

TOPICS IN SOCIOLOGY: RACIAL/ETHNIC WOMEN

Sociology 343

Fall, 1994

ROOM: Alumni 208
TIME: Tuesdays & Thursday 9:30-10:50
INSTRUCTOR: Mary Romero
OFFICE HOUR: Tuesday 11:00-12:00 and 3:00-4:00
PHONE: 824-7543

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar will examine the lives of women of color in the United States through the work and educational experiences of African American, Latina, Asian American and Native American women. The course will conclude with a discussion of feminist thought and feminism.

Our discussion on work will include both women's paid and unpaid labor and will be analyzed with particular attention given to exploring the race, class and gender systems of domination that shape the experience of various groups of women in particular historical periods. Readings, discussion and class activity will include women in traditional and non-traditional occupations in the formal and informal labor sector. Topics include: women's work culture, occupational segregation, paid and unpaid labor (reproductive labor and volunteer work), discrimination, child care, mobility, the relationship between work and family life. In the informal sector, we will analyze work experiences in the informal and underground economy. Poor, working-class and immigrant women of color have long been over represented in the informal employment sector.

Our discussion on education will focus primarily on the experiences of women of color in higher education, as undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and administrators. Issues and topics to be covered include: the social production of knowledge, mentoring, recruitment and retention, tokenism, tracking, the scholarship girl, and institutional racism.

The reading assignments will include both quantitative and qualitative studies. However, unlike traditional approaches to sociology of work and sociology of education a special emphasis will be made on understanding the experience from the women themselves -- through interviews, music, and stories. The writings of scholars of color will be central to the study of women of color's labor and education in the United States.

STRUCTURE AND REQUIREMENTS

The seminar will be organized around lectures and discussion of the required readings. Students will be expected to discuss the readings assigned for each class period. Depending on the size of the class, students may work alone or in groups to prepare a discussion and critique of the required reading. Assigned readings will be allocated during the second week of classes.

A Mid-Term and Final Exam will be given. Students will receive a list of possible essay questions prior to the exam. Both exams are "open book" and will be based on the readings and lectures. The final is not comprehensive.

Research Paper. Papers will be based on knowledge gained both from the readings and from the class sessions; they will also require thought, creativity and additional library research. Students are encouraged to explore the range of data that can be used for social science research, including census data, interviews, archival material, music, films, advertizing, newspapers, magazines, photographs. Class time will be devoted to recommending coding techniques and data analysis. Students will be expected to share their research findings with the class after Thanksgiving. Research Papers should be at least 10 pages, typed and double space. Papers are due the last day of class, December 6.

Presentation of Readings	50	
Class Participation	50	
Mid-Term		100
Final	100	
Research Project	100	
Total 400 points		

READINGS

Books:

- Maxine Baca Zinn and Bonnie Thornton Dill (eds.). 1994. *Women of Color in U.S. Society* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press)
- Stanlie M. James and Abena P.A. Busia (eds.) 1993. *Theorizing Black Feminisms the Visionary Pragmatism of Black Women* (New York: Routledge)
- Mary Romero. 1992. *Maid in the U.S.A.* (New York: Routledge)
- Polingaysi Qoyawayma (Elizabeth Q. White). 1964. *No Turning Back.* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press)

Articles:

- Deborah Woo, 1989. "The Gap Between Striving and Achieving: The Case of Asian American Women," pp. 185-194, In Asian Women United of California (ed.) *Making Waves: An Anthology of Writings By and About Asian American Women.* (Boston, MA: Beacon Press)
- Grace Chang. 1994. "Undocumented Latinas: The 'Employable Mothers'" pp. 259-285 In Evelyn Nakano Glenn, Grace Chang, and Linda Rennie Forcey (eds.) *Mothering ideology, Experience, and Agency* (New York: Routledge)
- James A. Geschwender. 1992. "Ethgender, Women's Waged Labor, and Economic Mobility," *Social Problems* 39(1):1-16.
- Rina Cohen. 1991. "Women of Color in White Households: Coping Strategies of Live-in Domestic Workers," *Qualitative Sociology* 14(2):197-215.
- Linda S. Greene. 1990-1. "Tokens Role Models, and Pedagogical Politics: Lamentations of an African American Female Law Professor," *Berkeley Women's Law Journal* 6(1):81-106.
- Sau-ling C. Wong. 1994. "Diverted Mothering: Representations of Caregivers of Color in the Age

of 'Multiculturalism,'" pp. 67-91 In Evelyn Nakano Glenn et al., (eds.) *Mothering Ideology, Experience, and Agency* (New York: Routledge).

Toni C. Denton. 1990. "Bonding and Supportive relationships among black professional women: Rituals of restoration," *Journal of Organizational Behavior* 11:447-457.

Michele Foster. 1991. "Constancy, Connectedness, and Constraints in the Lives of African American Teachers," *NWSA Journal* 3(2):233-261.

Elsa Barkley Brown. 1991. "Mothers of Mind," pp. 74-93. In Patricia Bell-Scott et al. (eds.) *Double Stitch: Black Women Write About Mothers and Daughters* (Boston, Beacon Press)

Laura Elisa Perez. 1993. "Opposition and the Education of Chicana/os," pp. 268-269 In Cameron McCarthy and Warren Crichlow (eds.) *Race, Identity, and Representation in Education* (New York, Routledge).

Ruth Farmer. 1993. "Place But Not Importance: The Race for Inclusion in Academe," pp. 196-217 In James Farmer and Ruth Farmer (eds.) *Spirit, Space & Survival, African American Women in (White) Academe* (New York: Routledge)

Ella Louise Bell, 1990. "The bicultural life experience of career-oriented black women," *Journal of Organizational Behavior* 11:459-477.

Harriet G. McCombs, "The Dynamics and Impact of Affirmative Action Processes on Higher Education, the Curriculum, and Black Women," *Sex Roles* 21(1/2):127-143.

Nellie Wong. 1991. "Socialist Feminism, Our Bridge to Freedom," pp. 288-296. In Chandra Talpade Mohanty, Ann Russo, Lourdes Torres (eds.) *Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press).

Paula Gunn Allen. 1993. "Who is your mother? Red Roots of White Feminism," pp. 648-656 In Charles Lemert (ed.) *Social Theory The Multicultural and Classic Readings*. (Boulder: Westview Press).

Patricia Hill Collins. 1993. "Black Feminist thought in the Matrix of domination," pp. 614-626 In Charles Lemert (ed.) *Social Theory The Multicultural and Classic Readings*. (Boulder: Westview Press).

***Articles are available in Library

COURSE SCHEDULE

Aug. 30

I. Introduction

Week 1

II. Sociology of Work and Women of Color

Readings: *Theorizing Black Feminisms*, pp. 13-30, 118-126

Week 2

A. Status of Women of Color in the Labor Force

Readings: **Woo, **Geschwender

Week 3

B. Informal Sector and Underground Economy: The Case of Domestic Service

Readings: *Maid in the U.S.A.*, pp. 1-70

Week 4

Readings: *Maid in the U.S.A.*, pp. 71-134

**Cohen

Week 5

2. Formal Sector: Manufacturing, Service & Professions

Readings: *Women of Color*, pp. 65-94, 113-132, 203-228

**Denton

Week 6

Readings: *Women of Color*, pp. 65-94, 113-132, 203-228

Week 7

C. Work & Family

Readings: **Chang, **Wong

Theorizing Black Feminisms, pp. 44-54

Week 8

D. Work & Community

Readings: *Women of Color*, pp. 171-170, 185-202, 229-246

Week 9

III. Sociology of Education and Women of Color

A. Education as a Tool of Assimilation

Readings: *No Turning Back*

Week 10

Readings: *Women of Color*, pp. 43-64

**Greene, **Foster

Week 11

B. Social Production of Knowledge & the Struggle for Transformation

Readings: *Theorizing Black Feminisms*, pp. 55-101

Week 12

Readings: **Barkley Brown, **Perez, **Farmer, **Bell, **McCombs

Thanksgiving

Week 14-15

IV. Conceptualizing Race, Class and Gender and Theorizing Feminisms

Readings: *Women of Color*, pp. 247-314

Theorizing Black Feminisms, pp. 267-292

**Wong, **Gunn Allen, **Hill Collins