AFH 4253: Women and Gender in Twentieth-Century African History

University of Florida
Spring 2015

Meeting

T period 5-6 (11:45-12:35, 12:50-1:40), Keene-Flint 011
TR period 6 (12:50-1:40), Keene-Flint 011

Instructor

Susan M. O'Brien
office: 437 Grinter; phone: 392-2017
office hours: Wednesday 2-5, Friday 2-3, & by appt.
smobrien@ufl.edu

Required Coursework: Your grade in this class will be based on the following criteria:

1) class attendance & participation (20%): includes attendance, completion of the assigned readings, and thoughtful, informed contributions to class discussion. This is not a lecture course, but rather will be run like a seminar in which discussion plays a central role. Therefore the success of our class depends on your thoughtful engagement with the readings and willingness to contribute to class discussions. Every student will serve as a class discussant at least once during the semester. Discussants will formulate questions and will guide discussion during class.

2) first response paper (10%): due in class Tuesday, January 20th, (3 double-spaced pages): this paper will react to and analyze the previous weeks’ readings. Further instructions on composing a successful response paper will be posted to the E-Learning course web-site.

3) essay assignment (20%): due in class Thursday, February 19th (5-6 double-spaced pages): essay question will be provided by the instructor and will focus on course readings, lectures, class discussions, and films where applicable.

4) second response paper (15%): due in class Thursday, March 26 (3 double-spaced pages): this paper will react to and analyze the previous weeks’ readings. Further instructions on composing a successful response paper will be posted to the E-Learning course web-site.
5) short research papers (25%): due on Friday, May 1st at noon at the latest. (8-10 pages). Research paper topics will be chosen in consultation with the professor and students will present their research to the class during the last two weeks of the semester.

6) in-class presentation of research findings (10%): students will present their research in 20-25 minute time slots during the last two weeks of the semester.

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**Course Readings**

The following required texts should be available at area bookstores and will also be made available on Reserve at Library West:


Additional readings in the form of academic and news articles will be posted on our course page on the E-Learning web-site. These readings are marked by an asterisk * on the course schedule.

To access our course page go to the e-Learning Support Systems homepage [http://lss.at.ufl.edu/] and enter your Gatorlink username and password into the boxes. You must have an active GatorLink ID to access E-Learning. If you do not have a GatorLink ID, cannot remember your GatorLink login information, or your ID does not work, go to the GatorLink website [http://gatorlink.ufl.edu] or to the UF Computing Help Desk: The Hub, 392-HELP for assistance.

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Overall letter grades for the course will be assigned according to the following scale:

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<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Numerical Equivalent</th>
<th>GPA Equivalent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Above 92</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<td>B</td>
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Classroom Policies and Ethics

Students are expected to arrive to class on time, be attentive and remain until class is over. Being consistently late is a disruption to the class and is not acceptable. Students who disrupt class will be asked to leave. Cell phones and laptops must be turned off at the beginning of the class.

All students should observe the University of Florida's standards of academic honesty. In the event that a student is found cheating or plagiarizing, s/he will automatically fail the course and will be reported to Student Judicial Affairs. Acts of plagiarism include:

- Turning in a paper that was written by someone else (i.e., papers written by another student, a research service, or downloaded off the Internet).
- Copying, verbatim, a paragraph or significant portion of text from the work of another author without properly acknowledging the source through a commonly accepted citation style and using quotation marks.
- Paraphrasing (i.e., restating in your own words) text written by another author without citing that author.
- Using a unique idea or concept, which you discovered in a specific reading, without citing that author.

Students with disabilities requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. Anyone with a disability should feel free to see the professor during office hours to make the necessary arrangements.

Course Schedule

Week 1: Gender Difference in African History

T 1/6 Intro to class

R 1/8 Theorizing Gender Cross-Culturally/ Decolonizing Feminism?


* The Case of Caster Semanya (read three news articles/editorials posted to course site)

Week 2: Religion, Gender and Power in Pre-Colonial Africa

T 1/13  The Asante Case


R 1/15  The Yoruba and Fon Cases


Week 3: Women, Slavery, and Early Colonialism: A Case Study from the Gold Coast

T 1/20  Reconstructing the Past: The Evidence


** FIRST RESPONSE PAPER DUE IN CLASS **

R 1/22  The Context – Putting it all together


Week 4: The Colonial Experience: Initial Encounters


Week 5: The Impact of Colonialism on African Gender Roles and Relations

T 2/3  Colonial Perceptions and Representations of African Women

R 2/5 Colonial Courts & the Changing Contours of Marriage/Urbanization, Migration and Colonial Control in Southern Africa


Week 6: Women & Gender in Colonial Kenya

T 2/10 The Politics of Female Circumcision


R 2/12 Migration, Urbanization & Gender in Colonial Kenya


Week 7: Women in Anti-Colonial Movements

T 2/17 Female Power and Protest in Igboland


R 2/19 **ESSAY ASSIGNMENT DUE ***

Week 8: **SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS 3/3 or 3/5 **

Week 9: Women in Nationalist & Liberation Movements
T 3/10  Asante Nationalism/ Women in the Guinean Independence Movement

* Obeng, Pashtong, “Gendered Nationalism: Forms of Masculinity in Modern Asante of Ghana.”

R 3/12  Women in the Zimbabwean War of Liberation


** FILM in class: excerpts from 'FLAME' (1996) **

Week 10: Women and Liberation Movements

T 3/17  Women in the Algerian Revolution

* Frantz Fanon, *A Dying Colonialism*, Chapter 1 'Algeria Unveiled,' pp. 35-68.

**FILM in class: excerpts from 'BATTLE FOR ALGIERS' **

R 3/19  Women & Islamic Radicalism in Post-Colonial Algeria
(Reading TBA)

Week 11: Islamic Reform, Radicalism, & Democratization in West Africa

T 3/24  Islamic Revival & Shari’a in Niger & Nigeria

* Adeline Masquelier, excerpt from *Women and Islamic Revival in a West African Town*.
* Ayesha Imam, 'Islam and Women's Rights,' 2002 acceptance speech for Humphrey human rights award.

R 3/26  #BringBackOurGirls - Islamic Terrorism & the Abduction of the Chibok Schoolgirls in Nigeria

**SECOND RESPONSE PAPER DUE**

Week 12: Democracy, Women, and Development in Post-Colonial Africa

T 3/31  Reconstructing Post Civil War Liberia/ Wangarai Maathai & the Green Belt Movement in Kenya


**FILM** in class: *'IRON LADIES OF LIBERIA'*

*(Library West DVD 3641)**

R 4/2 the Gendered Consequences of Illness in Africa: AIDS & Ebola


Week 13: Research

T 4/7 Student presentations  
R 4/9 Student presentations

Week 14: Research Presentations

T 4/14 Student presentations  
R 4/16 Student presentations

Week 15: Student Presentations

T 4/21 Student presentations

**FINAL PAPERS DUE BY NOON on FRIDAY, MAY 1st at the latest**

slip under my office door at 437 Grinter