

Seminar: International Feminist Thinking

GOV 286, IDCE 272/, WS 286/386

Fall 2001

Wednesday – 2:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Women's Studies/Carriage House

Professor Enloe
Office: JEF 418
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(emailing is **NOT** the way to converse about course questions. It is much better to come see me in office hours or right before/after class)

Office hours:

Monday 2:30 – 4:00 JEF 418

Thursday 9:00 – 11:00 Women's Studies Office, 1st. floor, Carriage House

In this seminar we will explore and compare women as feminists, both develop and debate ideas about 1) what is the character of women's conditions and 2) what are the causes of those conditions – in their own societies and more generally across societies.

We will concentrate on feminist thinkers in three countries:

India, Japan and Egypt.

Among the questions we will delve into are: how do feminists weigh the impacts on women of colonialism, neo-colonialism and nationalism and local forms of sexism? How do feminists build explanations for sexist beliefs and practices that take into account differences among their societies' women derived from class and caste systems, ethnic and racial biases, while still finding overarching similarities among women? How do women as feminists understand the role of the state in the lives of women? And how do feminists debate the pitfalls and potential benefits of international alliances with feminists of other societies?

Course work and grading

In a seminar, every member's weekly participation becomes vital. Thus your regular attendance, combined with thoughtful participation in the discussions, will be taken into account in the final grading amounting to 20% of your course grade.

In addition there first will be a, INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PAPER – focused on the evolution of feminist thinking in one country of your own choosing over a specific time period (e.g., Kenya 1980-2000; Mexico, 1910-35; Britain 1870-1914). Your paper's grade will account for 40% of your final course grade

A second written assignment will be a FINAL TAKE-HOME ESSAY EXAM. This exam will be based on material from Noon Guest Lecturers, in-class discussions and assigned readings. Your exam grade will account for 40% of your final course grade.

Required Readings

Joni Seager: The State of Women in the World Atlas, (New edition), Penguin Books

Available only in the Bookstore

Radha Kumar, The History of Doing: Movement for Women's Rights and Feminism in India 1800-1900, Kali for Women Press/Verso Press

*Available for sale IN CLASS only and

*on 2 hour reserve in Goddard.

AMPO: Japan Asia Quarterly Review, Voices from the Japanese Women's Movement, M.E. Sharpe

*Available/for sale at the Bookstore

*also on 2 hour reserve in Goddard.

Human Rights Watch Women's Rights Division, Owed Justice: Thai Women Trafficked into Debt bondage in Japan, Human Rights Watch.

For sale at Bookstore

Ruth Ann Keyso, Women of Okinawa, Cornell University Press

For sale at the Bookstore

*also on 2-hour reserve in Goddard

Margot Badran – Feminists, Islam and Nation: Gender and the Making of Modern Egypt, Princeton University Press,

For sale at the Bookstore

*also on 2 hour reserve in Goddard.

Nawal El Saadawi, Woman at Point Zero, Zed Books.

For sale at the Bookstore

*Also on 2 hour reserve in Goddard.

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*Available at NEW WORDS BOOKSTORE in Cambridge. Your assignment requires you to visit New Words in person **By September 20th**.

186 Hampshire St., Inman Square, Cambridge, MA 617-876-5310. This is the largest feminist bookstore in the entire Northeast, U.S.

It's hours are Tues-Fri. noon-8:00 p.m.

Sat. 10:00 – 6:00 p.m. and

Sun. noon – 6:00 p.m.

NOTE: Books are on 2 hour reserve in Goddard, listed under Government.

Required Guest Lectures:

(all except Oct. 8 will be in the Grace Conference Room, U.C.)

- Wed, September 26th Noon –
- Professor Kum-Kum Bhavnani

- Mon. Oct 8 – Noon –
- Carmelyn Maladis and Susan Shah

- Thurs. Nov 1 – Noon –
- Angela Raven-Roberts

- Thurs. Nov 29 – Noon –
- Barbara Neely

*Mark these 4 dates on your calendar!

All 4 events are open to everyone. Bring your friends!

Schedule of Discussions and Assignments

Wed. Aug 29 –

Feminists thinking, feminists theorizing in and across times and places

-Start reading Radha Kumar's The History of Doing, cover – p. 95.

***Note:** This book will be sold ONLY HERE IN CLASS!

Sept. 5 –

Thinking about Indian Women under British Colonial Rule, Against Colonialism and in a New Nation

Read and be ready to discuss – Kumar, Cover – p.95.

Sept. 12 –

Women's and movements and/in the Indian State

Read/discuss: Kumar – pp. 96- p. 171.

Sept 19 –

Feminism, Communalism, Nationalism: Indian Women's Feminist Debates

Read/Discuss – Kumar, p. 172 – End.

Also: Read clippings in the Women's Studies Library in the "India" file.

Sept. 26 –

Noon – Professor Kum- Kum Bhavnani, University of California, Editor of Meridians,

Speaking on feminism and grass roots Women's organizing.

And

Sept. 26 – class –

Japanese Feminism in an Era of Post War and "Miracle"

***Bring to class** – Seager, State of Women in the World Atlas

Read/Discuss: in AMPO, "Contributors", "Introduction", Chaps. 1,4,5,6,7,19,25,26

Oct. 3 –

Japanese feminism, sexuality, difference.

Read/discuss: in AMPO: Chaps 9,10,11,12,13,15,16,17

***Submit in class your Independent Seminar Paper topic**

Oct. 8 – Mon –

Noon – Carmelyn Malalis and Susan Shah – Two feminist lawyers talking about the feminist politics of working against trafficking in women and for immigrants' rights.

Oct. 10 –

Japanese feminists, Asian women and international trafficking in women.

Read/discuss: BRING Seager Atlas; Human Rights Watch, cover - p. 146.

Oct. 17 –

Japanese feminists – The international political system.

Read/Discuss: Human Rights Watch, p. 147 – END.

***Hand in and discuss in Class your preliminary research for your seminar paper.**

Oct. 24 –

Japanese feminists, Okinawa women and American militarization:

Read/discuss: Keyso – ENTIRE.

Oct. 31 –

Egyptian feminism's First Wave, 1890's – 1930's
Read/discuss: Badran, cover – p. 110.

***Thurs. Nov. 1 –**

Noon - Angela Raven – Roberts, Tufts University, Center for Famine Studies, former UNICEF emergency aid operations – on sexism in international humanitarian aid operations.

Nov. 7 – NO CLASS

-Continue reading: Finish Badran

- In the Women's Studies Library Select 4 clippings from the "Egypt" and/or "Muslim Women" files to discuss next week in class.

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Nov. 14 –

Fiction and feminism in Contemporary Egypt.

Read/discuss: Nawal El Saadawi-Entire.

Bring to class Seager Atlas

Discuss your 4 W.S. library clippings choices.

Relate these three sources to Badran

Nov. 21 – Thanksgiving Vacation

Catch up on your reading, work on your PAPER.

Nov. 28 –

Thinking about feminism while standing in the U.S.

Bring-Read/discuss: Ms. Magazine, June/July, 2001

Start discussing your Research Findings.

* - FINAL TAKE-HOME EXAM QUESTION HANDED OUT IN CLASS

** **Research papers due in CLASS** **

Nov. 29 – Noon –

Barbara Neely, popular African American feminist mystery writer, discusses fiction and feminism.

Dec. 5 –

Researching Feminist Thinking: Discoveries and Puzzles.

Discuss your Research: light it sheds on feminist thinking – India, Japan and Egypt.

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Dec. 17 –

TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAMS DUE - NO LATER THAN 3:00 P.M. – CARRIAGE HOUSE