

Women in Appalachia

Appalachian Studies/Interdisciplinary Studies 3534

Fall 2005, TR 12:30 – 1:45

Instructor: Rebecca Baird

Office Hours: W 11:30 – 1:30 and by appt. LLA

Email: WomenInApp@aol.com Mailbox: LLA Faculty Lounge

While the title implies a distinct group “Women in Appalachia,” the course will emphasize differences among women, using theorists such as Barbara Ellen Smith, Kimberlé Crenshaw and Audre Lorde. We will begin with the categories “women” and “Appalachia,” but we will explore the complexity and problems of these categories. The course will provide an introduction to feminist writing in the field and the region, with a focus on theories of difference, power, and change. Our readings come from many disciplines and perspectives including anthropology, sociology, history, literature, cultural studies, and women’s studies. Students should leave the course with a diverse understanding of women in the region.

Requirements:

NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change throughout the semester. Changes will be announced in class and posted on WebCT. Students are responsible for checking WebCT for announcements.

Class Participation and Attendance: Students should “claim their education” by participating in informed, critical discussions with their peers. A critical reading involves understanding the author’s main points, bringing your own ideas and concerns to the reading, and putting the article in dialogue with other scholars’ work. The success of this course depends on the active involvement of students. **Two absences are allowed without penalty.** Each additional absence will lead to a 10 point deduction from the participation grade. Students are responsible for attaining notes, assignments, and announcements.

Discussion Guidelines: The classroom is an important space for academic debate and thoughtful, critical engagement with the material. Students in our course come from a variety of backgrounds and experiences. This diversity of perspectives creates an exciting, active learning environment, but it can also lead to emotional and intellectual conflict. Our classroom should be a safe space for students to express their ideas without disrespecting, threatening, or silencing the voices of others.

Assignments:

WebCT Participation: Students will post one message per week on a reading (of their choice) assigned for the upcoming class. Postings can also bring in relevant current events, media representations, and outside readings. Postings are due before class. Late postings and make-ups will not be accepted. Students should post thoughtful, critical analysis of readings, including relevant questions. Postings should be approximately one paragraph and can be in response to other students’ postings.

Short Response Papers (3): In 2-3 pages, students will respond to selected readings. Responses should *briefly* outline the author’s main ideas, but should emphasize *your* ideas, questions, concerns, and evaluation of the argument. You may want to put this author in dialogue with others in the course, but this is not required. Papers should have a clear thesis statement indicating the direction of your response. Response papers will sometimes be used as a basis for class discussion. (Due 9/22, 10/13, 11/15)

Research Paper, Proposal and First Draft: Students will write a 10-15 page research paper on individually selected topics. Papers should integrate at least one theoretical reading from the course and 2-3 outside readings. Students must turn in a 1 page (max) topic proposal by October 18. The first draft should be at least 8 pages, and should be a well-organized, edited presentation of the main ideas and initial research. The draft is due on November 3.

Final Draft: Papers should demonstrate your ability to situate your topic and *your* ideas in the context of relevant scholarship. Evaluation will be based on critical thinking, depth of discussion, and organization and mechanics. Papers are due December 12 by 5:00 PM.

Papers should be concise and carefully edited. I recommend that every student take their paper to the campus writing center, but this is not required: <http://www.english.appstate.edu/writingctr.html>
M-F 8:30 - 4:30, lower level of library, call 262-3144 to make an appointment

Presentations:

Students will give short presentations on their research projects on the last three days of class (11/29, 12/1 and 12/6). I encourage you to be creative in your presentations, integrating music, performance, art, and/or other visuals. Presentations will help develop your public speaking skills and give you an audience for your hard work!

Academic Integrity:

As according to the University's Academic Integrity Policy, if you participate in lying, cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized assistance, stealing of academic materials, or multiple submissions without consent, you will be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs.

http://www.academicaffairs.appstate.edu/academic_integrity_code.pdf

Late Work Policy:

If you turn in work later than the required due date, you will be penalized one letter grade per day (this includes weekend days). Late work must be turned into my mailbox in the LLA Faculty Lounge.

Assignments will not be accepted via e-mail.

Students with Disabilities

Students who need accommodation for a disability should contact me as soon as possible to discuss specific needs. Self-identification is the only way to assure that the appropriate accommodation can be provided. The Office for Disability Services (ODS) can also be contacted to verify the need for accommodation and to discuss available services and support.

ODS: 222 D.D. Dougherty, 262-3053, <http://www.ods.appstate.edu/>

Grading Distribution and Scale:

Class participation	30 points	A	93-100%	C	73-76
Film Review	20 points	A-	90-92	C-	70-72
Response papers	45 points (3 at 15 each)	B+	87-89	D+	67-69
First draft	30 points	B	83-86	D	60- 66
Presentation	25 points	B-	80-82	F	below 60
Final paper	50 points	C+	77-79		

TOTAL **200 points**

Required Texts:

Smith, Barbara Ellen, ed. Neither Separate Nor Equal: Women, Race, and Class in the South. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1999.

Perdue, Theda. Cherokee Women. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1998.

Engelhardt, Elizabeth S.D., ed. beyond hill and hollow: Original Readings in Appalachian Women's Studies. Athens: Ohio University Press, 2005.

Course Packet: all articles available in PDF online for printing via WebCT.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments: (Instructor reserves the right to modify)

T 8/23 First Day of Class
<p>Introductions and review syllabus</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rich, Adrienne. "Claiming an Education" (WebCT)</p>
R 8/25 What is Appalachia?
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Frost, William Goodell. "Our Contemporary Ancestors in the Southern Mountains." (WebCT)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Shapiro, Henry D. "Appalachia On Our Mind." (WebCT)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Williams, John Alexander. "Appalachia: A History" (WebCT) (this discussion will continue Tues.)</p>
T 8/30 What is Appalachian Studies?
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Banks, Billings, and Tice. "Appalachian Studies, Resistance, and Postmodernism" (WebCT)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Smith, Barbara Ellen. "Walk-Ons in the Third Act." (WebCT)</p>
R 9/1 Who are Appalachian women?
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Smith, Barbara Ellen. "The Social Relations of Southern Women." (Smith)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Engelhardt, Elizabeth. "Creating Appalachian Women's Studies." (Engelhardt)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Williamson, J.W. "Hillbilly Gals" (skim) (WebCT)</p>
T 9/5 Feminist Theories of Difference
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Crenshaw, Kimberlé. "Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex:." (WebCT)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Lorde, Audre. "Age, Race, Class and Sex: Women Redefining Difference" (WebCT)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Frye, Marilyn. "Oppression" (WebCT)</p>
R 9/8 History: Cherokee Women
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Perdue, Theda. <u>Cherokee Women</u> (p 1-59)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Chrystos. "I Walk in the History of My People" (WebCT)</p>

T 9/13 History: Cherokee Women (CONVOCATION DAY – CLASSES RESUME AT 12:30!)

- Perdue, Theda. Cherokee Women (p 60-134)
- Greene, Joan. “Civilize the Indian: Government Policies, Quakers, and Cherokee Education.” (WebCT)

R 9/15 History: Cherokee Women

- Perdue, Theda. Cherokee Women (p 135-195)
- Torpy, Sally. “Native American Women and Coerced Sterilization.” (WebCT)

T 9/20 History: Slavery

- Dunaway, Wilma. “Diaspora, Death, and Sexual Exploitation.” (online)
- Beaver, Pat and Darlene Wilson. “Transgressions in Race and Place.” (Smith)
- Hayden, Wilburn Jr. “In Search of Justice: White Privilege in Appalachia” (WebCT)

R 9/22 Whiteness and Appalachia

- Barbara Ellen Smith. “De-gradations of Whiteness.” (WebCT)
- Patricia Beaver and Helen Lewis. “Uncovering the Trail of Ethnic Denial.” (WebCT)
- John Hartigan, Jr. “Name Calling.” (WebCT)

* Response Paper Due * (write about any article(s) due today)

T 9/27 History: What is Appalachian culture?

- Stoddart, Jess. “Mixing’ Larns Both Parties.” (skim) (WebCT)
- Alvic, Phyllis. “Foundations of the Appalachian Craft Revival” (skim) (WebCT)

R 9/29 History: What is Appalachian culture?

- Whisnant, David. “All That is Native and Fine.” (WebCT)
- Gray, Amy Tipton. “No Minority” (WebCT)

T 10/4 History: Labor

- Dunaway, Wilma. “The ‘Disremembered’ of the Antebellum South.”(online)
- Howe, Barbara. “Urban Wage Earning Women in a Rural State.”(Engelhardt)
- Weiner, Deborah. “Jewish Women in the Central Appalachian Coalfields.”(Engelhardt)

R 10/6 Labor

- Williamson, Celia. “Appalachian Women and Poverty.” (Engelhardt)
- Oberhauser, Ann and Anne-Marie Turnage. “A Coalfield Tapestry.” (Smith)
- Duff, Betty Parker “Stand By Your Man.” (Engelhardt)

T 10/11 NO CLASS

HAVE A GREAT FALL BREAK!!!

R 10/13 Welfare: Policy, Myths, and Realities

- Couto, Richard. "It Takes a Pillage: Women, Work, and Welfare." (WebCT)
- Williams, Patricia. "The Unbearable Autonomy of Being" (WebCT)
- Black, Edwin. "Mountain Sweeps." (WebCT)

* Response Paper Due * (write about any article(s) due today)

T 10/18 Labor and Globalization

- Gaventa, John. "From the Mountains to the *Maquiladoras*." (WebCT)
- Ansley, Fran and Susan Williams. "Southern Women and Southern Borders on the Move" (Smith)

* Topic Proposal Due *

R 10/20 Activism: Labor and Unions

- Maggard, Sally Ward. "Gender, Race, and Place: Confounding Labor Activism in Central Appalachia" (Smith)
- Bingman, Mary Beth. "Stopping the Bulldozers: What Difference Did It Make?" (WebCT)
- Hall, Betty Jean. "Women Miners Can Dig It, Too!" (WebCT)

T 10/25 Activism: Prisons in Appalachia

- Davis, Angela. "The Prison Industrial Complex" (WebCT)
- Davis, Angela and Cassandra Shaylor. "Race, Gender, and the Prison Industrial Complex." (WebCT)

Website "**Holler to the Hood**" (more info to come), Appalshop

R 10/27 No Class – Work on your first draft!

"Women in Appalachia Conference," Ohio University, Zanesville.

T 11/1 Domestic Violence

- Allison, Dorothy. "Mama" (WebCT)
- Willis, Stacey. "Recovering from My Own Little War" (WebCT)

Film: Shelter. Dir. Anne Lewis. Appalshop, 2001. (56 min)

R 11/3 Migration and Appalachian Identity

- Obermiller, Phillip et al. "Appalachian Odyssey." (WebCT)
- Torres, Nola Hadley. "Bringing My People Along." (Engelhardt)
- Bailey, Rebecca J. "I Never Thought of My Life as History." (WebCT)

* First Draft of Research Project Due *

T 11/8 Migration and Appalachian Identity

- Guy, Roger. "Identity, Pride, and a Paycheck:." (WebCT)
- Brooks, Shannon. "Coming Home: Finding My Appalachian Mothers Through Emma Bell Miles" (WebCT)
- Velázquez, Loida. "Finding a Voice: Latinas in the South." (Smith)

R 11/10 Queering Appalachia (choose two articles)

- Anglin, Mary. "Stories of AIDS in Appalachia" (WebCT)
- Clare, Eli. "The Mountain" (WebCT)
- Black, Kate and Marc A. Rhorer. "Out in the Mountains: Exploring Lesbian and Gay Lives" (WebCT)
- Segrest, Mab. "What's Sex Got to Do With It Y'All?" (Smith)

Film: Through Their Eyes: Gays and Lesbians in the Mountains. Dir. Danielle Burke et al. Appalshop, Appalachian Media Institute, 1999. (14 min)

T 11/15 Talking Back: Poetry and Literature

- Wilkinson, Crystal. "On Being Country: One Affrilachian Woman's Return Home" (WebCT)
- Deskins, David. "Effie Waller Smith" (Engelhardt)
- Jentsch, Nancy and Danny Miller. "Lighting the Fuse." (Engelhardt)

* Response Paper Due *

(Read 2-3 poems by an Affrilachian poet and write a 2-3 p. response.)

Film: Coal Black Voices. Donohue, Jean and Fred Johnson. Media Working Group, 2001. (56 min)

R 11/17 Talking Back: American Indian Women

- Duncan, Barbara. "Edna Chekelelee" (WebCT)
- Chekelelee, Edna. "Cherokee Language," "Mother Earth's Spring Dress," "Feathers" (WebCT)
- Chrystos. "I Am Not Your Princess" (WebCT)
- Smith, Andy. "For All Those Who Were Indian in a Former Life" (online)
- Cramblit, André. "Top 10 Things You Can Say to a White Person Upon First Meeting" (online)

T 11/22 Music as Resistance: The Blues

- Davis, Angela. "Blame It on the Blues" (WebCT)
 - Davenport, Doris. "A Candle for Queen Ida" (WebCT)
- Blues Listening (online and in class) (discuss folksong as resistance)

R 11/24 NO CLASS**University "Holiday"****T 11/29 , R 12/1, T 12/6**

* Presentation of Research Projects *

FINALS WEEK: M 12/12 Final Exam – Final Paper Due by 5:00