

Women's Studies 185 Special Topics: Gender, Violence, and Social Suffering

Instructor: Jennifer Musto, PhD Candidate

Course Offered: UCLA Department of Women's Studies, Summer 2008

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

- **Text** (*available at ASUCLA or on reserve at Powell Library*): Nancy Scheper-Hughes and Phillipe Bourgois, *Violence in War and Peace: An Anthology. 1st Edition*
- **Course Reader** (*available at Westwood Copies*)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Violence is widespread and yet defies singular expression or meaning. Whereas some scholars have focused on violence targeted against women in private and interpersonal contexts, others have explored violence as a public, structurally constituted site of state aggression and terror. This course juxtaposes "ordinary" violence with structural violence and examines the gendered, racial, sexual, class, ethnic, and cultural dimensions of violence and social suffering in transnational context. Drawing on topics like war, terrorism, human trafficking, rape, incarceration, poverty, and social abandonment, we will consider how feminists, social scientists, human rights activists, and cultural workers have sought to theoretically understand violence and social suffering in different national and institutional contexts and explore social justice and activist strategies that have been developed in response.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION

1. Attendance (10%)
2. Active Participation (15%)
3. Weekly Issues Paper/Discussion Board Posts (25%)
4. In-Class Presentation (25%)
5. Final Paper on topic of your choice (25%)

READING SCHEDULE

Readings To Review Before First Class

Introduction to Violence in War and Peace: Introduction
Kleinman, Das, and Lock: "Introduction to Social Suffering"
bell hooks, "Ending Violence"

Week One - 6/24

Symbols, Metaphors, Movements, and Meanings of Suffering and Violence

Violence in War and Peace: Chapter 7; Chapter 42

Optional: Chapter 31

Reader: Arthur Kleinman and Joan Kleinman, "The Appeal of Experience"

Paul Farmer, "On Suffering and Structural Violence"

bell hooks, "Feminist Movement to End Violence"

Women of Color Against Violence, "The Color of Violence: Introduction"

Week Two - 7/1

Everyday Acts of Violence and the Politics of Capture

Violence in War and Peace: Chapter 20; Chapter 33; Chapter 37; Chapter 40; Chapter 43

Optional: Chapter 31; Chapter 32;

Reader: Kimberle Crenshaw: "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women"

Kolleen Duly, "Un-Domesticating Violence"

Miriam Ticktin, "Sexual Violence as the Language of Border Control"

Rosa Linda Fregoso: "The Complexities of 'Femicide' on the Border"

Statement by Critical Resistance and Incite! "Gender Violence and the Prison Industrial Complex"

Emi Koyama: "Disloyal to Feminism"

Andrea Smith: "Beyond the Politics of Inclusion"

Newspaper Excerpts From Canadian Government's Apology

Week Three - 7/8

Violent Entrapments: War and Militarization

Violence in War and Peace: Chapter 47; Chapter 58

Optional: Chapter 29; Chapter 44

Reader: Zillah Eisenstein, "Unilateral Empire"

Lila Abu-Lughod, "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?"

Diana Taylor, "Lost in the Field of Vision"

Sylvanna Falcon, "National Security and the Violation of Women"

Maria B. Olujic: "Embodiment of Terror"

Sara Corbett, "The Women's War"

Jacqueline E. Lawson, "She's a Pretty Woman...For a Gook"

Victoria Marks Film

Week Four - 7/15

Optics of Terror, Inscriptions of Torture

Violence in War and Peace: Chapter 26; Chapter 46; Chapter 49

Reader: Jasbir K. Puar, "Abu Ghraib and U.S. Sexual Exceptionalism"

Susan Sontag, "Regarding the Torture of Others"

Liz Philipose, "The Politics of Pain and the End of Empire"

Neferti Tadiar, "The War to Be Human/Becoming Human in a Time of War"

Diana Taylor, "You are Here"

Liz Philipose, "The Politics of Pain and the Uses of Torture" (Optional)

Week Five -7/22

Biopower and the Medicalization of Violence and Suffering

Reader: Ana Clarissa Rojas Durazo, "Medical Violence Against People of Color"

Paul Farmer, "Women, Poverty, and AIDS"

Judith Warner, "Outsourced Wombs"

João Biehl, "A Life"

Nancy Scheper-Hughes, "Parts Unknown"

Paul Farmer, "An Anthropology of Structural Violence"

Paul Farmer, "A Plague on All Our Houses"

Paul Farmer, "Rethinking Health and Human Rights"

Week Six - 7/29

Global Traffic and Modern Day Slavery

Reader: Kevin Bales, "Human Trafficking," Chapters 7-8

Wendy Chapkis, "Trafficking, Migration, and the Law"

Jana, Bandyopadhyay, Dutta, and Saha, "A Tale of Two Cities"

Trafficking Newspaper Excerpts

Zillah Eistenstein, "Fictions of the West"

Kevin Bales, "The New Slavery"

Kevin Bales, "Slavery and the Human Right to Evil"