COURSE DETAIL

WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES IN EUROPEAN CONTEXT
Country Germany
Host Institution Free University of Berlin
Program(s) European Studies
UCEAP Course Level Upper Division
UCEAP Subject Area(s) Women’s & Gender Studies
UCEAP Course Number 100
UCEAP Course Suffix
UCEAP Official Title WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES IN EUROPEAN CONTEXT
UCEAP Transcript Title WOMEN&GENDER IN EUR
UCEAP Quarter Units 4.50
UCEAP Semester Units 3.00

Course Description

The sex/gender system, like 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 European context focuses on the boundary—that which both divides and unites. Sexed and gendered boundaries are investigated between bodies, communities, cultures, classes, races, ethnicities, religions, sexualities, and nations. The course begins by examining 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 how these boundaries intersect, connect, and prohibit. Students look at the gendered ideals of citizenship, the history of women's rights, and intersectionality between different types of marginalization. In considering definitions of nationhood and belonging, students consider how boundaries can connect individuals in solidarity, as well separate out others. The final unit investigates the boundary between the public and the private in an investigation of women, migration, and work, as well as so-called women's work, including sex work and domestic work. This course uses statistics, history, political and social sciences, filmic representations, news reports, essays, medical texts, and biographies to conduct the interdisciplinary investigation. The guiding approach is one of transnational feminism, which seeks to find solidarity between women by understanding and embracing their differences. Ultimately, the 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 feminine in another. Therefore, this transcultural examination helps to understand the socially constructed nature of a system that is often viewed as natural, unchanging, and stable.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number FU-BEST 27
Host Institution Course Title WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES IN EUROPEAN CONTEXT
Host Institution Course Details
Host Institution Campus Free Univ. Berlin
Host Institution Faculty
Host Institution Degree
Host Institution Department FU-BEST
Course Last Reviewed

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