

ANTH 40333

GENDER AND VIOLENCE

Fall 2006 Prof. Cynthia Mahmood
class: T/R 3:30-4:45 639 Flanner Hall
631-4744

office hrs: W/F 1:00-3:00 cmahmood@nd.edu
or by appointment

Course Description: This upper level course focuses on male and female intersections with violence, looking particularly at women and war, gender in the construction of nationalism, narrative voice and the gendering of history, masculinity and respect, and gender and power in contemporary research. Seminar-type discussion is the primary learning mode, with close reading of primary texts a central foundation for conversation.

Texts:

Iris Chang, *The Rape of Nanking: The Forgotten Holocaust of World War II*.

Fauziya Kazinga. *Do They Hear You When You Cry?*

Urvashi Butalia. *The Other Side of Silence* or Ritu Menon and Kamla Basin,
Borders and Boundaries: Women in the Partition of India

Julia Alvarez, *In The Time of the Butterflies*.

Philippe Bourgois, *In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio*.

Ruth Behar, *Translated Woman: Crossing the Border with Esperanza's Story*.

[readings packet]

Policies and Procedures:

Reading: This class is based heavily on discussion of primary texts. Students must come to class having read the assigned books, with questions and comments ready to participate in discussion. If there are words or allusions you do not understand, it is your responsibility to look them up insofar as you can, to do everything you can to make sense of the reading. (A light reading then putting it aside half-understood won't do.) Be prepared to be called upon to explain or comment on any part of any of the assigned readings. Occasionally students may volunteer to facilitate parts of the class discussion or take the lead by presenting briefly on a topic on which they are knowledgeable. Plan ahead to get the readings done on time.

Writing: Students are asked to write an approximately 10-15 page research

paper during the course of the semester. The topic can be any topic related to the general area of the course, "Gender and Violence," but to be sure you should clear your choice with me first. Your paper should be more than a mere report or summary of what is already known about a subject; it should contain original thought of your own, a fresh angle or new comparison that sheds fresh light on a problem. You should make use of at least 5-10 outside sources, and it is important that these are reputable academic sources, cited appropriately. We will discuss the research process further in class; but see also Kate Turabian's *Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* and Wayne C. Booth's *The Craft of Research*, both published by the University of Chicago Press. (These books would be worthwhile to purchase for anyone intending further study or a career in academics.)

A "term paper" means that this is a paper that should be worked on throughout the term, or semester. Do not wait until the end to do the paper.

I will help you by guiding you along with a calendar of topic choice dates, outline dates, draft dates, and so on, but ultimately it is up to you, the researcher and author, to have the motivation and discipline to make this project truly a semester-long effort. That is how long it would take a professional scholar to write an original paper of this length – a few months – so that is certainly how long it should take you. I advise you not to try otherwise.

Academic Honesty: Using someone else's words or ideas demands that you cite and acknowledge them properly. Plagiarism, either intentional or unintentional, is a very serious violation of the University Academic Code of Honor (www.nd.edu/~hnr/code). Collaboration with other students and multiple submissions of papers are also matters that demand honest acknowledgment. Please consult the University Academic Code of Honor for full guidance, and for further help in avoiding plagiarism see www.nd.edu/~writing/resources/AvoidingPlagiarism.html. Cases of plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty will be brought before the Departmental Honesty Committee and can result in failure and/or expulsion from the university.

Writing Center: The Writing Center is a free tutorial service that assists Notre Dame students in all phases of the writing process, including finding an argument, organizing evidence, improving style, and learning grammar. It can be useful for all students, even seniors and graduate students, native as well as non-native speakers of English to seek the help of Writing Center tutors. The Writing Center is located in 203 Coleman Morse; website www.nd.edu/~writing/.

Exam: There will be a take home midterm and a take home final essay examination, asking for your thoughtful analysis of readings, lectures, films and discussion. Only an excuse from a doctor, athletic department, or the Dean will result in an extension on a deadline for such an exam.

Instructor Absence: If I am ever absent for class, I expect that you will remain, and conduct your own discussion over the assigned readings. We will review the discussion upon my return and be sure everything is clearly understood before continuing.

Evaluation:

participation 20%
take home mid term examination 20%
take home final examination 20%
research paper 40%

Course Schedule:

1. Tuesday, August 22

Introduction to the course. Poetry from the collection "Women on War."

2. Thursday, August 24

The personal, the political, and the academic: a problematic triad?

3. Tuesday, August 29

"You Do Not Want." A tale from the field. Reform at Notre Dame.

4. Thursday, August 31

The Rape of Nanking. Initial discussion of Iris Chang's attempt to uncover "the hidden holocaust" of the Chinese in World War II.

5. Tuesday, September 5

Sexuality and warfare- why the conjunction? Why is war rape so common? Story of the "comfort women" of the Japanese army.

6. Thursday, September 7

Ellen Gruenbaum, "Introduction to *The Female Circumcision Controversy: An Anthropological Perspective* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2001), pp. 1-35.

“Should Anthropologists Work To Eliminate the Practice of Female Circumcision?” in *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Issues in Anthropology*, 2nd ed., Kirk M. Endicott And Robert L. Welsch (McGraw Hill, 2003), pp. 324-343.

7. Tuesday, September 12

Gender as an asylum category; what does it mean that international law recognize persecution of women as women?

[8. Thursday, September 14

CLASS CANCELLED for Notre Dame Forum:
"The Global Health Crisis: Forging Solutions: Effecting Change"
Dr. Paul Farmer, Dr. Jeffrey Sachs, Dr. Miriam Opwanya/ Gwen Hill]

9. Tuesday, September 19

Do They Hear You When You Cry? Initial discussion of Fauzia Kasinga's narrative of seeking asylum in the United States as she fled FGM in her native Togo.

10. Thursday, September 21

video: “Chasing Freedom” An Afghan woman escapes the Taliban and seeks asylum in the U.S. (may schedule outside of class time)

11. Tuesday, September 26

Women in Islam- a contemporary issue.

Fatima Mernissi, “Beyond the Veil” from *Feminist Theory: A Reader*, Ed. Wendy Kolmar and Frances Bartkowski (Mayfield, 2000), pp. 218-222.

Franz Fanon, “Algeria Unveiled,” from *A Dying Colonialism* (Monthly Review, 1965), pp. 35-63.

12. Thursday, September 28

In the Time of the Butterflies Initial discussion of Julia Alvarez' historical novel about the Mirabel sisters, activists in the movement to overthrow the dictator Trujillo in the Dominican Republic. Women who fight . . .

13. Tuesday, October 3

Women as peacemakers, women as warriors. Myths of male and female in Western and other civilizations.

14. Thursday, October 5

video: "Bandit Queen." (may schedule out of class time)

The true story of Phoolan Devi of India, a low-caste woman who rose up to lead a gang of bandits and later was elected to Parliament. Mid-term take home exams distributed.

15. Tuesday, October 10

Class cancelled to accomodate extra hours of films. (Work on mid-term exams.)

16. Thursday, October 12

Mid-term exams due at class time. Lecture on anthropology, gender, and theory.

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17. Tuesday, October 24

Sherry Ortner, "Is Female to Male as Nature is to Culture?" from *Anthropological Theory: An Introductory History* ed. R. Jon McGee and Richard L. Warms (McGraw Hill 2004), pp. 371-384.

Eleanor Leacock, "Interpreting the Origins of Gender Inequality: Conceptual and Historical Problem," from *Anthropological Theory: An Introductory History*, ed. McGee and Warms, pp. 485-500.

18. Thursday, October 26

video: "!Nai: Story of a !Kung Woman" (in-class). Long-term ethnographic film, a classic, tracking a woman's life in the deserts of southern Africa.

Marjorie Shostak, "Women and Men in !Kung Society," from *Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective*, ed. Caroline B. Brettell and Carolyn F. Sargent (Prentice-Hall, 1993), pp. 154-162.

19. Tuesday, October 31

The Other Side of Silence or Borders and Boundaries. Initial discussion of women's voices in the construction of the modern Indian and Pakistani nations. Women, men, and nationalism.

20. Thursday, November 2

Mahmood – research on Cyprus (power point) – women and men in Greek and Turkish nationalism.

21.. Tuesday, November 7

Mahmood – research on Sikh women and the Khalistan movement (power point) – women reclaiming an identity.

22. Thursday, November 9

In Search of Respect. Initial discussion of Philippe Bourgois' ethnography of crack-dealers of Harlem. The construction of masculinity in American society.

23. Tuesday, November 14

Mamphela Rampela, "Teach Me How To Be A Man: An Exploration of the Definition of Masculinity" in *Violence and Subjectivity*, ed. Veena Das et al. (University of California, 2000), pp. 102-119.

J. William Gibson, "Warrior Dreams: Violence and Manhood in Post-Vietnam America," from *Reconstructing Gender: A Multicultural Anthology*, ed. Estelle Disch (Mayfield, 1997), pp. 455-463.

David D. Gilmore, "The Manhood Puzzle," in *Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective*, ed. Brettell and Sargent, pp. 163-174.

Gilbert Herdt, "Rituals of Manhood: Male Initiation in Papua New Guinea," in *Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective*, ed. Brettell

and Sargent, pp. 1111-1115.

24. Thursday, November 16

video: "Guardians of the Flutes" (in-class) The Sambia of New Guinea have an intriguing male-warrior complex that invites comparisons.

25. Tuesday, November 21

Translated Woman. Initial discussion of Ruth Behar's ethnographic meditation on a woman in Mexico and bringing her story to the U.S.

~ THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY ~

26. Tuesday, November 28

Feminist ethnographic research is more than just research on women.

Carol Stack, "Writing Ethnography: Feminist Critical Practice" in *Feminist Dilemmas in Fieldwork*, ed. Diane L. Wolf (Westview, 1996), pp. 96-106.
Lila Abu-Lughod, "A Tale of Two Pregnancies," in *Women Writing Culture*, ed. Ruth Behar and Deborah Gordon (University of California 1995), pp. 339-349.

Thursday, November 30

Feminism out of the imperium –

Chandra Mohanty, "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses," from *Feminist Theory: A Reader* ed. Wendy Kolmar and Frances Bartkowski (Mayfield, 2000), pp. 344-350.

Cynthia Mahmood and Stacy Brady, excerpts from *The Guru's Gift* (Mayfield, 2000).

28. Tuesday, December 5

Conclusory discussion. Distribution of take-home final exam.