



## **Introduction to Gender Studies: Perspectives and concepts**

Introduktion till genusstudier: perspektiv och begrepp

**Credit points:** 7,5

**Responsible department:** Umeå Centre for Gender Studies

**Main field of study:** Gender Studies

**Level:** PhD Studies

**Subject area:** Gender Studies

**Grading scale:** Pass (G); Fail (U)

### **Course approval**

The course syllabus has been confirmed by the Director of Umeå Centre for Gender Studies on May 17, 2022 and is valid from autumn semester of 2022.

### **Aim and Contents**

The course introduces classic and contemporary perspectives and concepts in Gender Studies, and explores tensions and diverging lines between different approaches to gender and power. The readings, together with lectures and discussions, will engage with how gender relates to, for example, sex, bodies, sexuality, coloniality, violence and work. Through the specific method of empathic reading this course focuses on reading, understanding and interpreting central themes in the course literature.

### **Expected learning outcomes**

Upon the completion of the course the PhD student should:

#### Knowledge and understanding

- Account for central concepts and perspectives within Gender Studies.
- Understand how gender relates to, for example, sex, bodies, sexuality, coloniality, violence and work.

#### Skills and abilities

- Be able to both verbally and in writing identify and discuss diverging lines between different Gender Studies perspectives.
- Through reading protocols be able to summarize main ideas and arguments in the course literature.

#### Judgement and approach

- Be able to independently problematise different understandings of gender and power.
- Be able to analytically discuss how central perspectives and concepts in Gender Studies relate to the doctoral student's own research project.

### **Form of instruction and examination modes**

The learning outcomes are examined through compulsory seminars, active participation, and seminar preparation (including reading protocols), as well as through an individually written assignment at the end of the course.

The course is given through lectures and seminars. The course is given in English. The final paper can be written in either English or Swedish, Danish and Norwegian.

### **Literature**

Abu-Lughod, L. (2003) "Do Muslim women really need saving? Anthropological reflections on Cultural relativism and its Others." *American Anthropologist*, Vol. 104, No. 3. pp. 783-790.

Acker, J. (2006) Inequality Regimes: Gender, class and race in organizations, *Gender & Society* Vol. 20, No. 4.

Boyle, K. (2019). What's in a name? Theorising the inter-relationships of gender and violence. *Feminist Theory*, 20(1), 19-36.

Butler, J. (1998). "Subjects of Sex/Gender/Desire." In Sandra. Kemp and Judith. Squires (Eds): *Feminisms*, pp. 278–85. New York: Oxford University Press.

Crenshaw, K. (1990). Mapping the margins: Intersectionality, identity politics, and violence against women of color. *Stan. L. Rev.*, 43, 1241.

Foucault, M. (1982). The subject and power. *Critical inquiry*, 8(4), 777-795.

Fraser, Nancy (2016) Contradictions of capital and care. *New Left Review*. Retrieved from: <https://newleftreview.org/issues/ii100/articles/nancy-fraser-contradictions-of-capital-and-care>

García-Moreno, C., Zimmerman, C., Morris-Gehring, A., Heise, L., Amin, A., Abrahams, N., ... & Watts, C. (2015). Addressing violence against women: a call to action. *The Lancet*, 385(9978), 1685-1695.

Jagose, A. (1996). *Queer theory: An introduction*. New York University Press. Pages 1-6 and 72-92.

MacKinnon, C. A. (1982). Feminism, Marxism, method, and the state: An agenda for theory. *Signs: Journal of women in culture and society*, 7(3), 515-544.

Norlander, K. (2013). Empathetic reading. In Lundberg, A & Werner, A (Eds): *Gender Studies Education and Pedagogy*. pp. 10-13.

Oudshoorn, N., & Van Den Wijngaard, M. (1991). Dualism in biology: The case of sex hormones. In *Women's Studies International Forum* (Vol. 14, No. 5, pp. 459-471). Pergamon.

Riska, E. (2010). Gender and medicalization and biomedicalization theories. In Clarke, A. E., Shim, J. K., Mamo, L., Fosket, J. R., & Fishman, J. R. (Eds): *Biomedicalization: Technoscience, health, and illness in the US*. pp. 147-170.

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy. (2008). Feminist Perspectives on Power. Retrieved from:  
<https://stanford.library.sydney.edu.au/archives/fall2008/entries/feminist-power/#radi>.

Staunæs, D. (2003). Where have all the subjects gone? Bringing together the concepts of intersectionality and subjectification. *NORA: Nordic journal of women's studies*, 11(2), 101-110.

*Texts may be added. Maximum. 100 pages.*

#### Reference literature

Cannon, C., Lauve-Moon, K., & Buttell, F. (2015). Re-theorizing intimate partner violence through post-structural feminism, queer theory, and the sociology of gender. *Social Sciences*, 4(3), 668-687.

Carbin, M., & Edenheim, S. (2013). The intersectional turn in feminist theory: A dream of a common language?. *European Journal of Women's Studies*, 20(3), 233-248.

Mansfield, N. (2000). *Subjectivity: Theories of the self from Freud to Haraway*: NYU Press.