Dr. Susan C. Pearce, Assistant Professor of Sociology, pearces@ecu.edu
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Phone: 252-328-2544

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How is gender lived in societies across the globe, as a site of struggle for rights, empowerment, and opportunity? How does culture matter in the negotiation over gender norms, stereotypes, laws, and rights? What social movements are active in this arena today, and what are their issues and achievements? In this seminar-style graduate course, we will read the research and theory literature on questions of gender in transitional societies: in particular, within postcolonial, postcommunist, and postconflict societies, as well as societies in the midst of change or conflict. Among the issues we will consider are gender-based violence, restrictions on rights, economic development, health issues, human trafficking, cultural/religious traditions, gay/lesbian/transgender orientation, and emigration/immigration. We will look at the impacts of globalization, democratization, and human rights mechanisms to address continued challenges, and analyze current trends in feminist theory internationally.

**Required Reading:**


Reading packet


**Academic Integrity**

Plagiarism and cheating are unacceptable. All work must be original. If you are caught plagiarizing or cheating you will be penalized. This includes web cutting and pasting. Depending on the severity of the offense, this penalty may range from receiving a 0 for the work to being reported to the academic integrity board which could result in dismissal from the university. For more information on academic integrity see the Student Handbook. If you have any questions, be sure to contact your professor. Ignorance is not an excuse.
Please be familiar with ECU’s general Code of Conduct, which outlines students’ rights and responsibilities: http://www.ecu.edu/PRR/11/30/01/

**DIVERSITY**

East Carolina University seeks to fully comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students requesting accommodations based on a disability must go to the Department for Disability Support Services, located in 112 Spillman, to verify the disability before any accommodations can occur. Their telephone number is: 252-737-1016 or you can e-mail them at dssdept@ecu.edu. Please note that I respect diversity of all types, including diversity of learning styles, and pleases let me know how this class can be accommodating to you.

Please note that the following is now a North Carolina state requirement: *Students shall be allowed a minimum of two excused absences each academic year for religious observances required by the faith of the student. Students shall provide written notice to the faculty member for the affected class of their request for an excused absence for a religious observance in a reasonable time prior to the date of the observance.*

**EVACUATION**

In the rare possibility that we need to evacuate the building (this includes firedrills), you are required to exit through the doors (no elevators), and to stand outside, away from the building, with the class as a group. I will take attendance to make sure you are all accounted for.

**Assignments, Due Dates, and Weights:**
I grade on a 100-point scale (each assignment is worth 100 points, and is weighted to give a final score on a 100% scale for your final grade)

1.) Two papers (5 to 7 pages each), due Feb. 28 and Mar. 28. I will assign the paper topic, which will be based on our assigned reading, and will engage your critical thinking/analytical skills. 15% each

2.) Blog Contribution: Our class will be creating an on-line, public blog in collaboration with two courses: Dr. Holly Mathews, from the Anthropology department, is teaching Women's Global Health and Human Rights, and Dr. Mona Russell, in the History department, is teaching Women & Gender in the Middle East. The students in these courses will collaborate to create the blog. This blog will be a chance to have a public discussion forum with these other students and the world—it will be a public blog, and you might get comments from anywhere. Secondly, our blog can serve as an on-line resource for anyone concerned about the issues; by the end of the semester, it will be filled with resources, references to research, ideas, discussions, and, for our final post, assessment of “work to be done.”

Three assignments: 1) One substantive blog post every 2 weeks on a reading (academic journal article, government document, or book) related to your topic for your final paper. In the blog post, address a) questions for research and/or theory, and b) questions for policy and/or practice. Please respond to any comments that you get. 2) In addition, each week, add one “page” to the blog—it could be a link to a news article with a commentary from you, or something similar. 3) Following each of your two short papers, write an “op-ed”-style editorial about each of the topics that you wrote about, and post on the blog. Be creative—within the limits of professionalism! Photos are fine, in fact. 20%

Our blog: http://blog.ecu.edu/sites/genderpoliticsculture/

3.) Class participation, attendance, and leadership. Once during the semester, you will direct the discussion for the reading. Your discussion direction will include 1) a critical summary of two of the assigned readings or book chapters, 2) comparative comments with previous readings we have done, 3) questions for discussion (and leading the discussion), 4) integration of at least one external reading that is not on
the syllabus, but is relevant to the topic. You will also be assessed on your general class participation, which includes attendance, promptness, demonstration of careful reading, and contributions to discussion in an inquisitive, generous, nondominating way. 20%

4.) Events: There will be at least one, and possibly two, public events related to this course, in collaboration with the two other classes. Write a 3-page reflection paper about this event, and relate it to the readings in our class. Due within one week of the event. 5%

5.) Final paper on a topic of your choice related to this course, between 15 and 18 pages (although it could be longer if you include charts, etc.), with a bibliography that uses ASA reference style. This is secondary research (using at least 10 existing sources such as books and scholarly articles, but additional journalistic articles or government documents are allowed). You have the option to make this a primary research paper if you prefer (interviews with women on campus who veil, for example, or comparative analyses of human-rights treaties, with a scholarly literature review). 25%

I need hard copies of all of your assignments and papers (with the exception of the blogs) handed to me directly, not left in my mailbox or in the office.

Please note that attendance is extremely important since this class meets only once per week. I expect that you will be in class every week, with rare exceptions for illness or emergencies. Your attendance will be considered as part of your participation grade.

Calendar:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic and Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 10</td>
<td>(snow cancellation)</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 17</td>
<td><strong>State Holiday: No Class</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>January 24</td>
<td>International Gender Disparities: Kristof and WuDunn, Introduction, ch.s 1-7; Website connected to book: <a href="http://www.halftheskymovement.org/">http://www.halftheskymovement.org/</a></td>
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<td>January 31</td>
<td>International Gender Disparities: Kristof and WuDunn, ch.s 8-14; article by Sasson</td>
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<td>February 14</td>
<td>Feminist Theory: McCann and Kim, Section II, “Theorizing Intersecting Identities,” pp. 147-299</td>
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<td>February 28</td>
<td>Cultural Traditions and Gender: Articles by Arat, El Guindi, Menon, Vojdik, Wangila. <strong>Guest speaker Paper 1 due by 5:00 PM Mar. 2</strong></td>
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<td>March 7</td>
<td><strong>Spring Break: No Class</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>March 14</td>
<td>Feminist Theory, Social Movements and Resistance: McCann and Kim, “Imagine Otherwise: Solidarity Reconsidered” pp. 446-520; articles by Adams and Yount</td>
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<td>March 21</td>
<td>GLBT issues and movements: Articles by Aniko, Bong, and Selinger</td>
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<td>March 28</td>
<td>GLBT issues and movements: de la Dehesa, Parts I and II. <strong>Paper 2 due by 5:00 PM Mar. 30</strong></td>
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<td>April 4</td>
<td>GLBT issues and movements: de la Dehesa, Part III and Conclusion</td>
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<td>April 25</td>
<td>Student-initiated topic with readings</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 2</td>
<td><strong>Final Paper due: 6:30 PM in my office (no class meeting)</strong></td>
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Course Reading Packet


Arat, Yesim. Women’s Rights and Islam in Turkish Politics: The Civil Code Amendment MIDDLE EAST JOURNAL M Volume 64, No. 2, spring 2010


Wangila, Mary Nyangweso. 2007. 'Beyond Facts to Reality: Confronting the Situation of Women in “Female Circumcising” Communities', Journal of Human Rights, 6: 4, 393 — 413


Yount, Kathryn M. “Women’s Conformity as Resistance to Intimate Partner Violence in Assiut, Egypt.” Sex Roles (2011) 64:43–58