

## GENA2192 Women, Men and Culture

Mondays: 10.30-12.15

Venue: ELB 202

Instructor: Dr. FAMING, Manynooch

Contact: [nychma@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:nychma@cuhk.edu.hk)

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Office Hour: By appointment

This course takes an anthropological perspective to discuss a general human category, such as sexes and gender. Through this perspective the course will explore the process of how gender and the relationship between women and men are largely cultural and social products. Students will also be exploring cultural, belief system, political, economic, material, and environmental factors that are deemed to be part of such processes. This course will start from introducing core concerns, arguments, and approaches related to the constructions of gender. After the introductory sessions, we will focus, week by week, on common (or controversial) gender and sexual issues we encounter in lives. These weeks will be discussion intensive and relevant analysis and scholarly works will be introduced to deepen your understanding of gender and sexuality via the topics. Students are encouraged to examine their own gender identities and beliefs critically; to not only understand how our gender assumptions are shaped but also to develop their own gender statement.

### Learning Outcomes:

Upon completing this course, students will be able to:

- acquire a holistic understanding of the making of gender;
- analyze contemporary gender related issues;
- develop their own gender and sexual statement;
- apply idea learned to their lives and have alternative choices to cope with related challenges.

### Course Requirements:

The success of this course depends on students' commitment to participate and contribute to class discussion and willingness to stay curious and explore relevant thoughts among academic works and beyond. The following evaluation is designed to encourage these efforts.

A. Class Participation:	20%
B. Group Presentation	40%
C. One Reflection	20%
D. One Final Essay	20%

## Course Requirements detail

### A. Class Participation 20%

- **Discussion:** Share your thoughts and questions in class, Volunteer answers to others' questions,
- **Commenting on group's presentation:** students are expected to contribute, comment, question the group presentation.

### B. Group Presentation 40%

You will be assigned into a group of 2-3. A debate presentation will be in form of two teams discussing issues of our weekly topic with positions (i.e., favourable vs. unfavourable). **Please submit your presentation file or note to me either before class or by the end of your presentation.**

### C. One Reflection 20% (Due date: 4 March 2024, 5pm.)

Students will reflect on one's own personhood and gender identity. This can also be defined by your biological sex, culture, society, religion, and sexual orientations or sexuality. This self-reflection must include at least FIVE key words from glossary list provided in class and follow the marking criteria, specifically in-text citations and references. Approximate length is 1,000 words, excluding reference list.

### D. Final Essay 20% (Due date: 15 April 2024, 5pm)

Students will submit a short essay of between 1,000 words, excluding references on the **ONE** of following options. Sample writings are available on the course Blackboard.

1. One of the readings listed in this course.
2. Choose one creative work (i.e., music, images, novels, essays, films, sculpture, etc.) and use idea and argument you learned in this class to write a discussion about that work. You are required to cite some works and discussions we have in this course.

### E. Notes on Submission of written assignments

Note 1: Save your final paper in **Word format**, and your signed VeriGuide receipt in PDF format.

All written assignments and the VeriGuide receipts should be uploaded as two separate files.

Note 2: Please name your paper file(s) **GENA 2192 Last name First name (assignment title)**, and your VeriGuide receipt file **GENA2192VeriGuide Last name First name**.

Note 3: Submit your written assignments through VeriGuide while the signed VeriGuide receipts upload to designated folder on the course Blackboard.

The both reflection and final paper are to be **double-spaced and in 12-point font, Word Format**. Please follow the Anthropology Department citation style at [http://arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~ant/en/dept\\_thesis\\_style.php](http://arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~ant/en/dept_thesis_style.php). Late assignments will be penalized. If for valid reasons you need to have your assignment re-scheduled, please be sure to make a timely request.

The university adopts a policy of zero tolerance on plagiarism. Any use of another person's words or ideas, taken directly or paraphrased, without citing the source is plagiarism. This includes taking material from the Internet without citing the website. Please consult the university's policy on academic honesty at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academic honesty/>.

Students are required by university policy to submit soft copies of all papers to VeriGuide. Please check the website [www.cuhk.edu.hk/veriguide](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/veriguide) for information on how to submit papers through VeriGuide. Please submit a soft copy of your final paper (Word document) together with the signed VeriGuide receipt page (PDF) to Blackboard.

### Readings:

All readings listed are not required but reference materials for your learning. Though students are not assumed to know the materials when they come to class, the materials should be very useful for you to contemplate on each topics, prepare for group presentations, and write your reflection essays. Besides, they are all quite interesting! So, we make them all available on Blackboard. Please take time to enjoy works that interest you and feel free to consult me if you would like to explore any topic further.

## COURSE OUTLINE

### **Week 1 (Jan. 8): Introduction: Cross-cultural Understandings of Gender**

#### *Recommended academic works:*

Mascia-Lees, Frances E. and Nancy Johnson Black. 1999. "CH1: The History of the Study of Gender in Anthropology." In *Gender and Anthropology*. Pp. 1-12.

Ortner, Sherry B. 2006. "Is Female to Male as Nature is to Culture?" In *Feminist Anthropology: A Reader*. Oxford: Blackwell, Pp. 72-86.

#### *Other recommended materials:*

**Video:** *Always #LikeAGirl*. Accessed on 15 January, 2015.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P\\_MhsbRiFyI&list=PLRyQfUYbMgkeMaN\\_yICROVBYTK0jU237U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P_MhsbRiFyI&list=PLRyQfUYbMgkeMaN_yICROVBYTK0jU237U)

**Article:** *Why Aren't Women Advancing at Work? Ask a Transgender Person*. New Republic 2014. Jessica Nordell. Accessed on 15 January, 2015.

<http://www.newrepublic.com/article/119239/transgender-people-can-explain-why-women-dont-advance-work>

### **Week 5 (Jan. 15): Gender Ideology**

#### *Recommended academic works:*

Harris, Marvin. 1995. "CH15: Gender Hierarchies." In *Cultural Anthropology*. Pp. 190-205.

Rubin, Gayle. 1990 (1975). "The Traffic in Women: Notes on the "Political Economy" of Sex. In *Women, Class, and the Feminist Imagination*. Karen Hansen and Ilene Philipson, eds. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. Pp. 74-113

#### *Other recommended materials:*

Ong, Aihwa. 2006. "Ch. 12 Center Periphery, and Hierarchy: Gender in Southeast Asia," in *Feminist Anthropology: A Reader*. Oxford: Blackwell, Pp. 294-305

Brown, Judith K. 2006. "A Note on the Division of Labor by Sex." In *Feminist Anthropology: A Reader*. Pp. 66-71.

**Video:** *Oppressed Majority (Majorité Opprimée)* (by Eleonore Pourriat, 2014, 11 mins)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4UWxIVvT1A>

**Article:** *Republican Men Say It's a Better Time to Be a Woman Than a Man*

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/17/upshot/republican-men-say-its-a-better-time-to-be-a-woman-than-a-man.html>

### **Week 3 (Jan. 22): Are females and males hard-wired by XX and XY chromosomes?**

#### *Recommended academic works:*

Sax, Leonard. 2006. "CH2: Female Brains, Male Brains." In *Why Gender Matters: What parents and teachers need to know about the emerging science of sex differences*. Pp.11-38. Broadway Books

Fausto-Sterling, Anne. 1995. "How to Build a Man." In *The Gender and Sexuality Reader*. Roger Lancaster & Micaela di Leonardo, eds. Pp. 244-248. New York: Routledge.

#### *Recommended works:*

Harris, Marvin, 1995. "CH7: Human Sexuality." In *Cultural Anthropology*. Pp. 74-83.

**Video:** *Is Anatomy Destiny?* Ted Talk for TEDxNorthwesternU. 2010.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59-Rn1\\_kWAA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=59-Rn1_kWAA)

**Article:** *Stanford bioethicist fights gender tests for female athletes*. San Francisco Chronicle 4, August, 2015. Rachel Swan. Accessed on 14 January, 2016.

<http://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Stanford-bioethicist-fights-gender-tests-for-6425161.php?t=a5b3f531c43cce98c9&cmpid=email-premium>

**Article:** *A graphic history of sex: 'There is no gene that drives sexuality. All sexuality is learned'*

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2016/oct/29/a-graphic-history-of-sex-there-is-no-gene-that-drives-sexuality-all-sexuality-is-learned>

**Article:** *With Manicures and Makeup, Japan's 'Genderless' Blur Line Between Pink and Blue.*  
<http://cn.nystyle.com/culture/20170106/with-manicures-and-makeup-japans-genderless-blur-line-between-pink-and-blue/en-us/>

#### **Week 4 (Jan. 29): Can one choose his/her own gender?**

*Recommended academic works:*

Sommer, Matthew H. 2002. "Dangerous Males, Vulnerable Males, and Polluted Males: The Regulation of Masculinity in Qing Dynasty Law." In Susan Brownell and Jeffrey Wasserstrom, eds., *Chinese Femininities/Chinese Masculinities: A Reader*. Pp. 67-88. University of California Press.

Valentine, David 2007. "CH3: "I Know What I Am": Gender Sexuality, and Identity." In *Imagining Transgender: An Ethnography of a Category*. Pp. 105-139. Durham & London: Duke University Press.

*Other recommended materials:*

**Video:** *Me, My Sex and I*. BBC One. (2011, 50 mins) (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87XvVdLaWT8>)

**Article:** *'Gender Revolution' Portrait Carries a Message of Hope*

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/photography/proof/2016/12/robin-hammond-gender-cover/>

**Article:** *Norway Set To Make Changing Gender Easier with "Breakthrough" Bill*

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/norway-set-to-make-changing-gender-easier-with-breakthrough-bill-a7030181.html>

#### **Week 5 (Feb. 5): Is sex appeal empowering or oppressive?**

*Recommended academic works:*

Urla, Jacqueline and Alan C. Swedlund. 2009. "Measuring Up to Barbie: Ideals of the Feminine Body in Popular Culture." In *Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective*. Pp. 282-296.

**Video:** *Killing Us Softly 4*. (2010, 45 mins)

*Other recommended materials:*

Sax, Leonard. 2010. "CH1: First Factor: Sexual Identity." In *Girls on the Edge: the Four Factors Driving the New Crisis for Girls: Sexual Identity, the Cyberbubble, Obsessions, Environmental Toxins*. Pp. 11-36. New York: Basic Books.

**Article:** *Study Finds TV Alters Fiji Girls View of Body*. The New York Times, 20 May, 1999.

Accessed on: 14 January, 2016. <http://www.nytimes.com/1999/05/20/world/study-finds-tv-alters-fiji-girls-view-of-body.html>

**Article:** *New Burlesque: Is it empowering or demeaning to women?* BBC News, 12 February, 2012.

Accessed on 14 January, 2016. <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-25782781>  
<https://theinitium.com/article/20170114-opinion-viviantam-joycecheng/>

#### **Week 6 Feb. 12 CNY Holiday, No Class**

#### **Week 7 (Feb 19) : Do women and men make love differently?**

*Recommended academic works:*

"A correct take on love: Chinese university teaches the art of seduction", Hong Kong Free Press, 14 July 2016. Available at: <https://www.hongkongfp.com/2016/07/14/lessons-love-chinese-university-teaches-seduction/>

Joanna Moorhead. 2018. "A strong libido and bored by monogamy: the truth about women and sex." *The Guardian* <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2018/oct/13/a-strong-libido-and-bored-by-monogamy-the-truth-about-women-and-sex>

Tony Silva. 2021. "Why some straight men have sex with other men." *The Conversation* <https://theconversation.com/why-some-straight-men-have-sex-with-other-men-160140>

Potts, Annie. 2000. "The Essence of the Hard On." *Men and Masculinities* 3(1):85-103

*Other recommended materials:*

**Video:** “*Head Orgasm Video*”, The Guardian Documentary by Chloe White, Will Davies, Rose Palmer and Charlie Phillips, 4 Jan 2016. <https://www.theguardian.com/news/video/2016/jan/04/the-asmr-videos-that-give-youtube-viewers-head-orgasms-video>

Berlant, Laurent, Werner, Michael. 1998. “Sex in Public”, *Critical Inquiry*, Vol. 24, No. 2, Intimacy (Winter, 1998), pp. 547-566.

Blackwood, Evelyn. 2006. “Ch. 21 Tombois in West Sumatra: Constructing Masculinity and Erotic Desire,” in *Feminist Anthropology: A Reader*. Oxford: Blackwell, Pp. 411-434

Schalet, A. 2000. “Raging Hormones, Regulated Love: Adolescent Sexuality and the Constitution of the Modern Individual in the United States and the Netherlands.” *Body and Society* 6, 75-105.

### **Week 8 (Feb. 26): Can people sell sex?**

*Recommended academic works:*

Alison, Anne. 1994. “Introduction.” In *Nightwork: Sexuality, Pleasure, and Corporate Masculinity in a Tokyo Hostess Club*. Pp. 7-30. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Ferguson, Jane. 2014. “Sexual systems of Highland Burma/Thailand: Sex and gender perceptions of and from Shan male sex workers in Northern Thailand”, *South East Asia Research*, 11, 1, pp. 23-88.

Takeyama, Akiko. 2020. “Marriage, aging and women’s pursuit of commercial sex in Japan.” *Sexualities* 24(4): 592-613

Vance, Carole S. 1984. “Pleasure and Danger: Toward a Politics of Sexuality.” In *Pleasure and Danger: Exploring Female Sexuality*. Pp. 1-27.

*Other recommended materials:*

**Video:** “The King of Hosts”, *Vice Japan*, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B1plfLIaviE> (please enable closed caption for English subtitle)

“What is it like being a male prostitute in Japan” *Asian Boss Youtube Channel*,

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_NWFAMIk2BI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_NWFAMIk2BI)

“Sex tourists in Thailand”, *DW Documentary*, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6vBvBIFyjo>

### **Week 9 Mar. 4 Reading Week (First Self-Reflection Due)**

### **Week 10 (Mar. 11): Is a man without property marriageable?**

*Recommended academic works:*

Bourgois, Philippe. 2012[2002]. “CH14: Poverty at work: Office Employment and Crack Alternative.” In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*. James P. Spradley and David W. McCurdy, eds. Pp. 125-135. Boston, MA: Pearson/Allyn & Bacon.

*Other recommended materials:*

**Article:** *Men Adrift*. The Economist. 30 May 2015.

Safa, Helen. 1995. Ch.2 The Male Breadwinner and Women’s Wage Labor. In *The Myth of the Male Breadwinner: Women and Industrialization in the Carribean*. Boulder, Co: Westview.

### **Week 11 (Mar. 18): Is marriage a trap that we should get rid of?**

*Recommended academic works:*

Townsend, Nicholas W. 2002. “Marriage: The Women in the Middle.” In *The Package Deal: Marriage, Work, and Fatherhood in Men’s Lives*. Pp. 81-116.

Nakano, Lynne Y. 2011. "Working and Waiting for an 'Appropriate Person:' How Single Women Support and Resist Family in Japan." In *Home and Family in Japan: Continuity and Transformation*. Richard Ronald and Allison Alexy (eds). Pp. 131-151. Routledge: London and New York.

*Other recommended materials:*

**Video:** “Love(less) in China: Why aren’t young Chinese getting married?”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T0wgBREqV8g>

*What I do is for your own good (春節自救指南)*

<https://www.facebook.com/wechatinchina/videos/1831875713697136/#>

**Article:** *The Modern Marriage Trap — and What to Do About It*.

**Week 12 (Mar. 25): Should housewives be paid?**

*Recommended academic works:*

- Lamphere, Louise. 2009. "The Domestic Sphere of Women and the Public World of Men: The Strengths and Limitations of an Anthropological Dichotomy." In *Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective*. Pp. 90-98.
- Shandy, Dianna and Karine Moe. 2012. "CH22: The Opt-Out Phenomenon: Women, Work and Identity in America." In *Conformity and Conflict: Readings in Cultural Anthropology*. James P. Spradley and David W. McCurdy, eds. Pp. 197-207. Boston, MA: Pearson/Allyn & Bacon.
- Williams, Christine. 2004. The Glass Escalator: Hidden Advantages for Men in the "Female" Professions. In *Men's Lives*. (6 ed). M. Kimmel and M Messner, eds. Boston: Pearson.
- Harris, Marvin. 1995. "CH 9: Domestic Life." In *Cultural Anthropology*. Pp. 102-118.

**Week 13      Apr. 1      Good Friday Holiday (NO CLASS)**

**Week 14 (Apr. 8): Do women have controls over their own wombs?**

*Recommended academic works:*

- Fong, Vanessa L. 2004. Ch2. "Great Expectations: Singletons as the Vanguard of Modernization." In *Only Hope: Coming of Age under China's One-Child Policy*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Ong, Aihwa. 1995. State versus Islam: Malay families, women's bodies and the body politic in Malaysia. In *Bewitching Women, Pious Men: Gender and Body Politics in Southeast Asia*, edited by Aihwa Ong and Michael Peletz. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- Kligman, Gail. 2017. "Ch. 38: Political demography: the banning of abortion in Ceausescu's Romania," in *Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition, edited by Caroline B. Brettell and Carolyn F. Sargent. pp: 559-576.

*Other recommended materials:*

**News Articles:**

- "Hong Kong Policy Address: HK\$20,000 handout for new parents to boost city's record-low birth rate." <https://hongkongfp.com/2023/10/25/hong-kong-policy-address-hk20000-handout-for-new-parents-to-boost-citys-record-low-birth-rate/>
- "I won't have a baby for HK\$20,000", RTHK news <https://news.rthk.hk/rthk/en/component/k2/1724821-20231025.htm>
- "Women in China: Pick and choose." *The Economist*, 3 May, 2014. Accessed on: 5 May, 2014. <http://www.economist.com/news/books-and-arts/21601486-why-womens-rights-china-are-regressing-pick-and-choose>
- China formally eases one-child policy.* <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-25533339>

**Week 15 (Apr. 15): Conclusion; Final Essay is due by 5pm.**

**Policies**

Late Submission: Late submission will suffer a fraction of a grade per day. For example, an A will become an A-.

Academic Honesty: You are required to cite properly (guidelines: <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/ant/tstyle.doc>) and please refer to the university website ( <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/index.htm> and [http://www.ilc.cuhk.edu.hk/english/resource/referencing\\_avoidingplagiarism1.pdf](http://www.ilc.cuhk.edu.hk/english/resource/referencing_avoidingplagiarism1.pdf)) to avoid plagiarism.