BTAN32002BA-K3; Code: 01

BTAN3204OMA

BRITISH SOCIETY AND GENDER: INTRODUCTION TO GENDER STUDIES; Lecture

Year 3, BA; 3 CREDITS

British Studies track

Wed 14.00–15.40

Studio XIV

main lecturer: Nóra Séllei

further lecturers:

Tamás Bényei, Brigitta Hudácskó

Office: 116/4

Office hours:

Wed 18–19

Thu 11-12

Except when otherwise indicated at http://ieas.unideb.hu/sellei

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This course will explore how gender is constructed in and by society (history, sciences, psychoanalysis, language, teaching and the media), and will also investigate cultural texts like myths and literature. Students will be provided an insight into the approach that gender is a concept crucial to the understanding of our world, of the public and private relations that all of us (males and females) are participants in. Gender studies, thus, is an area that facilitates critical thinking in regard to the overt or latent gender bias of the institutional system, including also what is considered the private realm, very often misconceived as a “refuge from the political”. The course will also investigate cultural texts like certain passages from the Bible, myths, and fairy tales. The disciplinary approaches of the course will range from history and discourse theory to psychoanalysis, from linguistics through to cultural and literary studies.

**The course concludes in an exam.**

**Specificities of the exam:**

**Format: written**

**Structure**: the **exam** will consist of **two parts.**

**Grading policy:** you will have **to reach the pass level in each component to pass the exam**. In case you manage to pass one component out of the two, there will be no need to re-sit both parts: the one you have already passed will be accepted as part of your re-sit. But if you wish, you can take a re-sit in both parts. In the latter case, however, it is the two parts of the re-sit that will be considered.

**Students must be aware that their linguistic proficiency will contribute to their grade.**

**The description of the exam**

*Part 1:*

*The test on the required secondary readings* will consist of questions pertaining to the readings. The maximum score that can be achieved in this part will be **20** out of which you must reach at least **12** to pass **this** section.

*Part 2:*

*The test on the study material* will be based on the lecture course. The maximum score achievable in this part of the exam is **80**, and you will have to reach at least **49** to pass **this** section.

In case you wish to start preparing for the exam during term time, you are kindly advised to read the pertaining secondary readings for the individual upcoming lectures, and at each lecture you will be given the chance (but it will not be compulsory) to write the relevant mini test on the pertaining required secondary reading.

Most of the required secondary readings are available in the *Gender Studies Reading Packet* (distributed in the first lecture by the lecturer, and to be returned to the library at the end of the course, OR available as a pdf file in Rm 101 of the Institute library); some materials are uploaded on the lecturer’s “current courses” website: <http://ieas.unideb.hu/index.php?p=487&l=en>, and the availability of some further materials is indicated on the very same webpage.

**GRADING CHART:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Score** | **1-60** | **61-70** | **71-80** | **81-90** | **91-100** |
| **Grade** | **1** | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5** |

**Lecture schedule, including the secondary readings pertaining to the topics:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Week** | **Date** | **Assignment** |
| 1 | 12.02 | **An introduction to the course**  **Women’s History (in Britain)**  *Pertaining secondary reading*:  Simone de Beauvoir, “Introduction” to *The Second Sex* |
| 2 | 19.02. | **The History of Feminism**  *Pertaining secondary reading*:  Friedan, Betty, “The Problem that Has No Name” |
| 3 | 26.02. | **Basic Terms and Issues**  *Pertaining secondary reading*:  Toril Moi, “Feminist, Female, Feminine” |
| 4 | 04.03. | **Gender, Science, Psychoanalysis (Tamás Bényei)**  *Pertaining secondary reading*:  Sigmund Freud, “On Femininity” |
| 5 | 11.03. | **Gendered Myths of Culture**  *Pertaining secondary reading*:  Leonard Shlain, “Adam/Eve” |
| 6 | 18.03 | **Language and Gender**  *Pertaining secondary reading*:  Deborah Cameron, “Making Changes—The Debate on Sexist Language” |
| 7 | 25.03. | **Gender Matters in School**  *Pertaining secondary reading*:  Jane Sunderland, “Gender in the EFL Classroom” |
| 8 | 01.04 | **CONSULTATION WEEK – NO CLASS** |
| 9 | 08.04 | **Gender Matters at Work and/or Home**  *Pertaining secondary reading*:  Nancy Chodorow, “Introduction” and “Afterword” |
| 10 | 15.04. | **Introduction to Queer Studies (Brigitta Hudácskó)**  *Pertaining secondary reading*:  Barry, Peter. "Lesbian/gay criticism." |
| 11 | 22.04. | **The Gendered Body**  *Pertaining secondary reading*:  Susan Bordo, “Reading the Slender Body” |
| 12 | 30.05. | **Masculinity and its Discontents (Tamás Bényei)**  *Pertaining secondary reading*:  R.W. Connell, “The Social Organization of Masculinity” |

**The availability of required secondary readings for the exam**

**(for their function – relevance to topics – see the syllabus above):**

de Beauvoir, Simone, “Introduction” to *The Second Sex* (in Course Packet)

Friedan, Betty, “The Problem that Has No Name” (pdf uploaded on http://ieas.unideb.hu/index.php?p=487&l=en)

Moi, Toril, “Feminist, Female, Feminine”; (pdf uploaded on http://ieas.unideb.hu/index.php?p=487&l=en)

Shlain, Leonard. “Adam/Eve” (pdf uploaded on http://ieas.unideb.hu/index.php?p=487&l=en)

Freud, Sigmund, “On Femininity” (in Course Packet)

Cameron, Deborah. “Making Changes—The Debate on Sexist Language” (in Course Packet)

Sunderland, Jane. “Gender in the EFL Classroom” (in Course Packet)

Chodorow, Nancy, “Introduction” and “Afterword” from: *The Reproduction of Mothering* (pdf uploaded on http://ieas.unideb.hu/index.php?p=487&l=en)

Barry, Peter. "Lesbian/gay criticism." *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory*. Manchester: Manchester UP, 2009. 134-149 (pdf uploaded on http://ieas.unideb.hu/index.php?p=487&l=en)

Bordo, Susan. “Reading the Slender Body” (in Course Packet)

Connell, R.W., “The Social Organization of Masculinity” (pdf uploaded on http://ieas.unideb.hu/index.php?p=487&l=en)