well as suggested readings.

D. Notes on Submission of written assignment

Academic Honesty: You are required to cite properly to avoid plagiarism. The university adopts a policy of zero tolerance on plagiarism. Any use of another person's words or ideas, taken directly or paraphrased, without citing the source is plagiarism. This includes taking material from the Internet without citing the website. Please consult the university's policy on academic honesty at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/.

Students are required by university policy to submit soft copies of all papers to VeriGuide. Please check the website www.cuhk.edu.hk/veriguide for information on how to submit papers through VeriGuide. Please submit a soft copy of your final paper (Word document) together with the signed VeriGuide receipt page (PDF) to Blackboard.

Note 1: Save your final paper in **Word format**, and your signed VeriGuide receipt in PDF format. All written assignments and the VeriGuide receipts should be uploaded as two separate files.

Note 2: Please name your paper file(s) GENA **2192 Last name First name**, and your VeriGuide receipt file GENA**2192VeriGuide Last name First name**.

Note 3: Submit your written assignments through VeriGuide while the signed VeriGuide receipts upload to designated folder on the course Blackboard.

The written assignment is to be ***double-spaced and in 12-point font, Word Format***. Please follow the Anthropology Department citation style at http://arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~ant/en/dept_thesis_style.php. Late assignments will be penalized. If for valid reasons you need to have your assignment re-scheduled, please be sure to make a timely request.

Late Submission: Late submission will suffer a fraction of a grade per day. For example, an A will become an A-.

E. Readings:

All readings listed are not required but reference materials for your learning. Though students are not assumed to know the materials when they come to class, the materials should be very useful for you to contemplate on each topics, prepare for group presentations, and write your reflection essays. Besides, they are all quite interesting! So, we make them all available on Blackboard. Please take time to enjoy works that interest you and feel free to consult me if you would like to explore any topic further.

F. Use of AI Tools

Approach 3 – Use with Explicit Acknowledgement

Generative AI and AI-assisted technologies should only be used to enhance the readability and language of the paper (i.e., grammar check, sentences, synonym or antonym, or translator). ***Any other AI collaborations are not allowed***.

These technologies should be employed under human supervision, with you reviewing and editing the output as necessary, since AI-generated content can contain errors, omissions, or biases. You remain responsible and accountable for the final content of your work.

Disclosure of generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process is required by including a statement before the references list at the end of the paper upon submission. For example:

Title of new section: Declaration of generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process.

Statement: During the preparation of this work, I used [NAME TOOL / SERVICE] in order to [REASON]. After using this tool/service, I reviewed and edited the content as needed and take full responsibility for the content of the paper.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week 1 (Jan. 8): Introduction: Cross-cultural Understanding of Gender

Recommended academic works:

Mascia-Lees, Frances E. and Nancy Johnson Black. 1999. "CH1: The History of the Study of Gender in Anthropology." In *Gender and Anthropology*. Pp. 1-12.

Ortner, Sherry B. 2006. "Is Female to Male as Nature is to Culture?" In *Feminist Anthropology: A Reader.* Oxford: Blackwell, Pp. 72-86.

Other recommended materials:

Video: *Always #LikeAGirl.* Accessed on 15 January, 2015. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P_MhsbRiFyI&list=PLRyQfUYbMgkeMaN_yICROVBYTK0jU237U

Article: *Why Aren't Women Advancing at Work? Ask a Transgender Person.* New Republic 2014. Jessica Nordell. Accessed on 15 January, 2015. http://www.newrepublic.com/article/119239/transgender-people-can-explain-why- women-dont-advance-work

Week 5 (Jan. 15): Gender Ideology

Recommended academic works:

Harris, Marvin. 1995. "CH15: Gender Hierarchies." In *Cultural Anthropology*. Pp. 190-205.

Brown, Judith K. 2006. "A Note on the Division of Labor by Sex." In *Feminist Anthropology: A Reader*. Pp. 66-71.

Rubin, Gayle. 1990 (1975)."The Traffic in Women: Notes on the "Political Economy" of Sex. In *Women, Class, and the Feminist Imagination.* Karen Hansen and Ilene Philipson, eds. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. Pp. 74-113

Other recommended materials:

Video: *Oppressed Majority (Majorité Opprimée)* (by Eleonore Pourriat, 2014, 11 mins) (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4UWxlVvT1A)

Article: *Republican Men Say It's a Better Time to Be a Woman Than a Man* https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/17/upshot/republican-men-say-its-a-better-time-to- be-a-woman-than-a-man.html

Week 3 (Jan. 22): Sex and Sexuality

Recommended academic works:

Harris, Marvin, 1995. "CH7: Human Sexuality." In *Cultural Anthropology*. Pp. 74-83.

Fausto-Sterling, Anne. 1995. "How to Build a Man." In *The Gender and Sexuality Reader.* Roger Lancaster & Micaela di Leonardo, eds. Pp. 244-248. New York: Routledge.

Other recommended works:

Sax, Leonard. 2006. "CH2: Female Brains, Male Brains." In *Why Gender Matters: What parents and teachers need to know about the emerging science of sex differences.* Pp.11-38. Broadway Books

Video: *Me, My Sex and I.* BBC One. (2011, 50 mins) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87XvVdLaWT8)

Article: *Stanford bioethicist fights gender tests for female athletes.* San Francisco Chronicle 4, August, 2015. Rachel Swan. Accessed on 14 January, 2016. http://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Stanford-bioethicist-fights-gender-tests-for-6425161.php?t=a5b3f531c43cce98c9&cmpid=email-premium

Article: *A graphic history of sex: 'There is no gene that drives sexuality. All sexuality is learned'* https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2016/oct/29/a-graphic-history-of- sex-there-is-no-gene-that-drives-sexuality-all-sexuality-is-learned

Article: *With Manicures and Makeup, Japan's 'Genderless' Blur Line Between Pink and Blue*. http://cn.nytstyle.com/culture/20170106/with-manicures-and-makeup-japans- genderless-blur-line-between-pink-and-blue/en-us/

Week 4 (Jan. 29): Non-binary Gender and Sexuality: Can one choose his/her own gender?

Recommended academic works:

Sommer, Matthew H. 2002. "Dangerous Males, Vulnerable Males, and Polluted Males: The Regulation of Masculinity in Qing Dynasty Law." In Susan Brownell and Jeffrey Wasserstrom, eds., *Chinese Femininities/Chinese Masculinities: A Reader*. Pp. 67-88. University of California Press.

Valentine, David 2007. "CH3: "I Know What I Am": Gender Sexuality, and Identity." In *Imagining Transgender: An Ethnography of a Category.* Pp. 105-139. Durham & London: Duke University Press.

Other recommended materials:

Article: *'Gender Revolution' Portrait Carries a Message of Hope* http://www.nationalgeographic.com/photography/proof/2016/12/robin-hammond- gender-cover/

Article: *Norway Set To Make Changing Gender Easier with "Breakthrough" Bill* http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/norway-set-to-make-changing-gender- easier-with-breakthrough-bill-a7030181.html

Week 5 (Feb. 5): Objectification: Is sex appeal empowering or oppressive?

Recommended academic works:

Urla, Jacqueline and Alan C. Swedlund. 2009. "Measuring Up to Barbie: Ideals of the Feminine Body in Popular Culture." In *Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective*. Pp. 282-296.

Video: *Killing Us Softly 4.* (2010, 45 mins)

Other recommended materials:

Sax, Leonard. 2010. "CH1: First Factor: Sexual Identity." In *Girls on the Edge: the Four Factors Driving the New Crisis for Girls: Sexual Identity, the Cyberbubble, Obsessions, Environmental Toxins*. Pp. 11-36. New York: Basic Books.

Article: *Study Finds TV Alters Fiji Girls View of Body.* The New York Times, 20 May, 1999. Accessed on: 14 January, 2016. http://www.nytimes.com/1999/05/20/world/study- finds-tv-alters-fiji-girls-view-of-body.html

Article: *New Burlesque: Is it empowering or demeaning to women?* BBC News, 12 February, 2012. Accessed on 14 January, 2016. http://www.bbc.com/news/uk- england-25782781

https://theinitium.com/article/20170114-opinion-viviantam-joycecheng/

Week 6 (Feb 12) : Is men's sex better than women's sex?

Recommended academic works:

Ong, Aihwa. 2006. "Ch. 12 Center Periphery, and Hierarchy: Gender in Southeast Asia," in *Feminist Anthropology: A Reader.* Oxford: Blackwell, Pp. 294-305

Blackwood, Evelyn. 2006. "Ch. 21 Tombois in West Sumatra: Constructing Masculinity and Erotic Desire," in *Feminist Anthropology: A Reader.* Oxford: Blackwell, Pp. 411-434

Week 7 Feb. 19 CNY Holiday (No Class)

Week 8 (Feb. 26): Intimate Labor: Can people sell sex?

Recommended academic works:

Vance, Carole S. 1984. "Pleasure and Danger: Toward a Politics of Sexuality." In *Pleasure and Danger: Exploring Female Sexuality.* Pp. 1-27.

Alison, Anne. 1994. "Introduction." In *Nightwork: Sexuality, Pleasure, and Corporate Masculinity in a Tokyo Hostess Club*. Pp. 7-30. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Week 9 Mar. 5 Reading Week (No Class; Self-identity reflection Due)

Week 10 (Mar. 12): Man Adrift: Is a man without property marriageable?

Recommended academic works:

Bourgois, Philippe. 2012[2002]. "CH14: Poverty at work: Office Employment and Crack Alternative." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology.* James P. Spradley and David W. McCurdy, eds. Pp. 125-135. Boston, MA: Pearson/Allyn & Bacon.

Other recommended materials:

Article: *Men Adrift.* The Economist. 30 May 2015.

Week 11 (Mar. 19): Marriage: Is marriage a trap that we should get rid of?

Recommended academic works:

Townsend, Nicholas W. 2002. "Marriage: The Women in the Middle." In *The Package Deal: Marriage, Work, and Fatherhood in Men's Lives.* Pp. 81-116.

Nakano, Lynne Y. 2011. "Working and Waiting for an 'Appropriate Person:' How Single Women Support and Resist Family in Japan." In *Home and Family in Japan: Continuity and Transformation.* Richard Ronald and Allison Alexy (eds). Pp. 131-151. Routledge: London and New York.

Other recommended materials:

Video: *What I do is for your own good (* 春 節 自 救 指 南 *)*

https://www.facebook.com/wechatinchina/videos/1831875713697136/#

Article: *The Modern Marriage Trap — and What to Do About It.*

http://time.com/money/4630251/the-modern-marriage-trap-and-what-to-do-about-it/

Week 12 (Mar. 26): Domestic Work: Should housewives be paid?

Recommended academic works:

Lamphere, Louise. 2009. "The Domestic Sphere of Women and the Public World of Men: The Strengths and Limitations of an Anthropological Dichotomy." In *Gender in Cross- Cultural Perspective*. Pp. 90-98.

Harris, Marvin. 1995. "CH 9: Domestic Life." In *Cultural Anthropology*. Pp. 102-118.

Shandy, Dianna and Karine Moe. 2012. "CH22: The Opt-Out Phenomenon: Women, Work and Identity in America." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology.* James P. Spradley and David W. McCurdy, eds. Pp. 197-207. Boston, MA: Pearson/Allyn & Bacon.

Week 13 Apr. 2 Good Friday Holiday (No Class)

Week 14 (Apr. 9): Mid Term Examination (90min. 2.30-4pm.)

Week 15 (Apr. 16): Conclusion: Reproduction Obligations-Women, Men or Culture?

Recommended academic works:

Fong, Vanessa L. 2004. Ch2. "Great Expectations: Singletons as the Vanguard of Modernization." In *Only Hope: Coming of Age under China's One-Child Policy*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Ong, Aihwa. 1995. State versus Islam: Malay families, women's bodies and the body politic in Malaysia. In *Bewitching Women, Pious Men: Gender and Body Politics in Southeast Asia*, edited by Aiwa Ong and Michael Peletz. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Kligman, Gail. 2017. "Ch. 38: Political demography: the banning of abortion in Ceausescu's Romania," in *Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective*, 7th edition, edited by Caroline B. Brettell and Carolyn F. Sargent. pp: 559-576.

Other recommended materials:

News Articles:

"*Hong Kong Policy Address: HK$20,000 handout for new parents to boost city's record-low birth rate."* https://hongkongfp.com/2023/10/25/hong-kong-policy-address-hk20000-handout-for-new-parents-to-boost-citys-record-low-birth-rate/

"I won't have a baby for HK$20,000", RTHK news https://news.rthk.hk/rthk/en/component/k2/1724821-20231025.htm

*"Women in China: Pick and choose." T*he Economist, 3 May, 2014. Accessed on: 5 May, 2014. http://www.economist.com/news/books-and-arts/21601486-why- womens-rights-china-are-regressing-pick-and-choose

China formally eases one-child policy. http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-25533339