

FU/BEST Program

Name: Dr. Heike Schimkat

Email address: fubest@fu-berlin.de

Course title: Women's and Gender Studies in Transatlantic Context

Course number: FU-BEST 27

Language of instruction: English

Contact hours: 45

ECTS-Credits: 5 **U.S. semester credits:** 3

Course description

The sex/gender system, such as many social systems of categorization, serves to group individuals. It represents an act of dividing, i.e. categorizing individuals as male or female; yet it also, paradoxically and simultaneously, connects individuals through shared membership in a category. This course on gender and women's studies in a transatlantic context focuses on *the boundary*—that which both divides and unites. We investigate sexed and gendered boundaries between bodies, communities, cultures, classes, races, ethnicities, religions, sexualities, and nations.

Our exploration of boundaries is grouped into three units: In the first, we examine the way sex/gender boundaries are mapped onto the body; this includes the history of sex differences within scientific discourses, transsexual and transgender definitions, and attempts to control women's health and reproduction. The second unit analyzes conceptualizations of citizenship as practices of drawing boundaries, and we examine how these boundaries can connect individuals in solidarity, as well as separate out others. We look at the gendered ideals of citizenship, the history of women's rights, women's movements, and intersectionality between different types of marginalization. The final unit explores the boundary between the public and the private in an investigation of gender (politics), migration and work, including sex work and domestic work.

In this course we use statistics, history, political and social sciences, filmic representations, news reports, essays, medical texts, biographies and field trips to conduct our interdisciplinary investigation. Our guiding approach is one of transnational feminism, which seeks to find solidarity between women by understanding and embracing their differences. Ultimately, our analysis of a multiplicity of subject positions and histories reveals the overall instability of the sex/gender system. For example, something that one culture views as inherently masculine may be viewed as inherently

FU/BEST Program

feminine in another. Therefore, our transcultural examination helps us understand the socially constructed nature of a system that is often viewed as natural, unchanging, and stable.

By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

1. Discuss gender and gender roles in a nuanced manner.
2. Formulate academic theses about some of the major social, medical, and political concerns facing women, transgender, transsexual and intersex people in North America and Europe.
3. Discuss some of the issues related to gender politics in Germany.

Student profile

Second-semester sophomore or above

Prerequisites

None

Course Requirements

Midterm exam: 25%

Term paper: 25%

Final exam: 25%

Class participation: 25% (includes 1 Independent Project report; 1 short oral presentation on one of the readings)

Literature

- Ferree, Myra Marx (2012) *Varieties of Feminism. German Gender Politics in Global Perspective*
- Seager, Joni (2009). *Penguin Atlas of Women in the World*. (4th ed.).
- Photocopied course reader.

Course schedule

Sessions	Topics, readings, in-class events, field trips
	All assigned readings are included in course reader or are in Ferree's <i>Varieties of Feminism</i> ; assigned maps come from Seager's <i>Atlas</i> .
Session 1	<p><i>Introduction to Course</i></p> <p>Topic: Defining Gender in a Transnational & Transatlantic Perspective</p> <p>Readings: hooks, bell (2000). <i>Feminism Is For Everybody: Passionate Politics</i> (Chapter 1, <i>Feminist Politics</i>, pp. 1-6; Chapter 2, <i>Consciousness-Raising</i>, pp. 7-12)</p>

FU/BEST Program

	<p>de Beauvoir, Simone (1949, 2011). <i>The Second Sex</i> (Chapter 14, <i>The Independent Woman</i>), pp. 813-847 (C. Borde & S. Malovany-Chavellier, Trans.)</p> <p>Griffin, Gabriele & Rosi Braidotti (2002). <i>Introduction: Configuring European Women's Studies</i>. In: Griffin, Gabriele and Rosi Braidotti (eds.) <i>Thinking Differently: A Reader in European Women's Studies</i>, pp. 1-13</p> <p>Ferree, Myra Marx (2012) <i>Practical Theory and the Politics of Gender</i> (Chapter 1). In: Myra Marx Ferree, <i>Varieties of Feminism in German Gender Politics in Global Perspective</i>, pp. 1-24</p> <p>Maps: 2 "The State of Women" and 3 "In Their Place"</p>
<p>Session 2</p>	<p><i>Unit One—Defining the Boundaries of Sex in the Body</i> Topic: Changing Definitions of the Body</p> <p>Reading: Laqueur, Thomas. (1992, 2003). <i>Making Sex: Body and Gender from the Greeks to Freud</i> (Chapter 2, <i>Destiny Is Anatomy</i>), pp. 37-74 Fausto-Sterling, Anne (2000) <i>Five Sexes, Revisited</i>, <i>The Sciences</i>, July/August 2000, pp.19-23 Fausto-Sterling, Anne (2012). <i>Sex/Gender: Biology in a Social World</i> (Chapter 1, <i>A Genderless Future?</i> pp. 1-2; Chapter 2, <i>Of Spirals and Layers</i>, pp.3-11; Chapter 3, <i>Of Molecules and Sex</i>, pp.12-26) Stryker, Susan (2008). <i>Transgender History</i> (Chapter 1; <i>An Introduction to Transgender Terms and Concepts</i>), pp.1-29</p>
<p>Session 3</p>	<p><i>Unit One—Defining the Boundaries of Sex in the Body</i> Topic: Gendering Science</p> <p>Reading: Martin, Emily (1991). <i>The Egg and the Sperm: How Science Has Constructed a Romance Based on Stereotypical Male-Female Roles</i>. <i>Signs</i>, 16:3 (1991:Spring) pp. 485-501 Sadedin, Susan (2014). <i>War in the Womb. A ferocious biological struggle between mother and baby belies any sentimental ideas we might have about pregnancy</i>, 4. August 2014 (http://aeon.co/magazine/science/pregnancy-is-a-battleground-between-mother-father-and-baby/) Preciado, Beatriz (2008, 2013). <i>Testo Junkie: Sex, Drugs, and Biopolitics in the Pharmacopornographic Era</i> (Chapter 3, <i>Testogel</i>, pp. 55-67; Chapter 6, <i>Technogender</i>, pp. 99-129).</p> <p>Maps: 12 "Maternal Mortality"</p>

FU/BEST Program

<p>Session 4</p>	<p><i>Unit One—Defining the Boundaries of Sex in the Body</i> Topic: Reproductive and Healthcare Rights in the Past and Present</p> <p>Reading: Davis, Angela. (1990). <i>Reproductive Rights</i>. In: Inderpal Grewal and Caren Kaplan (eds.) <i>An Introduction to Women's Studies: Gender in a Transnational World</i>, pp. 110-113 Davin, Anna (1997). <i>Imperialism and Motherhood</i>. In: Inderpal Grewal and Caren Kaplan (eds.) <i>An Introduction to Women's Studies: Gender in a Transnational World</i>, pp. 63-68 Ferree, Myra Marx (2012) <i>You Can't Make A State Without Women</i> (Chapter 6). In: Myra Marx Ferree, <i>Varieties of Feminism in German Gender Politics in Global Perspective</i>, pp. 144-155 Funk, Nanette (1993). <i>Abortion and German Unification</i>. In: Funk, Nanette and Magda Müller (eds.) <i>Gender Politics and Post-Communism. Reflections from Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union</i>, pp. 194-200 Fuszara, Małgorzata (1993) <i>Abortion and the Formation of the Public Sphere in Poland</i>. In: Funk, Nanette and Magda Müller (eds.), <i>Gender Politics and Post-Communism. Reflections from Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union</i>, pp. 241-252 Perlez, Jane (1996, Nov. 21). <i>Romania's Communist Legacy: Abortion Culture</i>. <i>New York Times</i></p> <p>Maps: Part Three "Birthrights" and Part Four "Body Politics"</p>
<p>Session 5</p>	<p><i>Unit Two—Gendering the Citizenship Boundary</i> Topic: Women's Rights and Women's Movements in History</p> <p>Field Trip: Feminist Women's Health Center (Feministisches Frauengesundheitszentrum - FFGZ)</p> <p>Guest Speaker: Cornelia Burgert, 40 Years of Women's Health Movement</p> <p>Reading: Ferree, Myra Marx (2012) <i>Women Help Women. The Women's Project Movement, 1975-1985</i> (Chapter 4). In: Myra Marx Ferree, <i>Varieties of Feminism in German Gender Politics in Global Perspective</i>, pp. 83-111 Rodríguez-Trias, Helen (1995) <i>The Women's Health Movement: Women Take Power</i>. In: Kesselman, Amy et.al. (1995) <i>Women Images and Realities. A Multicultural Anthology</i>, pp. 439-449 Rupp, Leila J. (2011) <i>Transnational Women's Movements</i>. In: <i>European History Online (EGO)</i>, published by the Institute of European History (IEG), Mainz 2011-06-16. (http://www.ieg-ego.eu/ruppl-</p>

FU/BEST Program

	<p>2011-en URN: urn:nbn:de:0159-2011051243) Truth, Sojourner (1851, 2014) <i>Ain't I a Woman?</i> (Digital History: www.digitalhistory.uh.edu) / "Ar'n't I a Woman?" In: Kesselman, Amy et.al. (1995) <i>Women Images and Realities. A Multicultural Anthology</i>, pp. 39-40 Wollstonecraft, Mary (1792, 1993). <i>Excerpt from A Vindication of the Rights of Women</i>. In: Inderpal Grewal and Caren Kaplan (eds.) <i>An Introduction to Women's Studies: Gender in a Transnational World</i>, pp. 170-175 Maps: Part Two "Families" and Part Seven "Power"</p>
<p>Session 6</p>	<p>Midterm Exam</p>
<p>Session 7</p>	<p><i>Unit Two—Gendering the Citizenship Boundary</i> Topic: Institutionalization of the Women's Movement Field Trip: Center for Transdisciplinary Gender Studies (Zentrum für transdisziplinäre Geschlechterstudien), Humboldt Universität zu Berlin Guest Speaker: Dr. Karin Aleksander, Teaching Gender with Libraries and Archives Reading: Aleksander, Karin (2014) <i>Parallels in the history of women's/gender studies and its special libraries</i>. In: Sara de Jong and Sanne Koevoets (eds.) <i>Teaching Gender with Libraries and Archives: Production, Regimes and Techniques of Power in Information, Knowledge and Archivization</i>, pp.15-32 Ferree, Myra Marx (2012) <i>You Can't Make A State Without Women</i> (Chapter 6). In: Myra Marx Ferree, <i>Varieties of Feminism in German Gender Politics in Global Perspective</i>, pp. 156-175 Ferree, Myra Marx (2008). <i>Framing Equity: The Politics of Race, Class, and Gender in the US, Germany and the Expanding European Union</i>. In: Roth, Silke (ed.) (2008) <i>Gender Politics in the Expanding European Union</i>, pp. 237-256 Hašková, Hana (2011) <i>The Origins, Institutionalization, and Framing of Gender Studies in the Czech Republic</i>. In: Binder, Beate et.al. (eds.) <i>Travelling Gender Studies</i>, pp. 132-146 Mieth, Ingrid (2008) <i>From Strange Sisters to Europe's Daughters: European Enlargement as a Chance for Women's Movements in East and West Germany</i>. In: Roth, Silke (ed.) <i>Gender Politics in the Expanding European Union</i>, pp. 118-136 Maps: 1 "States against Discrimination"</p>

FU/BEST Program

Session 8	<p><i>Unit Two—Gendering the Citizenship Boundary</i> Topic: Intersectionality—A Lens for Understanding Multiple Marginalizations</p> <p>Reading: Büchler, Bettina, Anja Sieber and Sara Landolt (2007) “...intersectionality: here is the buzzword...” <i>An interview with Prof. Jasbir K. Puar on her research, interdisciplinarity, intersectionality and assemblages</i> in: <i>genderstudies</i> #11 Herbst 2007, pp. 9-10 Ernst, Sonja (August 30, 2012) <i>Berlin’s gay and lesbian Muslims</i>. In: <i>Exberliner</i> (www.exberliner.com/features/lifestyle/between-me-and-allah/) Mizielińska, Joanna (2001). <i>The Rest is Silence: Polish Nationalism and the Question of Lesbian Existence</i>. In: <i>European Journal of Women’s Studies</i>, Vol. 8(3): 281–297 Yuval-Davis, Nira (2006). <i>Intersectionality and feminist politics</i>. In: <i>European Journal of Women’s Studies</i> Vol. 13(3): 193–209 Maps: 6 “Lesbians” (pp. 26-27)</p>
Session 9	<p><i>Unit Three—Gender and Work: The Public/Private Boundary</i> Topic: Gender Boundaries in the Corporate Workplace</p> <p>Reading: Hegewisch, Ariane et al. (April 2013) <i>The Gender Wage Gap by Occupation: Fact Sheet</i>. <i>Institute for Women’s Policy Research</i>, pp.1-7 Morgan, Kimberly J. (2008) <i>Toward the Europeanization of Work-Family Policies? The Impact of the EU on Policies for Working Parents</i>. In: Roth, Silke (ed.) <i>Gender Politics in the Expanding European Union</i>, pp.37-59 Zippel, Kathrin (2008) <i>Violence at Work? Framing Sexual Harassment in the European Union</i>. In: Roth, Silke (ed.) <i>Gender Politics in the Expanding European Union</i>, pp. 60-80 Walker, Rebecca (1995) <i>Becoming the Third Wave</i>. In: Kesselman, Amy et.al. <i>Women Images and Realities. A Multicultural Anthology</i>, pp. 437-438 Ferree, Myra Marx (2012) <i>Feminism, Families, and the Future: Practical Theory and Global Gender Politics in the Twenty-first Century</i> (Chapter 8). In: Myra Marx Ferree, <i>Varieties of Feminism in German Gender Politics in Global Perspective</i>, pp. 201-230 Maps: Part Five “Work”</p>
Session 10	<p><i>Unit Three—Gender and Work: The Public/Private Boundary</i> Topic: Sex Work</p>

FU/BEST Program

	<p>Reading: Delacoste, Frédérique & Priscilla Alexander (Eds.) (1987). <i>Sex Work: Writings by Women in the Sex Industry</i> (Morgan Peggy, <i>Living on the Edge</i>, pp. 21-28; Verbeek, Hansje and Terry van der Zijden, <i>The Red Thread: Whores' Movement in Holland</i>, pp. 297-300; Sax, Marjan, <i>The Pink Thread</i>, pp. 301-304). Gallagher, Anne T (2015) 'Two Cheers for the Trafficking Protocol', <i>Anti-Trafficking Review</i>, issue 4, 2015, pp. 14-32, www.antitraffickingreview.org Locher, Birgit (2007) <i>Trafficking in Women in the European Union. Norms, Advocacy-Networks and Policy-Change</i> (Chapter 7, <i>The Beginnings of the 1990s: The Fall of the Berlin Wall and the New Rise in Trafficking</i>, pp.157-177 Maps: 19 "Global Sex Trafficking"</p>
Session 11	<p><i>Unit Three—Gender and Work: The Public/Private Boundary</i> Topic: Transitory Labor, Migration, and Gender Reading: George, Sheba (2000): „Dirty Nurses“ and „Men who Play“: <i>Gender and Class in Transnational Migration</i>. In: Michael Buroway (ed.) <i>Global Ethnography: Force, Connections and Imaginations in a Postmodern World</i>, pp. 144-176 Hondagneu-Sotelo, Pierrette & Ernestine Avila (1997) „I am here, But I am There“: <i>The Meanings of Transnational Motherhood, Gender and Society</i>, 11 (5): 548-571</p>
Session 12	<p>Topic: Feminist Sites in Berlin, Review Session and Course Wrap-Up <i>Presentation of Independent Projects in Class</i></p>
Session 13	Final Exam