

**ANTH 344 - Gender, Race and Class**  
Fall 2008 – TR 9:30-10:45 - McComsey 204  
Office: Susquehanna 200  
email: carole.counihan@millersville.edu  
phone 872-3575, fax 872-3942

**Dr. Carole Counihan**

Office Hours: TuTh 11-12, 1:30-2:30  
F 11-12  
and by appointment

### Gender, Race and Class

This course is an upper-level general education “Perspectives” course and is also an elective in the anthropology and sociology majors and in the Women’s, Latino, and African American Studies minors. It is about the interconnected effects of gender, race and class on people in contemporary society. It aims to expand students' awareness of how structured systems of inequality work; how they affect people's health, life chances, self-concept, and material well being; and how they come to be accepted as "natural." The course aims not only to show the adverse effects of institutionalized inequality on subordinated people, but also its positive effects on people of privilege, and thus to show the connections between power and powerlessness, wealth and poverty, confidence and despair. We will examine the specific ways in which gender and class interact with racial/ethnic vectors in the lives of diverse native-born as well as immigrant Americans.

### Course Objectives

1. Students will learn facts about the political, economic, and social conditions of gender, race, class, and other forms of stratification
2. Students will learn interdisciplinary approaches to studying race, class, and gender groups.
3. Students will learn how to recognize and think critically about institutionalized forms of privilege, prejudice, and discrimination.
4. Students will develop their skills in oral and written communication.

### Required Books

Alexie, Sherman. 2005. The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fist-Fight in Heaven. New York: Harper Perennial. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.

Anderson, Margaret L. and Patricia Hill Collins. 2007. Race, Class, and Gender: An Anthology. 6th edition. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Beah, Ismael. 2007. A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier. New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux.

Behar, Ruth. 1997. The Vulnerable Observer: Anthropology that Breaks Your Heart. Boston: Beacon Press.

### Requirements

1. **Attend class faithfully (50 points).** Do the assigned readings by the day for which they are assigned, and be prepared to discuss them in class. You will get 2 points for each class attended on time but only 1 point for each class attended late (late = after I have taken attendance).

**2. Four reading annotations (10 points each, 40 points total).** You must show evidence of reading and digesting the assigned material by annotating your books or by taking notes. On four specified dates (9/4, 10/2, 10/21, 11/13) students will do a book annotation exercise in class. Failure to be in class without an authorized excuse will result in a zero.

**3. Five extracurricular events (10 points each, 50 points total).**

Attend 5 extra-curricular events (ECEs) on campus and hand in a one-page reaction paper to each within a week of attendance. Reaction papers should (1) summarize the **content** of the event and (2) discuss its **relevance** to the course. Events are listed on the syllabus; others will be announced in class and students are welcome to contribute information about relevant extra-curricular events. Unless you have a valid excuse not to attend, one of the events **must** be the talk by Ishmael Beah, author of A Long Way Gone, Mon, Sept 8, 7:30 PM Lyte Auditorium.

**4. Take Home final exam due Weds, Dec 10, 2:45 pm (50 points)**

**5. Write a “Gender, Race, and Class Life History” term paper (80 points).** Your paper will be based on a detailed life history interview with a willing subject about significant ways that gender, race, class, and other social identities have affected the subject’s life, opportunities, education, employment, health, relationships, and so on. Your paper should compare that subject to a character from Alexie, Beah or Behar’s books to show similarities and differences in their lives. Your paper should make thoughtful reference to at least four readings in Anderson and Collins to illuminate the experiences of your subject. It should be 7-10 pages (1200-3000 words), word-processed, double spaced. It is due on Tues, November 25.

Prior to handing in the paper, you will hand in two progress reports:

(1) a one-page research design that tells whom you will interview, the character you might compare him/her to, and the four readings that you think are relevant. It will contain a list of your interview questions. Due 10/16 (**10 points**).

(2) a two page data report where you summarize what you learned from the interview, list the key themes of your paper, define the character you will compare him/her to, describe the four readings you will cite and give an outline of the paper. Due 11/6 (**20 points**).

<b>Total points:</b>	<b>300</b>	A	270-300 (A- 270-84, A 285-300)
Class attendance	50	B	240-269 (B- 240-49, B 250-59, B+ 260-69)
4 annotations	40	C	210-239 (C- 210-19, C 220-29, C+ 230-39)
ECEs	50	D	180-209 (D- 180-89, D190-99, D+ 200-209)
Take home final	50	F	below 180
Term paper	80		
Research design	10		
Data report & outline	20		

## SYLLABUS

<u>date</u>	<u>topic &amp; assignment</u>
8/26	<b>course overview--gender, race, and class</b>
8/28	<b>privilege and race</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Bonilla-Silva, "Racism without the Racists" in A&amp;C #7</li><li>- McIntosh, "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack" in A&amp;C #8</li><li>- <u>A Long Way Gone</u> pp. 1-48</li></ul>
9/2	<b>racism</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Moore, "Racist stereotyping in the English Language " in A&amp;C #42</li><li>- "Why Race, Class, and Gender Still Matter" in A&amp;C pp. 1-16</li><li>- <u>A Long Way Gone</u> pp. 49-99</li></ul>
9/4	<b>perspectives</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Takaki, "A Different Mirror" in A&amp;C #4</li><li>- Frye, "Oppression" in A&amp;C #3</li><li>- <u>A Long Way Gone</u> pp. 100-151</li></ul> <p><b>* Annotation Exercise #1 (bring books and/or notes to class)</b></p>

*\*\* Mon, Sept 8, Ishmael Beah, author of A Long Way Gone, 7:30 PM Lyte Auditorium, Alumni Hall \*\**

9/9	<b>oppression</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Williams, "Of Race and Risk" in A&amp;C #9</li><li>- Lorde, "Age, Race, Class, &amp; Sex " in A&amp;C #6</li><li>- <u>A Long Way Gone</u> pp. 152-218</li></ul>
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*Tues Sept 9 Dr. Robert Bresler on Presidential elections during war, 7:00 PM Lehr Room, Gordinier Hall*

*Weds, September 10: FILM: Praying with Lior, 7:30 pm, Lyte Auditorium*

9/11	<b>oppression</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Ferber, "What White Supremacists Taught a Jewish Scholar" in A&amp;C #11</li><li>- Shapiro, "The Hidden Cost of Being African American" in A&amp;C #14</li></ul> <p><b>* Ishmael Beah reaction paper due</b></p>
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9/16	<b>oppression</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Arnott &amp; Matthaei, "Race, Class, Gender &amp; Women's Works" in A&amp;C #32</li><li>- Dill, "Our Mothers' Grief," in A&amp;C #37</li><li>- Start <u>Lone Ranger and Tonto</u></li></ul>
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*Tuesday, September 16: Lillian Escobar-Haskins, "Latinos in the Workforce: A Look at Local Trends." 7 pm Lehr*

*Weds, September 17: FILM: Chicago 10, 7:30 pm, Lyte Auditorium*

9/18	<b>oppression</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Burnham, "Welfare Reform, Family Hardship..." in A&amp;C #48</li><li>- Ross et al. "Just Choices" in A&amp;C #51</li><li>- <u>Lone Ranger and Tonto</u> first third</li></ul>
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- 9/23            **oppression in action**  
- Childs, “Navigating Interracial Borders” in A&C #38  
- Moss and Tilly, “‘Soft’ Skills and Race” in A&C #34  
- Continue Lone Ranger and Tonto

*Weds, Sept 24, M. Cookie Newsom, Ph.D., Sistahs and Sisters: Black Women: White Women - Acknowledging Differences, Seeking Common Ground 7:15 PM Lehr Room, Bolger Conference Center*

- 9/25            **Native American experience**  
- Snipp, “The First Americans: American Indians,” in A&C #52  
- Lone Ranger and Tonto second third

*Sun, Sept 28, The Complete History of America (abridged). The Election Year Edition by the Reduced Shakespeare Company a three-man comedy troupe. 7:00PM Lyte Auditorium, Alumni Hall*

- 9/30            **Native American experience**  
- Churchill, “Crimes Against Humanity,” in A&C #43  
- Continue Lone Ranger and Tonto

- 10/2            **Native American experience**  
- Trask, “From a Native Daughter” in A&C #5  
- Finish Lone Ranger and Tonto

**\* Annotation Exercise #2 (bring books and/or notes to class)**

*Thurs, Oct 2, The Fannie Lou Hammer Story: The Right to Vote performed by mZuri, 7:30 PM Reighard Multipurpose Room, SMC*

10/7            NO CLASS FALL BREAK

- 10/9            **Latinos in the U.S.**  
- Madrid, “Missing People and Others,” in A&C #1  
- Moraga, “La Güera,” in A&C #2  
- Alvarez, “A White Woman of Color” in A&C #19

*Thurs, Oct 9, Cooking with Soul - includes sample of soul food, 6:00 PM Reighard Multipurpose Room, SMC*

- 10/14           **Latinos in the U.S.**  
- Martinez, “Seeing More than Black and White” in A&C #10  
- Behar chapter 1 - “The Vulnerable Observer”

*Tues, Oct 14, Christie Lecture: John Hatch on Microcredit and microlending 7:00 PM Lyte Auditorium, Alumni Hall*

*Tues, October 14: Latino Food and Music, 4-8 pm in the SMC MPR.*

- 10/16           **Latinos in the U.S.**  
- Smith, “‘Mexicanness’ in New York” in A&C #25  
- Levitt, “Salsa and Ketchup” in A&C #24  
- Cofer, “The Myth of the Latin Woman” in A&C #45

**\* Research design due**

*Thurs, October 16: FILM: Ezra, 7 pm, Myers Auditorium*

*Thurs, Oct 16, Soulful Expressions, open mike with poet Shihan 7:00 PM Reighard Multipurpose Room, SMC*

*Fri, Oct 17, Worlds End: American Repertory Ballet World 7:30 PM Lyte Auditorium, Alumni Hall*

- 10/21           **Latinos in the U.S.**  
- Hondagneu-Sotelo, “Doméstica” in A&C #36  
- Behar chapter 3 - “My Mexican Friend Marta...”  
**\* Annotation Exercise #3 (bring books and/or notes to class)**

10/23           NO CLASS, TERRA MADRE

*Thurs, October 23: FILM: Road To Guantanamo, 7 pm, Myers Auditorium*

*Fri, Oct 24, CCERP Conference: Civic Engagement Conference at MU*

- 10/28           **sexuality and gender**  
- Kilbourne, “You Talkin’ to Me?” in A&C #27  
- Weston, “Straight is to Gay as Family is to No Family” in A&C #39  
- Gluckman and Reed, “Where has Gay Liberation Gone” in A&C #28

*Weds, Oct 29, The "History of Hip Hop," including the movie, "Beat Street" and a panel discussion. 6:30 PM Reighard Multipurpose Room, SMC*

*Wednesday, October 29, "Latino Entrepreneurship: A Panel Discussion with Latino Small Business Owners," 7 pm*

- 10/30           **sexuality and gender**  
- Katz, “The Invention of Heterosexuality” in A&C #31  
- West, “Black Sexuality: The Taboo Subject” in A&C #30

*Thurs, October 30: FILM: Returned: Child Soldiers of Nepal’s Maoist Army, 7 pm, Myers Aud*

- 11/4            ELECTION DAY  
**Disability and culture**  
- Block et al., “Race, Poverty, and Disability” in A&C #50  
- Gershick, “Towards a Theory of Disability and Gender” in A&C #21  
- Behar chapter 4 – “The Girl in the Cast”

- 11/6            **Class and U.S. culture**  
- Langston, “Tired of Playing Monopoly?” in A&C #15  
- Sklar, “Growing Gulf between the Rich and the Rest...” in A&C #12  
- Brown, “The Indignities of Unemployment” in A&C #33

**\* Data report due**

*Thurs, November 6: FILM: Rain in a Dry Land, 7 pm, Myers Auditorium*

*Fri, Nov 7-Sun Nov 16, Italian American Reconciliation, a play by John Patrick Shanley, 8:00PM Rafters Theatre, Dutcher Hall*

- 11/11           **Class and U.S. culture**  
- Collins, “Aid to Dependent Corporations” in A&C #49  
- Halbfinger and Holmes, “Military Mirrors Working Class America” in A&C 54  
- Newman, “The Invisible Poor” in A&C #35

*Tuesday, November 11, Rick Kearns, "No Longer Waiting for Justice/The Rise and Return of Indigenous Latin America," 7 pm in Lehr, Bolger conf center*

- 11/13           **Ethnicity and migration.**  
- Rubin, “Is This a White Country or What?” in A&C #22  
- Waters, “Optional Ethnicities: For Whites Only?” in A&C #23  
- Behar chapter 5 – “Going to Cuba”

**\* Annotation Exercise #4 (bring books and/or notes to class)**

*Thurs, November 13: FILM: Child Soldiers in Sierra Leone, 7 pm, Reighard Multipurpose Room SMC*

*Saturday, November 15: Cafe Latino: Open Mic and Music in the Cafe de 'Ville, 8 - 12*

- 11/18           **Asian-Americans in the U.S.**  
- Sayeed, “Chappals and Gym Shorts” in A&C #41  
- Kibria, “Migration and Vietnamese American Women,” in A&C #26  
- Espiritu, “Ideological Racism and Cultural Resistance” in A&C #18

11/20           NO CLASS – AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION CONF

- 11/25           **Life history and race, class and gender**  
**\* “Gender, race and class Life History” paper due**

11/27           NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING

- 12/2           **Transformation and transcendence**  
- Asetoyer, “From the Ground Up,” in A&C #63  
- Kivel, “What Does an Ally Do?” in A&C #65  
- Jamila, “Can I Get a Witness” in A&C #66

*Weds, Dec 3, Kwanzaa at Millersville 7:00 PM Reighard Multipurpose Room, SMC*

- 12/4           **Transformation & transcendence**  
- Anner, “How the New Working class can transform...” in A&C #62  
- Krauss, “Women of Color on the Front Line,” in A&C #59

Final Exam Period: Weds, December 10, 2:45-4:45 pm

**\* Take home final due**