

GNDR 301

Women, Race and Empire

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The University of Victoria, Department of Gender Studies
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GNDR 301 Women, Race, and Empire

Contact info:

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Course Description:

This course looks at how ideas of “womanhood” and “femininities” in relation to “manhood” and “masculinities” shaped the complicated intersection of bodies, race, and power in the unfolding of European colonialism. The course will study how these ideas of “proper” manhood and womanhood not only shaped colonial cultural and political contexts but still are an integral part of contemporary life, influencing how we understand race and gender which in turn shapes how we treat racialized people in our societies. We will use academic readings as well as popular memoirs by Fatima Mernissi and Fadela Amara to understand gender and empire. These readings will be supported by feature films, podcasts, and media clips.

Key Readings for course:

Clancy-Smith, Julia and Frances Gouda. Eds. *Domesticating the Empire*. Charlottetown: University of Virginia Press, 1998.

Amara, Fadela (with Sylvia Zappi). 2006. *Breaking the Silence: French Women’s Voices from the Ghetto*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

Mernissi, Fatema. 2001. *Scheherazade Goes West*. New York: Washington Square Press.

Evaluation: In this course you will be evaluated on your on line participation in discussion forums/blogs, as well as submitting 2 short essays dealing with issues brought up in the readings and one final take home exam.