Empire and Gender: The U.S. Experience

Course Description: Taking imperialism as central to the construction of the United States’ national imaginary, this course will raise a number of questions about the intersection of empire and gender. How is the language of empire gendered? How does gender structure metaphors such as the frontier? How are representations of colonized spaces and racial others invested with discourses of gender? How do imperialism and war rhetoric build up masculinity? We will focus on specific sites of U.S. imperialism such as Hawai’i, the Philippines, Vietnam and Iraq, and examine the literary and cultural texts that emerge from those sites. We will also engage with theoretical works in postcolonial studies and gender studies. Although the specific focus of the course is on US imperialism, the discussions should help us in thinking broadly about the ways in which languages of empire and gender intersect.

Texts:
Edward Said Orientalism
Herman Melville Typee
Jack Kerouac On the Road
David Henry Hwang M Butterfly
Susanna Rowson Slaves in Algiers
Mary Helen Fee A Woman’s Impression of the Philippines
Dang Thuy Tram Last Night I Dreamed of Peace
Nora Okja Keller Fox Girl
R. Zamora Linmark Leche
Readings on canvas

Course Requirements and Grade Distribution

Weekly position papers on the readings due during class (around 2 pages): 15%
These should be critical and evaluative rather than summations of the readings. Raise questions here but be specific and try to link together at least three readings. You many turn in only one reading response per week. You need to turn in a total of 8 position papers but feel free to write more if you wish. Fm happy to read more. Turn these in on canvas before class. Please do not turn in these papers late because we’ll be discussing the readings in class.

One Oral presentation : 20%
Presentations: The presentation in this class is intended to broaden your knowledge of critical issues in U.S. empire and gender studies. You can choose from two options: 1. A presentation
on a critical text, part of which we’re reading in class that day. Give the class a brief synopsis of
the critical work and the thesis. Give short summaries of the arguments of the chapters. Then
present your critique of the work ie demonstrate its significance, the validity of its arguments, the
strengths and/weaknesses of its arguments. A one page handout with the thesis, synopsis, and
chapter summaries plus a couple of paragraphs of your analysis is required. 2. A presentation on
a literary/cultural work. Select three critical articles/book chapters that seem most interesting to
you. During your presentation, tell students why you picked the sources you did, then describe
the argument of each one and present your assessment. Which source did you find most
compelling and why? A short handout with the bibliography of the three items plus a paragraph
description of each item and your analysis is required. Your oral presentation should be about
10-15 minutes with another 5-10 minutes of questions. Please practice your presentation ahead
of time so that you use class time effectively. Please turn in the writing portion on canvas in
addition to bringing 12 hard copies of your presentation to class.

If you have an idea for a presentation different from the above, please come and see me or bring
up the discussion in class. I’m open to all kinds of topics as long as they connect well with the
readings.

By all means, use material from the presentation for your final paper.

Final paper (20 pages): 65%
These should be analytical papers about 20 pages in length (excluding Notes and Bibliography).
They may be extensions of the work you’ve done for the presentation or entirely new papers.
Whatever option you choose, you need to do a complete MLA search on your subject and
incorporate the research into your paper. Be sure that your papers have a theoretical angle so
that the argument you make is significant not only because of the specific works you are
considering but also to an interpretation of certain cultural issues. Connect your critical angle to
current scholarship on the subject. Please turn these in on canvas and also give me hard copies.

As part of the requirements for the paper you need to:

1. Find conference with a Spring deadline for the CFP.
2. Write the required abstract for the conference, as well as the letter of submission.
If you are a Ph.D. student I strongly urge you to think about your paper as a possible publication.
You will need to look at some journal issues in order to see how you need to frame your
argument.
3. Present the major argument of your paper to the class toward the end of the semester

Attendance
It is understood that graduate students do not skip class. If you are presenting a paper at a
conference and have a conflict with the weekly meeting, please see me. You may not miss more
than one class in order to attend a conference. There will be a grade penalty for missed classes.

Reading Materials
You are required to bring all the assigned readings to class. Please download all readings ahead
of time so you can follow along efficiently during class.
Syllabus: This is a tentative syllabus which might be changed according to the needs of the class.

August 22 Introduction
   Amy Kaplan “Left Alone with America”
   John Carlos Rowe from Literary Culture and U.S. Imperialism 3-24: 299-303

August 29 Reginald Horsman “Race and Manifest Destiny”
   Colonial Rule, 1898-1912”
   Ronald Hyam from Empire and Sexuality pp. 1-2; 200-215; 225
   Ann Laura Stoler from Haunted By Empire pp. 8-16
   Ann Laura Stoler from Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power pp. 41-67.
   Tracy Jean Boisseau from White Queen, pp. 1-14; 207-211
   Amy Greenberg from Manifest Manhood, pp. 1-17.
   Michel Foucault from History of Sexuality pp. 135-159.
   Kipling “The White Man’s Burden”
   James C. Fernald The Imperial Republic 7-19; 183-192

*The Frontier and Masculinity*

   Frederick Jackson Turner “The Significance of the Frontier..” in Packet
   Theodore Roosevelt “The Spread of the English Speaking Peoples” from The Winning of
   the West..” in Packet
   Theodore Roosevelt “The Strenuous Life”
   Jack Kerouac On the Road

*Orientalism and Empire. Imagining Japan*

   John Luther Long, “Madame Butterfly” in Packet
   Jonathan Wisenthal “Inventing the Orient” From A Vision of the Orient pp. 3-20
   Women’s Enfranchisement” American Quarterly 57 iii (2005), 885-910.
   David Henry Hwang M Butterfly

*Homoerotics, Travel, and Empire*

September 19: Joseph A. Boone, “Vacation Cruises; or the Homoerotics of Orientalism”
   Paul Lyons from American Pacificism, pp. 1-23: 40-47
Christopher Lane from *The Ruling Passion* 1-13
Eve Sedgwick from *Between Men*, pp. 1-15
Herman Melville *Typee*

**Hawaii and Pornotropics**

Sept 26 Anne McClintock 1-8; 21-36; 352-388 Online E-book
Willard French “Hawaii: Our Key to the Pacific Ocean” 37-47
Teresia K. Teaiwa “bikinis and other s/pacific n/oceans” in Packet
Haunani Kay Trask from *From A Native Daughter*, pp. 1-21; 136-147
Veracini “Introducing Settler Colonial Studies”
Blue Hawaii
Cameron Crowe *Aloha*

**Oceania and Hope**

October 3 Epeli Hau‘ofa, “Our Sea of Islands” in Packet
Geoff White “Introduction” *We Are the Ocean*
Gary Pak “The Watcher of Waipuna”
“The Garden of Jiro Tanaka”
Michael Puleolo “Something in the Wind”
Haunani Kay Trask “Settlers of Color and Immigrant Hegemony”

**The Philippines**

*Colonial Domesticity and Gendered Tutelage*

October 10 William McKinley Remarks to the Methodist Delegation
William McKinley Benevolent Assimilation Proclamation
Mary Helen Fee *A Woman’s Impression of the Philippines*
Renato Constantino “The Miseducation of the Filipino”
Meg Wesling *Empire’s Proxy*, pp. 1-35.
Amy Kaplan “Manifest Domesticity” from *Anarchy of Empire*

**Anti-Imperialism, Gender, and Women’s Suffrage**

Oct 17 Kristina Hoganson from Fighting for American Manhood, 133-155
George F. Becker “Are the Philippines Worth Having?” in Packet
Frederick Palmer’s “White Man and Brown Man in the Philippines”
Mark Twain “To the Person Sitting in Darkness”
Lida Calvert Obenchain “The Philippine War” Woman’s Journal 3 June, 1899
Lucinda B. Chandler “Women Against War” Woman’s Tribune 24 March, 1900
Harriet Potter Nourse “Women in the Philippines” Woman’s Tribune, 1902
Kristin L. Hoganson “As Badly off as the Filipinos”: U.S. Women's Suffragists and the Imperial Issue at the Turn of the Twentieth Century, Journal of Women's History, Volume 13, Number 2, Summer 2001, pp. 9-33
Selections from Liberty Poems. 1900

Saving Brown Women: Algiers and Afghanistan

Oct 24 Paul Baepler, “The Barbary Captivity Narrative in American Culture” in Packet
   Susanna Rowson Slaves in Algiers
   Laura Bush “Radio Address...” in Packet
   Miriam Cooke “Islamic Feminism Before and After September 11”
   Meyda Yegenoglu “Sartorial fabric-ations: The Enlightenment and Western Feminism” from Colonial Fantasies 95-120
   Lila Abu-Lughod from Do Muslim Women Need Saving pp. 1-26; 81-112
   Cynthia Enloe “Updating the Gendered Empire” from Exceptional State, pp. 133-161
   Gillian Whitlock “The Skin of the Burka” from Soft Weapons
   Watch Beauty Academy of Kabul

Abstracts for Papers Due (500 words; at least 4 critical sources)

Vietnam
Remasculinization and Honor

Oct 31 Richard Slotkin from Gunfighter Nation 1-26
   Carol Smith Rosenberg “Surrogate Americans: Masculinity, Masquerade, and the Formation of a National Identity” in Packet
   Susan Jeffords from The Remasculinization of America pp. ix-22; 116-143; 199-202
   Paul Smith, “Eastwood Bound” from Constructing Masculinity, pp. 69-97 in Packet
   From Susan Bordo The Male Body.
   Watch Rambo. First Blood II
   (possibly also American Sniper)

Rescue as Victory Narratives; Women ’s Rewritings

Nov 7: Aimee Phan “Miss” Lien “Gates of Saigon” and “The Delta” “Bound” from We Should Never Meet 213-243
   Yen Le Espiritu from Body Counts (intro, ch2 possibly 4)
   Dang Thuy Tram Last Night I Dreamed of Peace

Intimacies of Empire: Sexual Politics at the Base

Nov 14: Cynthia Enloe from Bananas Beaches and Bases, pp. 1-18; 65-93
Katharine S. Moon from *Sex Among Allies* 1-47
Sherridan Prasso from *The Asian Mystique*
Nora Okja Keller *Fox Girl*

**Start short presentations on papers**

Nov 21: Thanksgiving week. No class.

**Globalization, Cultural Imperialism and Gender**

Nov 28

Hardt and Negri from *Empire* or Ariun Appadurai “Disjuncture and Difference in the Global Cultural Economy” *From Modernity at Large*
Radhakrishnan “Globalization, Desire and the Politics of Representation” from *Theory in an Uneven World.*
R. Zamora Linmark *Leche*

**Homophobia, Homonationalism and the War on Terror**

Dec 5

Nicholas Mirzoeff “Invisible Empire: Visual Culture, Embodied Spectacle, and Abu Ghraib”
Jasbir Puar from *Terrorist Assemblages* 1-24; 37-51; 67-79.

**Gender Studies and Empire; Alternatives to Empire**

Judith Butler, “Violence, Mourning, Politics” from *Precarious Life*

Final Papers Due Friday Dec 8
Reserve Books

Warwick Anderson Colonial Pathologies: American Tropical Medicine, Race, and Hygiene in the Philippines 2006
Gail Bederman Manliness and Civilization 1995
Tracy Jean Boisseau White Queen May French Sheldon and the Imperial Origins of American Feminist Identity 2004
Judith Butler Gender Trouble Online
Judith Butler Precarious Life 2004
Christopher Castiglia Bound and Determined 1996
Jane Desmond Staging Tourism 1999
Cynthia Enloe Bananas Beaches and Bases: Making Feminist Sense of International Politics
Cynthia Enloe The Curious Feminist: Searching for Feminism in a New Age of Empire 2004
Zillah Eisenstein Against Empire: Feminisms, Racism and the West 2004
Yen le Espíritu Body Counts: The Vietnam War and Militarized Refugees 2014
James C. Fernald The Imperial Republic
Bart Moore Gilbert Postcolonial Theory 1997
Amy S. Greenberg Manifest Manhood and the Antebellum American Empire 2005
Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri Empire 2001
Kristina L Hoganson Fighting for American Manhood 1998
Reginald Horsman Race and Manifest Destiny 1981
Ronald Hyam Empire and Sexuality 1990
Allen Puzalan Isaac from American Tropics 2006
Susan Jeffords The Remasculinization of America: Gender and the Vietnam War. 1989
Amy Kaplan The Anarchy of Empire in the Making of U.S. Culture 2005
Eds. Amy Kaplan and Donald Pease Cultures of United States Imperialism 1993
Annette Kolodny from The Lav of the Land: Metaphor As Experience and History in American Life and Letters 1984
Christopher Lane The Ruling Passion, 1995
Paul Lyons American Pacifism 2006
Ed. Philippa Levine Gender and Empire 2004
Anne McClintock Imperial Leather: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Colonial Contest 1995
Katharine H. S. Moon Sex Among Allies: Military Prostitution in U.S.-Korea Relations
George Mosse Nationalism and Sexuality 1985
Jasbir Puar Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times 2007
R. Radhakrishnan *Theory in an Uneven World* 2003
Vicente Rafael *White Love and Other events in Philippine History* 2000
Edward Said *Culture and Imperialism* 1993
Jarker *Literary Culture and U.S. Imperialism* 2000
Malini Johar *TT S Orientalisms: Race, Nation and Gender in Literature 1790-1890* 1998
Naoko Shibusawa *America’s Geisha Ally* 2006
Richard Slotkin *Gunfighter Nation* 1998
Richard Slotkin *Regeneration Through Violence* 1973
Ed Maurice Berger *Constructing Masculinity* 1995
Ann Laura Stoler *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power* 2002
Meg Wesling *Empire’s Proxy* 2011
Megda Yegenoglu *Colonial Fantasies: Toward a Feminist Reading of Orientalism* 2008