

Professor Khristina Haddad

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Office Hours: Thursdays and Fridays from 10-12, and by appointment

**Political Science 260: Critical Gender Studies
Fall 2007**

In the not so far away past, there was an unfortunate practice in the Social Sciences of adding a week about women to the end of a syllabus as a concession to concerns about sexism. This approach, and the corresponding book titles such as *XYZ and Women* or *Women and XYZ*, implicitly or explicitly expressed that women were somehow an add-on, a particular aberration that needed to be explained briefly, if not pathologized at length. This approach placed women at the margins while supposedly drawing attention to them. There was also the famous “woman question in science,” a question that the feminist theorist Sandra Harding both interrogated and subverted when she entitled her book *The Science Question in Feminism*, a book dedicated to the critique of unquestioned androcentrism in modern science.

This course takes the social, economic, racial, religious, and cultural construction of masculinity as its starting point in order to arrive at a new consideration of the damage sexism, racism, homophobia, and heteronormativity create for different groups of men, women, and children. While many studies of gender treat masculinity studies as an add-on to courses centered on women, I am consciously placing the study of masculinities upfront with the hope that the less familiar political analysis of masculinities will be a productive starting point for the more familiar approaches to sexism that have been traditionally centered on a concern for the injustices suffered by women. Our readings will include canonical, theoretical, social scientific, and activist texts. This is an advanced theory course. Political Science 120 or a similar theoretical, philosophical, or literary course is recommended. Papers are self-designed within guidelines and assistance given by the instructor.

Books for purchase at the Moravian College Bookstore:

- 1) Rachel Adams and David Savran (editors), *The Masculinities Studies Reader* (Blackwell)
- 2) Kristin Rowe-Finkbeiner, *The F-Word: Feminism in Jeopardy* (SEAL)
- 3) Ann Crittenden, *The Price of Motherhood* (Owl Books)
- 4) Susan Moller Okin (editor), *Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?* (Princeton)
- 5) Miriam Schneir (editor), *Feminism in Our Time* (Vintage)
- 6) Plato, *Symposium*

Some of our required readings will be available on reserve at Reeves Library.

Wednesday, August 29

Introduction

Friday, August 31

Rachel Adams and David Savran, Introduction, *The Masculinity Studies Reader (MSR)*
Susan Faludi, *Stiffed* (copies)

Wednesday, September 5

Paul Peuker, “ ‘Inspired by Flames of Love’: Homosexuality, Mysticism, and Moravian Brothers around 1750,” *Journal of History of Sexuality*, Volume 15, N. 1, January 2006. Paul Peuker is the archivist of the Moravian Archives. He will join us for a discussion about this text, his research, and the contemporary discourse on homosexuality in the Moravian Church.

Friday, September 7

Visiting speaker: Bill Ayers of the Weather Underground speaks about masculinity and political action

Wednesday, September 12

Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble – Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*, Chapter 1: “Subjects of Sex/Gender/Desire” (copies)

Friday, September 14

Susan Faludi, *Stiffed* (copies)

Wednesday, September 19

David Halperin, “The Democratic Body: Prostitution and Citizenship in Classical Athens” (*MSR*)

Friday, September 21

Plato, *The Symposium*

Wednesday, September 26

Carole Pateman, “The Fraternal Social Contract” (*MSR*)

Frantz Fanon, “The Fact of Blackness” (*MSR*)

Julie Peteet, “Male Gender and Rituals of Resistance in the Palestinian Intifada” (*MSR*)
Presentation (1):

Friday, September 28

Judith Halberstam, “An Introduction to Female Masculinity” (*MSR*)

Presentation (2):

Monday, October 1

Paper # 1 due to Mrs. Ortiz in Comenius 206 by 4 p.m.

Wednesday, October 3

Instead of our regular afternoon meeting, we will meet at 7 p.m. in the lobby of PPHAC to watch the movie *Brokeback Mountain*.

Friday, October 5

Don Kulick, “The Gender of Brazilian Transgendered Prostitutes” (*MSR*)
Presentation (3):

Wednesday, October 10

Moravian graduate Amy Frantz speaks on working for the Boy Scouts, the socialization of boys, and masculinity.

Friday, October 12

Susan Faludi, *Backlash* (FIOT)
Presentation (4):

Wednesday, October 17

Chandra Talpade Mohanty, “‘*Under Western Eyes*’ Revisited: Feminist Solidarity through Anticapitalist Struggles” (copies)
Gloria Anzaldúa, “La Conciencia de la Mestizca: Towards a New Consciousness” (copies)
Presentation (5):

Friday, October 19

Presentation (6):

Wednesday, October 24

Susan Moller Okin (editor), *Is Multiculturalism Bad For Women?* (*MW*), Introduction & Part 1: “Is Multiculturalism Bad For Women?” by Susan Moller Okin

Friday, October 26

Katha Pollitt “Whose Culture?” (*MW*)
Will Kimlicka, “Liberal Complacencies” (*MW*)
Presentation (7):

Wednesday, October 31

Bonnie Honig, “My Culture Made Me Do it” (*MW*)
Homi K. Bhabha, “Liberalism’s Sacred Cow” (*MW*)
Presentation (8):

Thursday, November 1

Paper #2 due to Mrs. Ortiz in Comenius 206 by 4 p.m.

Friday, November 2

Susan Moller Okin, “Reply” (*MW*)
Leti Volpp, “Feminism vs Multiculturalism” (on reserve)

Wednesday, November 7

Ann Crittenden, The Price of Motherhood, Chapters 1, 2 & 3

Presentation (9):

Friday, November 9

Crittenden, Chapters 5, 6 & 7

Presentation (10):

Wednesday, November 14

Crittenden, Chapters 12 & 13 and Conclusion: “How to Bring Children Up Without Bringing Women Down”

Presentation (11):

Friday, November 16

Class cancelled due to professional presentation out of town.

THANKSGIVING

Wednesday, November 28

Kristin Rowe-Finkbeiner, *The F Word*, Introduction, Chapters 1,2 & 3

Presentation (13):

Friday, November 30

Rowe-Finkbeiner, Chapters 4, 5 & 6

Presentation (14):

Wednesday, December 5

Rowe-Finkbeiner, Chapters 7, 8 & 9

Presentation (15):

Friday, December 7

Rowe-Finkbeiner, Chapters 10 & 11

Wednesday, December 12

Paper #3 due to Mrs. Ortiz in Comenius 206 by 4 p.m.

Requirements and Evaluation

Engagement	ongoing	30%
Paper #1	October 1	20%
Paper #2	November 1	20%
Paper #3	December 12	20%
Presentation	as scheduled	10%

The Basics

- 1) I set aside time every week to meet with individual students in my office. You do not need an appointment. Please feel free to stop by during my posted times or to make an appointment if you have class during those times. I am happy to help you with any questions you may have.

- 2) We will discuss all assignments one to two weeks in advance of a given due date. Please feel free to ask questions in class, via e-mail, or during office hours. Don't let a question about an assignment fester.

- 3) You cannot pass this course without completing all assignments and requirements.

- 4) If you are having difficulties writing, I recommend seeking help at the Writing Center. Make an appointment and request feedback on the clarity of your argument and language.

- 5) I do not accept late assignments, except in appropriately documented emergency situations. For the sake of equity, please do not ask for special treatment.
 - 6) Expect to work six hours on average outside of class per week. Some weeks the reading load will be lighter; some weeks it will be considerably heavier.

- 7) Students with a documented learning disability who desire accommodations for this course must first visit the Office of Learning Services (ext. 1510) and follow college procedures for receiving accommodations.

- 8) Plagiarism will result in failure of the assignment in this class. Please see Moravian College Student Handbook for an account of academic honesty. See www.moravian.edu/studentlife/handbook/academic2.htm

- 9) Do not miss class. We work as a group. Undocumented absences harm your engagement grade at the rate of 5% per absence.
 - 10) No food in the classroom, please.
Drinks are fine.

- 10) Turn mobile phones off.