

ARCHAEOLOGY OF GENDER
AN5060 • Fall 2008
MW 3:30 - 4:45 pm
Moore Hall, Room G0111

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Office Hours:
Tu 1-2pm, W 11-12
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Course description:

In this course we will examine how to reconstruct gender in the past and how a knowledge of gender relations can widen our understanding of social differentiation and inequality in past cultures. We will begin by examining several critical issues including the beginnings of gender in early prehistory, the uses of feminism in archaeological research, and methods for reconstructing gender in prehistory and historical periods. In the latter part of the course, we will move into topics that are particularly appropriate for a gendered archaeological approach, such as mortuary analysis, power relations, and household studies. Students may choose subjects relative to these topics that interest them for their presentations and research papers.

Goals:

Students will learn the differences between sex and gender and the importance of an unbiased approach to studying men and women in the past. We will gain an understanding of the development of feminism and gender studies in archaeological research, and the methods by which gender can be examined via archaeology. We will learn how ethnoarchaeology and biological analyses can be used to help reconstruct cultural differences. Students will learn how to not only identify gender bias in archaeological research, but how to conduct research to examine gender differences with as little bias as possible. In studying case studies of gender research around a set of themes, students will gain an understanding of the contributions of gender to existing areas of study, areas in which they may wish to do further research themselves (particularly graduate students).

Required texts:

Nelson, Sarah Milledge. 2004 [2nd edition]. *Gender in Archaeology: Analyzing Power and Prestige*. Lanham, MD, AltaMira Press. ISBN 0-7591-0496-4

GA in schedule below

Nelson, Sarah Milledge, ed. 2007. *Women in Antiquity: Theoretical Approaches to Gender and Archaeology*. Lanham, MD, AltaMira Press. ISBN 0-7591-1082-4

WIA in schedule below

A number of other articles will also be required reading. These will be posted in pdf format on the E-learning web site for our class and can be downloaded and/or printed from there.

SCHEDULE

Week 1: Wednesday Sept. 3	Introduction
Week 2: Monday Sept. 8 and Wednesday Sept. 10 Required Reading: GA ch. 2 Conkey and Spector 1989 (pdf) - PRECIS DUE	Theory and gender studies
Week 3: Monday Sept. 15 and Wednesday Sept. 17 Required Reading: GA ch. 3 Zihlman 1997 (pdf) Weedman in WIA - PRECIS DUE	Feminist approaches and ethnography
Week 4: Monday Sept. 22 and Wednesday Sept. 24 Required Reading: GA ch. 4 Zihlman 1998 (pdf) - PRECIS DUE O'Connell et al. 1999 (pdf)	Evolution
Week 5: Monday Sept. 29 and Wednesday Oct. 1 Required Reading: GA ch. 5 pp. 64-82 Watson and Kennedy 1991 (pdf) Hastorf 1991 (pdf) - PRECIS DUE on one of these two articles	Subsistence
PRESENTATION: Jackson 1991 or Fritz 1999	
Week 6: Monday Oct. 6 and Wednesday Oct. 8 Required Reading: GA pp. 82-87 Gibbs 1989 (pdf) - PRECIS DUE	Prehistory - methods and craft production
PRESENTATION: Wright 1991 (pdf) and/or Costin 1996 (pdf)	
Week 7: Monday Oct. 13 Reading: Spencer-Wood in WIA	Historical - methods
MIDTERM: Wednesday Oct. 15	
Week 8: Monday Oct. 20 and Wednesday Oct. 22 Required Reading: Ashmore in WIA Gilchrist 1999 (pdf)	Topic: landscapes
PRESENTATION: Potter 2004 (pdf)	

Week 9: Monday Oct. 27 and Wednesday Oct. 29
 Required Reading: Arnold in **WIA**
 Bentley 1996 (pdf)

**Topic: mortuary
 analysis**

PRESENTATION: Savage 2000 (pdf)
 and/or Hamlin 2001 (pdf)

Week 10: Monday Nov. 3 and Wednesday Nov. 5
 Required Reading: **GA** ch. 6
 Hendon in **WIA**

Topic: households

PRESENTATION: Kruczek-Aaron 2002 (pdf)
 and/or Prine 2000

Week 11: Monday Nov. 10 and Wednesday Nov. 12
 Required Reading: **GA** ch. 7
 Levy in **WIA**

**Topic: power
 relations**

PRESENTATION: Wood 2004 (pdf)
 and/or Stalsberg 2001 (pdf)

Week 12: Monday Nov. 17 and Wednesday Nov. 19
 Required Reading: Sørensen in **WIA**

**Topic: material
 culture**

PRESENTATION: Derevenski 2000
 and/or Joyce 1993

Week 13: Monday Nov. 24 (no class Weds.)
 Required Reading: **GA** ch. 8

Topic: iconography

PRESENTATION: Hays-Gilpin 2000 (pdf)

Week 14: Monday Dec. 1 and Wednesday Dec. 3
 Reading: **GA** ch. 9
 Gero 2007 (pdf)

Conclusions

Final papers due: on scheduled final exam date (there is no final exam)

Grading

Grades for the course will be divided into writing assignments, a midterm, a presentation, and a final research paper. The first assignments will be precis - one page single-spaced summaries of the arguments of a particular article that is required reading. These will be assigned for important background articles in the first six weeks of the term. In the second half of the term, each student will give a 20 minute presentation and discussion with the class on an article they have read, tying it into the larger topic.

Participation, in the form of asking and answering questions or providing comments in class discussion, is another important part of the grade in a seminar. I have purposefully assigned articles that highlight their basis in data so that you can evaluate them yourselves and ask whether the conclusions are legitimate given the information available. A midterm will also be given that will cover the background theory we have covered by the seventh week, and a final research paper will be required on a topic of your choice.

5 precis at 5% each	25%
Participation in discussion	10
Midterm	25
Presentation	15
Final paper	25
(of this, 5% is the title and bibliography due before final paper is due)	

Please note that you are responsible for making yourself aware of and understanding the policies and procedures in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs that pertain to Academic Honesty. These policies include cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity and computer misuse. [The policies can be found at <http://catalog.wmich.edu> under Academic Policies, Student Rights and Responsibilities.] If there is reason to believe you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. You will be given the opportunity to review the charge(s). If you believe you are not responsible, you will have the opportunity for a hearing. You should consult with your instructor if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment or test.

Articles referenced above, to be posted online in pdf:

- Bentley, Gillian. 1996. How did Prehistoric Women bear “Man the Hunter”?
Reconstructing Fertility from the Archaeological Record, in Wright, R., ed. *Gender and Archaeology*. Philadelphia, Univ. of Pennsylvania Press. pp. 23-51.
- Conkey, Margaret and Janet Spector. 1989 [1984]. Archaeology and the Study of Gender,
in Hays-Gilpin, K. and D. Whitley, eds. *Reader in Gender Archaeology*. London,
Routledge. pp. 11-45.
- Costin, Cathy. 1996. Exploring the Relationship between Gender and Craft in Complex
Societies: Methodological and Theoretical Issues of Gender Attribution, in Wright, R.,
ed. *Gender and Archaeology*. Philadelphia, Univ. of Pennsylvania Press. pp. 111-140.
- Derevenski, Joanna Sofaer. 2000. Rings of life: the role of early metalwork in mediating
the gendered life course, *World Archaeology* 31(3): 389-406.
- Fritz, Gayle. 1999. Gender and the Early Cultivation of Gourds in Eastern North America,
American Antiquity 64(3):417-429.

- Gero, Joan. 2007. Honoring Ambiguity/Problematizing Certitude, *Journal of Archaeological Method and Theory* 14:311-327.
- Gibbs, Liv. 1989 [1987]. Identifying Gender Representation in the Archaeological Record: A Contextual Study, in Hays-Gilpin, K. and D. Whitley, eds. *Reader in Gender Archaeology*. London, Routledge. pp. 231-254.
- Gilchrist, Roberta. 1999. The Contested Garden: Gender, Space and Metaphor in the Medieval English Castle, in Gilchrist, Roberta, *Gender and Archaeology: Contesting the Past*. London, Routledge. pp. 109-145.
- Hamlin, Christine. 2001. Sharing the Load: Gender and Task Division at the Windover Site, in Arnold, B. and N. Wicker, eds., *Gender and the Archaeology of Death*. Walnut Creek, CA, AltaMira Press. pp. 119-135.
- Hastorf, Christine. 1991. Gender, Space, and Food in Prehistory, in Gero, J. and M. Conkey, *Engendering Archaeology: Women and Prehistory*. Oxford, Blackwell. pp. 132-159.
- Hays-Gilpin, Kelley. 2000. Beyond Mother Earth and Father Sky: Sex and Gender in Ancient Southwestern Visual Arts, in Rautman, A., ed. *Reading the Body: Representations and Remains in the Archaeological Record*. Philadelphia, Univ. of Pennsylvania Press. pp. 165-186.
- Jackson, Thomas. 1991. Pounding Acorn: Women's Production as Social and Economic Focus, in Gero, J. and M. Conkey, *Engendering Archaeology: Women and Prehistory*. Oxford, Blackwell. pp. 301-325.
- Joyce, Rosemary A. 1993. Women's work: images of production and reproduction in Pre-Hispanic southern Central America, *Current Anthropology* 34(3): 255-274. [including comments and reply]
- Kruczek-Aaron, Hadley. 2002. Choice Flowers and Well-ordered Tables: Struggling over Gender in a Nineteenth-Century Household, *International Journal of Historical Archaeology* 6(3): 173-185.
- O'Connell, J.F., K. Hawkes, and N. G. Blurton Jones. 1999. Grandmothering and the evolution of *Homo erectus*, *Journal of Human Evolution* 36:461-485.
- Potter, James M. 2004. The Creation of Person, The Creation of Place: Hunting Landscapes in the American Southwest, *American Antiquity* 69(2):322-338.
- Prine, Elizabeth. 2000. Searching for Third Genders: Towards a Prehistory of Domestic Space in Middle Missouri Villages, in Schmidt, R. and B. Voss, eds. *Archaeologies of Sexuality*. London, Routledge. pp. 197-219.

- Savage, Stephen H. 2000. The Status of Women in Predynastic Egypt as Revealed through Mortuary Analysis, in Rautman, A., ed. *Reading the Body: Representations and Remains in the Archaeological Record*. Philadelphia, Univ. of Pennsylvania Press. pp. 77-92.
- Stalsberg, Anne. 2001. Visible Women Made Invisible: Interpreting Varangian Women in Old Russia, in Arnold, B. and N. Wicker, eds., *Gender and the Archaeology of Death*. Walnut Creek, CA, AltaMira Press. pp. 65-79.
- Watson, Patty Jo and Mary C. Kennedy 1991. The Development of Horticulture in the Eastern Woodlands of North America: Women's Role, in Gero, J. and M. Conkey, *Engendering Archaeology: Women and Prehistory*. Oxford, Blackwell. pp. 255-75.
- Wood, Margaret. 2004. Working-Class Households as Sites of Social Change, in Barile, K. S. and J. C. Brandon, eds., *Household Chores and Household Choices: Theorizing the Domestic Sphere in Historical Archaeology*. Tuscaloosa, Univ. of Alabama Press. pp. 210-232.
- Wright, Rita. 1991. Women's Labor and Pottery Production in Prehistory, in Gero, J. and M. Conkey, *Engendering Archaeology: Women and Prehistory*. Oxford, Blackwell. pp. 194-223.
- Zihlman, Adrienne. 1997. The Paleolithic Glass Ceiling: Women in Human Evolution, in Hager, Lori, ed., *Women in Human Evolution*. London, Routledge. pp. 91-113.
- . 1998 [1989]. Woman the Gatherer: The Role of Women in Early Hominid Evolution, in Hays-Gilpin, K. and D. Whitley, eds. *Reader in Gender Archaeology*. London, Routledge. pp. 91-105.