Department of Anthropology and Sociology (ANSO)
Academic year 2019-2020

Gender, Culture and Power
ANSO033- Autumn - 6 ECTS
Schedule & Room

Course Description¹

If “gender is a primary way of signifying relationships of power” (J. Scott, 1986), how can we observe these relationships of power and how do they work? More specifically, how do the symbolic, institutional and social hierarchies between the ‘masculine’ and the ‘feminine’ produce and reproduce discriminations, exclusions and marginalisations, and how are they legitimized? How do gendered hierarchies intersect with other systems of domination (race, class, age, sexuality)? Can we understand the underlying mechanisms of discrimination and exclusion when (dominant) cultural values (doxa) are taken for granted? Students will revisit a number of referential social scientists who have theorized the concept of power (M. Weber, Bourdieu, Durkheim, Foucault, …) and reassess these theories from a critical feminist, anthropological and gender perspective. Through a number of reflexive exercises students are invited to translate the abstract concepts of gender, culture and power into observable social interactions. Creative critical pedagogics will link theoretical thinking with everyday experiences.

Syllabus

Session 1  Introduction, Gender a Multi-layered Concept (September 20th, 2019)

Issues:

- What is gender?
- How does gender operate?

¹ The programme may be subject to minor changes. An additional reading list will be provided at the start of the term.

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• Why does gender matter?
• The three dimensions of gender
• Standpoint epistemology and Situated Knowledge

Readings:


Exercise 1 Write a short autobiography on your gendered self (max. 1500 words). Due on September 26th, 21:00PM

Session 2 Beyond dichotomies (September 27th, 2019)

Issues:
• On dichotomies and cultural classifications
• Dichotomies and beyond?

Readings:


Exercise 2 Write a short essay on the theme “dichotomies and beyond” (max. 3000 words). Due on October 3rd, 21:00PM
Session 3  Intersectionality: Contradictions of Structural Determinisms (October 4th, 2019)

Issues:

- Concomitant and contradictory systems of oppression
- “Gender a primary way of signifying relationships of power?”
- Implications for collective action?

Readings:


Exercise 3 Make a multi-layered gender analysis of a class-mate’s autobiography (max. 1500 words). Due on October 4th, 2019

Exercise 4 (in class) Discuss your biographical gender analysis with your class-mate.

Session 4  Domination and Power according to Max Weber (October 11th, 2019)

Issues:

- Power according to Max Weber
- Legitimation processes
- Masculine rule

Readings:

Weber, Max (orig. 1921). Chapter III. The Types of Legitimate Domination. In: *Economy and Society: an Outline of Interpretive Sociology*/ Max Weber ; ed. by Guenther Roth and Claus Wittich; [transl.: Ephraim Fischoff ... et al.], pp. 212-288


Exercise 5 Write a short narrative on your experiences with legitimate authority. How do your experiences fit into Weber’s typology? (max. 1000 words). Due October 17th, 21:00PM.

Session 5  

**Doxa, Orthodoxy, Heterodoxy (October 18th, 2019)**

**Issues:**
- “The fish don’t talk about the water”
- Defamiliarization
- Cultural critique

**Readings:**


Exercise 6 (in tandem) Discuss some “doxa” that you have unraveled in your life and what triggered the insight. Summarize your discussion in max. 500 words. Due on October 24th, 21:00PM

Exercise 7 Write a short summary of your problem statement of the final essay (including the construction of your data-set and your theoretical frame(s)) (max. 1500 words). Due on October 24th, 21:00PM

Session 6  

**Reading Foucault the Governance of Bodies (October 25th, 2019)**

**Issues:**
- Effects of power on bodies
- Disciplinarization
- Resistance
Readings:


Exercise 8 Identify and describe two cases, one of body politics and one of biopower that you have experienced. How do your experiences relate to the theoretical frame developed by Foucault? (max. 1000 words). Due on October 31st, 2019, 21.00 PM

Session 7 Hegemonic masculinities (November 1st, 2019)

Issues:

- Manhood and masculinities
- Ideal-types and realities
- “Can subaltern men speak?”

Readings:


Exercise 9 Make a collage of the hegemonic man that is on your mind (photoshop, cut-paste, draw, paint, …). Bring to class on November 1st, 2019
Session 8 From Traditional Forms of Gender to the Post-Feminist Sexual Contract (November 8th, 2019)

Issues:

- Post-feminist contract and hypersexuality
- Social change
- Inverted hierarchies

Readings:


Session 9 New International Division of Labour, Social Reproduction and Migration (November 15th, 2019)

Issues:

- Care and emotional labour
- Left-behinds

Readings:


**Session 10**  
“Surprising Appeal and Extraordinary Rise of Living Alone” (November 22nd, 2019)

*Issues:*

- Women’s Empowerment and Child Penalty
- New Families?

*Readings:*


**Session 11**  
Gender and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation (November 29th, 2019)

*Issues:*

- How to relinquish habits of violence?
- Community-based gender analysis
- Social order/disorder re-established.

*Readings:*


**Session 12**  
Humanitarian Aid, Camps and Gender (December 6th, 2019)

*Issues:*

- Camps and Settlement as Micro-cosmos
- “Bare Lives”?

*Readings:*


Session 13: Présentation of students’ papers, December 13th, 2019

Session 14: Présentation of students’ papers, December 20th, 2019

Evaluation:

Final essay is due on December 20th, 2019 at midnight. The essay is maximum 5000 words, excluding bibliography and annexes (Times Roman, font 11, interline space 1.5, page numbers bottom right).

Ponderation of the final grade: 1) participation in class and presentation of a session 20%; 2) the average grade of the 10 exercises 40%; 3) the final essay (due on December 20th, 2019 Midnight) 40%