Fall 8-15-2015

WST 2309G-001: Women, Men, & Culture

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Women’s Studies 2309-001: Women, Men and Culture  
Topic: Non-Western Literature: Gender and Culture  
Fall 2015

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Office hours: TR 2:00-3:30 p.m. and W 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Course Description:  
In this course, we will consider the major social concerns and gender issues raised in non-western literary works by writers from Asian and Middle-Eastern countries. Through their writings, we will explore issues of gender in relation to culture (which will also entail a discussion of class and race) in the above-mentioned countries. We will then go on to study the impact of these issues on the treatment of men and women in these countries. By analyzing selected writings of non-western writers, we will trace the ways in which they complicate, critique, and subvert their cultural ideologies. Some of the questions that we will pursue are the following: How do issues of gender and identity manifest in these texts? How do non-western women define the term ‘feminist emancipation’? Are their definitions homogeneous? What are the ideals/values and roles posited for non-western women and men by their respective societies and to what extent do they accept or negate these established norms? What are the reasons behind their acceptance and negation?

Course Requirements:

Active preparation and class-participation – 10%  
Mid-term exam – 25%  
Final exam – 25%  
One research paper, 5-6 pages – 30%  
One class-presentation – 10%

Text Required:

Eileen Chung. *The Golden Cangue*  
N.J. Dawood, (trans.). *Tales from the Thousand and One Nights*  
Anita Desai. *Where Shall We Go This Summer*  
Geeta Dharmarajan, (ed.). *Separate Journeys*  
Popati Hiranandani. *The Pages of My Life: Autobiography and Selected Stories*  
Zhang Jie. “Love Must Not Be Forgotten”  
Tarif Khalidi, (trans.). *The Qur’an*  
Chandra Talpade Mohanty, Ann Russo, and Lourdes Torres, (eds.). *Third World Feminism and the Politics of Feminism*  
Kumkum Sangari and Sudesh Vaid, (eds.). *Recasting Women: Essays in Indian Colonial History*  
Nawal El Saadawi. *Woman at Point Zero*  
Susie Tharu and K. Lalita, (eds.). *Women Writing in India. Volume II*

Course Policies:
Discussion (participation) is an important component of this course. Your presence in class is important for everyone, but especially for you. Papers are due at the beginning of the class on the day they are due. For each day that the paper is late, the letter grade will fall by one full grade: an ‘A’ essay due on Friday will be an ‘F’ by next Thursday. ALWAYS MAKE COPIES AND BACK UP YOUR WORK!

**Plagiarism Policy (English Department):**

Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism – “The appropriation or imitation of the language, of ideas, and/or thoughts of another author and representation of them as one’s own original work” (Random House Dictionary of the English Language) – has the right and responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.

**Academic integrity:**

Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU’s Code of Conduct (http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards.

**Information for Students with Disabilities:**

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

**The Student Success Center:**

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/~success) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

**Tentative Syllabus:**

**Week 1**

8/25 – Introduction to the Course
8/27 – Nawal El Saadawi’s *Woman at Point Zero*

**Week 2**

9/1 – *Woman at Point Zero* (continued), Tarif Khalidi’s (trans.) *Qur’an*
9/3 – *Woman at Point Zero* (continued), Chhaya Datar’s “In Search of Myself” from Tharu and Lalita’s *Women Writing in India*

**Week 3**

9/8 – Continued, Partha Chatterjee’s “The Nationalist Resolution of the Women’s Question” from Sangari and Vaid’s *Recasting Women: Essays in Indian Colonial History*
9/10 – Continued, Introduction to Anita Desai’s *Where Shall We Go This Summer*

**Week 4**

9/15 – Anita Desai’s *Where Shall We Go This Summer* (continued)
9/17 – Continued, Introduction to Popati Hiranandani’s *The Pages of My Life*

**Week 5**

9/22 – Popati Hiranandani’s *The Pages of My Life* (continued)
9/24 – Continued

**Week 6**

9/29 – Review for the Midterm exam
10/1 – Midterm exam

**Week 7**

10/6 – Ashapurna Devi’s “Izzat” from Geeta Dharmarajan’s *Separate Journeys*
10/8 – Continued, Zhang Jie’s “Love Must Not Be Forgotten” (text on e-reserve)

**Week 8**

10/13 – Continued, Eileen Chung’s *The Golden Cangue* (text on e-reserve)
10/15 – Continued

**Week 9**

10/20 – Cheryl Johnson-Odim’s “Common Themes, Different Contexts: Third World Women and Feminism” from Chandra Talpade Mohanty’s *Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism*
10/22 – Continued, N.J. Dawood’s (trans.) *Tales from the Thousand and One Nights*

**Week 10**

10/27 – N.J. Dawood’s (trans.) *Tales from the Thousand and One Nights* (continued)
10/29 – Continued

**Week 11**
11/3 – Conferences for the research paper and class presentation
11/5 – Conferences continued

**Week 12**

11/10 – Conferences continued
11/12 – Conferences continued

**Week 13**

11/17 – Research paper due at the beginning of class, class presentations
11/19 – Class presentations

**Week 14**

12/1 – Class presentations
12/3 – Class presentations

**Week 15**

12/8 – Class presentations
12/10 – Review for the Final Exam