"Researchers should note that male and female gender are concepts, not things. What they are is always in question..."

*Cynthia Fuchs Epstein, 1997*

**Description:**

This seminar will explore how the human sciences have constructed, theorized and employed/deployed *gender* in attempts to describe and explain what it means to be human from the late 19th century to the present. Specifically, we will examine how the human sciences (and occasionally, the life sciences) have gendered several overlapping constructs that have been the focus of much research attention: the intellect, the emotions, sexuality, personality, psychopathology, body, and brain. We will approach our examination of this gendering theoretically and historically; we will begin the course with a selection of key feminist texts that theorize sex and gender, and then read selections from the historiography of the human sciences that unpack how the psy-disciplines draw on, reproduce, and very occasionally subvert sex and gender ideologies.

**Day, Time and Location:**

Tuesdays, 11:30-2:30, 203 BSB

**Evaluation:**

1) Weekly Participation and Presentation of Readings: 40%

Each week you will be expected to orally present your thoughts on the key questions posed for that week and engage in the discussion. You will be expected to speak and participate in every class, and to do all of the readings. You will be formally responsible for *leading* the discussion on a total of FIVE of the assigned readings (see below for your assignments!). For your assigned readings, you should formulate 3 discussion questions based on your reading in advance of the seminar. You are required to post them on the moodle site under your reading by the end of the Friday before the Tuesday seminar (you will all have editing roles on the moodle site). The class should consult these questions and be prepared to discuss them.
Although it shouldn’t be necessary to mention this, every undocumented absence from the class will result in a 5% decrement in your grade.

2) Creative/Conceptual Mini-Paper and Presentation: 20%

This is a short proposal of about 5 pages in length where you present your ideas about how to meet the goals/challenges of the final assignment. Imagine a project that would help us address the questions posed below, and provide rationales for your ideas (these papers will be handed in). You will then present your ideas to the group, and we will discuss how to proceed, deciding as a group on the final form and components of the assignment and how it will be evaluated.

3) Final Assignment: 40%

*Judy Chicago meets the History of the Human Sciences*

*The Dinner Party Re-Envisioned*

The assignment for this course is inspired by Judy Chicago’s famous feminist art installation *The Dinner Party*. See:

https://www.brooklynmuseum.org/eascfa/dinner_party/home/

In essence, we are going to construct our own dinner party – not to recover women from history, but rather to interrogate/examine/explore/disrupt/challenge how the human sciences have participated in gendering how we think, feel, behave, misbehave, and
generally inhabit and interact with our bodies and social worlds over the course of the late 19th through the 20th and into the 21st century.

How might we use Joan Scott’s ideas about gender as an analytic tool for writing history in this exercise? How might we use standpoint theory, poststructuralism, social constructionism, intersectionality, the sex/gender differences paradigm to explore how the human sciences engage in gendering, and to propose new possibilities?

This assignment encompasses creative, conceptual, and research challenges. Conceptually, how might we, as a group, re-envision *The Dinner Party* to accomplish this aim? What might our *Dinner Party* look like? Who (if it should even be people) should be included and how should it be organized? What do we want it to convey? What elements are required? Textual, visual, virtual, performative? How will these elements convey our ideas?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Schedule:</th>
<th>Topic:</th>
<th>Readings:</th>
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<tr>
<td>1) Jan 10</td>
<td>Doing and Undoing Gender</td>
<td>West &amp; Zimmerman (1987)</td>
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<td>Butler (1999; Prefaces &amp; Ch. 1)</td>
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<td>Deutsch (2007)</td>
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<td>2) Jan 17</td>
<td>Theorizing Gender</td>
<td>Gavey (1989)</td>
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<td>Zinn &amp; Dill (1996)</td>
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<td>3) Jan 24</td>
<td>Gender History</td>
<td>Scott (1986)</td>
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<td>Morgan (2009)</td>
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<td>4) Jan 31</td>
<td>Gender and Science</td>
<td>Keller (1983)</td>
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<td>5) Feb 7</td>
<td>Emotion and Personality</td>
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<td>6) Feb 14</td>
<td>Intellect</td>
<td>Hegarty (2007)</td>
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<td>Shields (1982)</td>
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<td>Feb 28</td>
<td>Sexuality</td>
<td>Fausto-Sterling (2000, Ch. 9)</td>
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<td>Minton (1986)</td>
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<td>Jordan-Young (2010, Ch. 6)</td>
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<td>Gupta &amp; Cacchioni (2013)</td>
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<td>March 7</td>
<td>Psychopathology</td>
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<td>March 14</td>
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<td>Martin (1991)</td>
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<td>Ussher (2004)</td>
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<td>Benninghaus (2012)</td>
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<td>March 21</td>
<td>Mini-paper presentations and group discussion of final assignment</td>
<td>Baron-Cohen (2007)</td>
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<td>Jordan-Young &amp; Rumiati (2012)</td>
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<td>March 28</td>
<td>Brains</td>
<td>Fine (2012)</td>
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12) April 4  
Final Assignment working session

Color Codes for Presenters:

Alexandra Rutherford

Ian Davidson

Lisa Feingold

Shayna Fox Lee

Jennifer Hunter

Susannah Mulvale

Volodymyr Slyvka

Ashley Weinberg

Bibliography (assigned readings are highlighted)


Available as an e-book through the York Library system


Available as an e-book through the York Library system


Jordan-Young, R. (2010). *Brain-storm: The flaws in the science of sex differences*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. (Ch. 6)


Weisstein, N. (1971). Psychology constructs the female; or, The fantasy life of the male psychologist (with some attention to the fantasies of his friends, the male biologist and the male anthropologist). *Journal of Social Education, 35*, 362-373.


Journal sources for readings (but feel free to use book chapters as well; this is only a suggestive list):

**History/theory:**
- Journal of the History of the Behavioral Sciences
- History of Psychology
- History of the Human Sciences
- Isis
- British Journal of the History of Science
- Journal of Theoretical and Philosophical Psychology
- Theory and Psychology
- Feminist Theory
- Gender & History
- Journal of Women’s History
- American Historical Review
- Journal of the History of Sexuality

**Women’s/gender studies/cultural studies:**
- Signs
- NWSA Journal
- Gender Issues
- Canadian Woman’s Studies
- Gender Forum
- Journal of Gender Studies
- Men and Masculinities
- Journal of Men’s Studies

**Psychology:**
- Psychology of Women Quarterly
- Feminism & Psychology
- Sex Roles
- Psychology of Men and Masculinity
- American Psychologist

**Philosophy:**
- Hypatia

**Sociology:**
- Gender & Society

**Political Science:**
- Politics & Gender