

**Political Science 260/Women's Studies 260: Critical Gender Studies (Spring 2010)**

**PPHAC 201, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:10 - 2:20 p.m.**

**Instructor: K. Haddad, Comenius 112, (610) 861-1559, [haddad@moravian.edu](mailto:haddad@moravian.edu).**

**Office hours: 2:45 to 4 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, and by appointment.**

Let's think about *how we think* about gender.

### **Objectives**

Knowledge of both classic and new critical gender theories and studies

Ability to differentiate among a variety of concepts of gender

Critical reading, discussion, and writing skills

Exposure to spatial and phenomenological approaches to gender

### **Texts available for purchase at the Moravian College Bookstore**

Sara Ahmed, *Queer Phenomenology: Objects, Orientations, Others* (Duke, 2006)

Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble* (Routledge, 1990)

Judith Butler, *Undoing Gender* (Routledge, 2004)

Anne Cranny-Francis et al., *Gender Studies: Terms and Debates* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2003)

Daphne Patai and Noretta Koertge, *Professing Feminism: Education and Indoctrination in Women's Studies* (Lexington, 2003)

Susan Pinker, *The Sexual Paradox: Men, Women, and the Real Gender Gap* (Scribner, 2008)

### **Our work together**

Tuesday, January 19

Introduction

Thursday, January 21

Daphne Patai and Noretta Koertge, *Professing Feminism: Education and Indoctrination in Women's Studies*, prologue, chapter 1: "Introduction to the World of Women's Studies," and chapter 2: "Cautionary Tales from Women Who Walked Away"

Tuesday, January 26	Patai and Koertge, chapter 3: “Ideology and Identity: Playing the Oppression Sweepstakes”
Thursday, January 28	Patai and Koertge, chapter 4: “Proselytizing and policing in the Feminist Classroom”
Tuesday, February 2	Anne Cranny-Francis, Wendy Waring, Pam Stavropoulos, and Joan Kirkby, <i>Gender Studies: Terms and Debates</i> , chapter 1: “Ways of Talking”
Thursday, February 4	Patai and Koertge, chapter 5: “Semantic Sorcery: Rhetoric Overtakes Reality”
Tuesday, February 9	Judith Butler, <i>Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity</i> , chapter 1: “Subjects of Sex/Gender/Desire”
Thursday, February 11	Butler, chapter 1 continued Patai and Koertge, chapter 6: “BIODENIAL and Other Subversive Stratagems”
Tuesday, February 16	Butler, chapter 2: “Prohibition, and the Production of the Heterosexual Matrix”
Thursday, February 18	Butler, chapter 2 continued Cranny-Francis, et al., chapter 2: “Ways of Thinking”
Tuesday, February 23	Butler, chapter 3: “Subversive Bodily Acts”
Thursday, February 25	Butler, chapter 3 continued

Cranny-Francis, et al., chapter 4: “Ways of Seeing”

Tuesday, March 2

Judith Butler, *Undoing Gender*, Introduction: “Acting in Concert” and chapter 1: “Beside Oneself: On the Limits of Sexual Autonomy”

**Thursday, March 4**

**Field trip to the Museum of Sex in New York City**

### **SPRING RECESS**

Tuesday, March 16

Butler, chapters chosen by the group

Thursday, March 18

Butler, chapters chosen by the group

Tuesday, March 23

Susan Pinker, *The Sexual Paradox: Men, Women, and the Real Gender Gap*, introduction: “Female Puppets and Eunuchs” and chapter 1: “Are Males the More Fragile Sex?”

Thursday, March 25

Pinker, chapter 4: “The Empathy Advantage”

Tuesday, March 30

Pinker, chapters chosen by group

Thursday, April 1

Pinker, chapter 10: “Things Are Not What They Seem” and epilogue

## EASTER RECESS

Tuesday, April 6	Sara Ahmed, <i>Queer Phenomenology: Orientations, Objects, Others</i> , introduction: “Find Your Way”
Thursday, April 8	Ahmed, chapter 1: “Orientations Toward Objects”
Tuesday, April 13	Ahmed, chapter 2: “Sexual Orientation”
Thursday, April 15	Ahmed, chapters chosen by group
Tuesday, April 20	Lynda Johnston and Robyn Longhurst, <i>Space, Place and Sex: Geographies of Gender</i> , introduction: “Geography, bodies, sex, and gender” and chapter 1: “The geography closest in: the body”
Thursday, April 22	Johnston and Longhurst, chapters chosen by group
Tuesday, April 27	Johnston and Longhurst, chapters chosen by group
Thursday, April 29	Johnston and Longhurst, chapter 7: “Global intimacies” and conclusion Teaching evaluations

### Final oral examination

During the final examination week, we will meet for your individually scheduled oral examination.  
Please contact me, if you do not have an oral examination date and time.

Date\_\_\_\_\_ Time\_\_\_\_\_ Place\_\_\_\_\_

## Evaluation

Engagement	30%	ongoing and includes daily notes (see below)
Short paper	20%	due on Friday, February 19 by 4 p.m. to Mrs. Ortiz in Comenius 206
Draft	ungraded	due on Friday, March 26 by 4 p.m. to Mrs. Ortiz in Comenius 206
Final paper	30%	due on Friday, April 30 by 4 p.m. to Mrs. Ortiz in Comenius 206
Oral examination	20%	to be scheduled individually during final examination week

**Daily notes:** You will need to prepare two passages and two questions based on your independent reading of the text. Please bring one copy for yourself and one copy for me. Note that these texts are demanding and may require multiple readings.

### Engagement Rubric (25%)

Student engagement in class discussions will be graded according to the following rubric:

- A. Critical, innovative and careful reading of all assignments; substantial notes or written preparation for discussion; frequent text-based contributions; contribution of discussion-shaping questions; careful engagement of the arguments of others; support of positive discussion dynamics.
- B. Complete and careful readings; consistent notes or written preparation for discussion; lively, substantial, and argumentative text-based contributions; contribution of independent questions; engagement of the arguments of others.
- C. Incomplete or superficial readings; minimal notes or written preparation for discussion; regular (at least once per meeting) discussion participation.
- D. Incomplete or missing readings; lack of notes or written preparation for discussion; mostly passive presence.
- F. Persistent, vegetative state; low-level trance; slightly elevated body temperature.

## **General Housekeeping**

*I invite you to visit my office hours.* Please be in touch with any questions and thoughts you may have about our work together. I am happy to help you with difficulties relating to your reading of our texts as well as challenges that may arise with regard to assignments. If you are having trouble participating in discussions, I can help you strategize in order to improve your enjoyment of and performance in this course. Please come and see me in person whenever possible. Let's reserve e-mail for functional exchanges.

We will discuss all assignments at least two weeks in advance.

Expect to work six hours on average outside of class per week. The workload varies, and the texts can be challenging. Give yourself plenty of time to read, review, and take notes on texts. Our interest is in deep readings and in gaining a solid toolkit of gender theory questions, concepts, and arguments. Please also note that this syllabus is subject to change.

Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a learning disability should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the office of Learning Services.

I strongly discourage late assignments, except in appropriately documented emergency situations. For the sake of equity, please do not ask for special treatment. Late work is penalized at 50% of the assignment grade.

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

Be diligent in your studies and attend class. Undocumented absences beyond the first will harm your engagement grade at the rate of 5% of your total course grade (per absence).

As this is an academic setting in which the goal is thoughtful discourse, neither food consumption nor mobile phone noise nor activity of any kind is permitted.

**Please support a culture of intellectual discussion.**