GGR 327H - Geography and Gender
Fall 2013

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Course website on Blackboard. Go to the UofT portal log-in page at: http://portal.utoronto.ca and log in using your UTORid and password.

This course will provide an introduction to the work of feminist geographers. The aim will be to explore the relationship between gender and space, with particular emphasis on the politics of knowledge production, spatial cognition, and the architecture of the home. Attention will be given to the layout and safety of the city, the spatial links between home and work, and to gendered dimensions of gentrification and homelessness. We will focus on a ‘third wave’ approach, considering how different aspects of social identity (such as gender, class, race, ethnicity, age and sexuality) intersect, and how environments both reflect and shape particular ways of life. We investigate cities as contradictory sites of both hope and social exclusion, and will explore these issues through lectures, readings, films, fine art and class discussions.

Requirements and Grading:

Film Review: 20%
Event Essay: 40%
Final Exam: 40%

Assignment due dates:

Exam: will consist of three essay questions, out of a possible choice of five questions.

Note: Penalty for late assignments is 5% per day, including Saturday and Sunday.

You must inform your course instructor immediately when circumstances prevent you from submitting an assignment on time or writing a test. A petition due to illness must be accompanied by an original U of T Student Medical Certificate stating that you were
examined and diagnosed at the time of illness and on the day of the due date or immediately after. A statement from a physician that merely confirms a report of illness and/or disability made by the student is not acceptable. Medical documentation must be provided within 5 days of assignment due dates/date of test.

**Academic integrity**

Academic integrity is fundamental to learning and scholarship at the University of Toronto. Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in this academic community ensures that the U of T degree that you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement, and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves. Familiarize yourself with the University of Toronto’s *Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters* ([http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm](http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm)). It is the rule book for academic behaviour at the U of T, and you are expected to know the rules. Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

**In papers and assignments:**
- Using someone else’s ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Copying material word-for-word from a source (including lecture and study group notes) and not placing the words within quotation marks.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Including references to sources that you did not use.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment, including working in groups on assignments that are supposed to be individual work, or having someone rewrite or add material to your work while “editing”.
- Lending your work to a classmate who submits it as his/her own without your permission.

**On tests and exams:**
- Using or possessing any unauthorized aid, including a cell phone.
- Looking at someone else’s answers
- Letting someone else look at your answers.
- Misrepresenting your identity.
- Submitting an altered test for re-grading.

**Misrepresentation:**
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including doctor’s notes.
- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.

The University of Toronto treats cases of academic misconduct very seriously. All suspected cases of academic dishonesty will be investigated following the procedures outlined in the *Code*. The consequences for academic misconduct can be severe,
including a failure in the course and a notation on your transcript. If you have any questions about what is or is not permitted in this course, please do not hesitate to contact me. If you have questions about appropriate research and citation methods, seek out additional information from me, or from other available campus resources like the U of T Writing Website. If you are experiencing personal challenges that are having an impact on your academic work, please speak to me or seek the advice of your college registrar.

**Accessibility Needs:**
The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible: disability.services@utoronto.ca or http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility

**Reading materials:**
A course reader containing all required readings for the course will be available from Canadian Scholar’s Press. This is available for purchase at the University of Toronto Bookstore.

**Course outline (dates may vary):**

**Week 1: (September 9): Gendered Geographies of Knowledge Production: Women and the ‘Geographical Tradition’**


**Week 2: (September 16). Introduction to Feminist Geography and ‘Third Wave Feminism’ I: Women of Colour and Postcolonial Theory**


Introduction
Southey, Tabatha, 2011, “Minister Kenney, can I become a citizen in these shoes?” *Globe and Mail*. December 16.

**Week 3: (September 23) Introduction to Feminist Geography and ‘Third Wave’ Feminism II: Poststructural Feminism**


**Week 4. (September 30) Gendered Body Space and Environmental Cognition**

Young, Iris Marion, 1990, “Throwing Like a Girl: A Phenomenology of Feminine Body Comportment, Motility and Spatiality” in *The Thinking Muse*. Indiana University Press


**Week 5 (October 7). Discourses of Danger and the Geography of Fear**


(October 14): Thanksgiving: no class

**Week 6 : (October 21): Gender, Agoraphobia and the Home**


**Week 7: (October 28): Gender and new urban town planning**


**Week 8 (November 4). Gender and the Workplace: Domestic Workers and Spaces of Exception**


**(November 11) No class. Reading Break**

**Week 9: (November 18): Gender and the Workplace: Spaces of Exception. Continued**

See above

**Week 10: (November 25): Women and Homelessness**


**Week 11: (December 2): Gender and Gentrification in the Neoliberal City**


Kern, L, 2013, “All aboard? Women working the spaces of gentrification in Toronto’s Junction”. *Gender, Place and Culture* 20(4)

**Week 12 (December 4) Review**
Gender and Geography Film Review Guidelines
Your review should focus on the relationships between gender, power and space. It should not simply summarize the plot of the film. Rather, your review should develop a particular theme in relation to the film. Make sure to relate your discussion of the film to at least one or two academic readings and concepts. Some examples of concepts you could explore:

- **intersectionality**: Valentine, hooks, Mohanty etc. Films: The Help, Bend it Like Beckham, A Separation, the Bird Cage, Priscilla Queen of the Desert, Boys Don’t Cry
- **homeplace**: hooks. Films: The Help? The Colour Purple?
- **the politics of agency (or the notion of positionality)**: the question of who speaks for whom? Hooks, Valentine, Spivak, Lorde. Films: The Help
- **performativity**: Butler, Weedon, Bordo. Films: Paris is Burning, Bird Cage, Priscilla Queen of the Desert, Boys Don’t Cry, Little Miss Sunshine, Thirteen, She’s the Man.
- **disciplining of the young body/female comportment**: Bordo, Young, Weedon. Films: Thirteen, Little Miss Sunshine, Easy A, Whale Rider
- **feminine comportment/inhibited intentionality etc.**: Young. Films: Twilight, My Fair Lady?
- **habitus/hexis**: Bourdieu. Films: My Fair Lady, Bird Cage
- **discourses of femininity**: example: 19th c discourses. Weedon, Foucault, Butler. Films: i.e. Pride and Prejudice, Persuasion, Portrait of a Lady, Piano
- **Orientalism**: Said, Mohanty. Spivak. Films: Sex and the City 2

- Another option is to pick a theme:
  - **crisis of contemporary masculinity**: Jackson. Films: Fight Club, Full Monty, Metallica, Crazy Stupid Love.
  - **violence against women**: Films: Boys Don’t Cry, Once Were Warriors, Incendies
  - **suburban entrapment**: The Hours, Revolutionary Road, The Ice Storm, American Beauty
  - **gender and homelessness**: Wendy and Lucy
  - or you could pick a general theme such as:
    - the relationship between women and/or men to nature
    - the relationship between women and/or men to a particular space or place: i.e. the home, work, shopping center, bar or a specific location- the North, the American Southwest, New York City
    - the relationship between gender and space in terms of how women or men are positioned- are the spaces open or confined?
    - the relationship between gender and movement- how do the characters move through space? Are they trapped or mobile? Where do they move to?
    - the body and space: how is the body positioned in space?
    - the gaze- who is looking in the film? How is looking connected to power?

These are just a few ideas for structuring your review. Whatever theme or concept you choose, make sure you develop a geographical argument, talking about particular spaces or relationships between places, distances, forms of movement, body space etc.
Some examples of possible films to review include:

Paris is Burning
Priscilla Queen of the Desert
Bird Cage
Portrait of a Lady
Whale Rider
Boys Don’t Cry
Once Were Warriors
American Beauty
Fight Club
Pride and Prejudice
Persuasion
Iris
Frida
Kids
Margaret’s Museum
Water
Thelma and Louise
Emma
Full Monty
White Oleander
Possession
Girl with a Pearl Earring
Sense and Sensibility
Piano
Terminator 2
Quills
The Hours
Kissing Jessica Stein
Chasing Amy
The Ice Storm
The Deep End
Elizabeth
Virgin Suicides
Girl with the Dragon Tatoo
Metallica: Some Kind of Monster
The Handmaid’s Tale
Silkwood
Persepolis
The Kids are Alright
A Separation
Twilight
Sex and the City 1 and 2
The Colour Purple
Boys on the Side
The Accused
Exotica
Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon
Mansfield Park
Pretty in Pink
Thirteen
Monster
Million Dollar Baby
Little Miss Sunshine
North Country
Charlie’s Angels
TransAmerica
Radiant City
Erin Brocovich
Walk the Line
Fire
Kandahar
Blindness
Children of Men
Serenity
Handmaid’s Tale
Bladerunner
Far From Heaven
XXY
Revolutionary Road
Wendy and Lucy
Edge of Love
He is Just Not that Into You
Bride Wars
Australia
Time Travellers Wife
Valentine’s Day
Grizzly Man
Alien
The Hunger Games
Incendies
Hanna
Crazy Stupid Love
Easy A
Black Swan
The Help
Event Essay Guidelines
The idea in this assignment is to take a recent event or conflict relating to gender or sexuality and space and explore it in relation to some of the concepts and theories we are covering in the course. There are two options for the assignment:

a) One option is to analyze how media coverage reproduces, problematizes or otherwise engages with gender, power and space. In this case, you could look at how the media represents the event, or explore different representations in the media.

b) Another option is to take an event and look at in terms of the academic literature. In this case, you are not interested in how the media represents the event. Rather, you are interested in what the event reveals about the relationship between gender and space. Use newspaper articles to establish the details of the event and then use the academic literature to explore its significance.

In both cases, make sure you pay particular attention to intersectionality, examining how gender relates to class, race, ethnicity, nation and sexuality. Be sure to incorporate at least two newspaper or magazine articles and at least four or five academic articles. Make sure to articulate an original argument about the event and its significance. What does it show about the relationship between gender and space? Or what does it show about the how gender issues are represented in the media? For example, your essay could examine the fact that so many women went missing in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside. Alternatively it could examine media coverage of the missing women. Other topics include recent cases of sexual assault at York University or near Christie Pitts, or cases of online bullying related to gender or sexuality. Your paper could also look at women’s participation in the recent pro-democracy movements in Egypt or it could look at the issue of the headscarf in Quebec. Make sure to narrow your focus and emphasize how your current event is relevant to the course. What lessons can feminist geographers learn from your event?

- The aim is to write an 8 page paper (double spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font with 1 inch margins- approximately 250 words per page)
- Your paper should incorporate at least two newspaper or magazine articles and at least four or five academic sources (books, journal articles)
- You may also include other sources (such as an analysis of blogs)
- Come and see me –or email me or the TA- for references and topic suggestions
- Get topic approved
- Bibliography should include only sources cited in text and should use one of the accepted referencing styles. i.e. Harvey, D. (2000) “Accumulation and the body”. Environment and Planning D: Society and Space. 11(2): 323-325
- Essay should begin with statement of problem and outline how the argument will be organized.
- Paper must focus on the relationship between gender and space.
- Paper may include subtitles if helpful to organize the topic, but should be in essay style.
- When using more than three consecutive words from a source, this passage should appear in quotations. All ideas, facts or figures borrowed from a source but in your own words should be referenced.