

**WS 456: Men and Masculinity in US Culture  
Spring 2017**

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**Office: 721 J Saunders Hall**  
**Office Hours: Tuesday 12:30 – 1:00,**  
**Thursday 2:45 – 3:15, or by appointment**  
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**Course Objectives:**

In this course we will examine how American ideas and ideals of manhood have been constructed at the intersection of gender, race, class, sexuality, and nationality. Focusing on men and masculinities in American nation- and empire-building since the late nineteenth century, the course will explore the following questions: (a) what roles culture, politics, and history play in shaping the lives of American men; (b) how men's lives and experiences vary according to race, class, sexuality, and nationality; (c) how the notion of masculinity informs major historical events such as war, militarization, and imperial expansion; and (d) how American ideas and practices associated with masculinity travel beyond the borders to impact men's lives in other regions and cultures. The course will introduce students to various debates in Women's Studies, Men's Studies, Sociology, Race and Ethnic Studies, Colonial and Post-colonial studies, and Global Studies and provide opportunities to develop interdisciplinary perspectives on masculinity, power, race, nation, and globalization.

The course is designed for WS majors, certificate students, and/or those who have taken several upper-level women's studies courses and who are interested in deepening their analysis of gender studies and feminist politics from historical and global perspectives.

**Textbooks:**

*Reading Packet:*

Please purchase *WS456 Reading Packet* available at MaPS, Castle Memorial Annex, College of Education, UHM. For the location of MaPS, please check the link below:

<http://manoa.hawaii.edu/crdg/curriculum-materials/maps/contact-us/>

**Requirements:**

*Required Reading and Class Participation:* Regular attendance and active participation in class activities are crucial for your success. You must come to class regularly, keep up with reading assignments, share your thoughts and observations in small- and larger-group discussions, and take good notes. I will take attendance every time we meet. Missing 3 – 4 class periods will subtract 5 points from your class participation grade. Missing 5 – 7 class periods will result in forfeiting the entire 10 points of your class participation grade. If you miss 8 or more sessions, you will fail this course. If you arrive late (by 15

minutes or more) or leave early (any time before a session is over), you forfeit class attendance for that day. If you miss a session for valid reasons (medical, familial, and others), please submit a written documentation in person within a week following your absence. Phone calls and email communications are not accepted for this purpose. For additional information regarding class room conduct, please see below. [10 points]

*Mid-term and Final Exam:* You will have one mid-term exam during the seventh week of the semester and one final exam during the final exam week. If you fail to take either or both of the exams, you will not pass this course. [50 points x 2 = 100 points]

*Research Project and Presentation:* You are required to form a group and pursue a small-scale research project on issues related to this course. You will present your research findings in class (20 minutes) and write a 5 - 7 page report. Possible topics include:

- |              |             |                             |
|--------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| * Mass Media | * Military  | * Physical/Athletic Culture |
| * Education  | * Sexuality | * Music                     |
| * Government | * Family    | * Tourism                   |

Your report should include the following information: (a) the overall question/theme of your group research; (b) the findings of your own research as well as others members'; (c) the relation between your group research and the course content; (d) any new analytical/theoretical insights derived from the research project. Your report is due on the day of your presentation. No late submission is accepted. If you fail to fulfill any portion of this requirement, you will not pass this course. [30 points]

*Extra Credit Options:* You can attend up to three public lectures and events on campus that are relevant to this course, and write brief reports (no more than two pages; typed and double spaced). Each report will be due within a week of a given event. Your report should include (a) the title, date, location, and speakers of the event, (b) a brief summary of its content, and (c) your reactions. If your report is of a satisfactory quality, you will receive two points.

### ***Classroom Conduct Policies:***

In WS439, we strive to create a learning space in which we collectively engage with each other to pursue critical thinking and productive discussions. Toward that end, please keep in mind the following requirements:

a) Please approach the instructor and other members of the class with courtesy and respect. Your effort toward creating a learning environment that is professional, respectful, and productive is not only appreciated but considered essential. Please engage in the types of behaviors and interactions befitting a space of higher learning.

b) Please refrain from consuming food in class. It is distracting to the instructor and other students. Please also refrain from the kinds of activities that have no relation to learning (examples; smoking electronic cigarettes; working on hair and nails; chewing gum).

c) Please refrain from any use of cellular phones or other electronic communication device in class. If you fail to comply with this requirement, you must leave and forfeit class attendance for that day.

d) You may use a computer to take notes, yet please limit your use to that purpose alone. If you fail to comply with this requirement, you must leave and forfeit class attendance for that day.

e) Please be punctual. If you arrive late (by 15 minutes or more) or leave early (any time before a session is over), you forfeit class attendance for that day. If you have valid reason(s) to arrive late or leave early, please communicate the reason(s) to the instructor in a timely, reasonable manner.

f) Please keep up with your reading and other assignments listed in the syllabus. Your active participation in class depends on your critical engagement with reading and other materials in advance. Please remember that your timely completion of assignments constitutes a key to your success in this class.

**Final Grade:**

Class participation	10 points
Mid-term Exam	50 points
Final Exam	50 points
Research & Presentation	30 points
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Total	140 points



**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

**1. Why Study Men?**

**Week 1**

**January 10: Introduction**

**January 12: Introduction**

- The National Organization for Men against Sexism, "Statement of Principles" in Michael Kimmel and Michael Messner eds., *Men's Lives*, 8th edition, Pearson, 2004.
- Raewyn Connell, "Change Among the Gatekeepers: Men, Masculinities, and Gender Equality in the Global Arena" in Michael Kimmel and Michael Messner eds, *Men's Lives*, 9th edition, Pearson, 2013.

## Week 2

### **January 17: Thinking about Masculinity and Femininity**

- Michael Kimmel, "Introduction" in *Men's Lives*, 9th edition.
- Raewyn Connell, "The Social Organization of Masculinity" in C. J. Pascoe and Tristan Bridges eds, *Exploring Masculinities: Identity, Inequality, Continuity, and Change*, Oxford University Press, 2016.
- Film: Excerpts from "Michael Kimmel on Gender"

### **January 19: Thinking about Masculinity and Femininity (cont'd)**

- Michael Kimmel, "The Cult of Masculinity: American Social Character and the Legacy of the Cowboy" in *The History of Men: Essays on the History of American and British Masculinities*, State University of New York Press, 2005.

## Week 3

### **January 24: Hegemonic Masculinity**

- Michael Kaufman, "The Construction of Masculinity and the Triad of Men's Violence" in Michael Kimmel and Michael Messner eds., *Men's Lives*, 4th edition, Allyn and Bacon, 1998.
- Film: Excerpts from "Tough Guise 2: Violence, Manhood and American Culture"

### **January 26: Hegemonic Masculinity (cont'd)**

- James Messerschmidt, "Masculinities as Structured Action" in *Exploring Masculinities*.
- Michael Messner, "On Patriarchs and Losers: Rethinking Men's Interests" in *Exploring Masculinities*.

## **2. Intersectionality of Race and Gender**

## Week 4

### **January 31: Race and Masculinity I**

- Byron Hurt, "Daytona Beach: Beyond Beats and Rhymes" in Shira Tarrant ed., *Men Speak Out: Views on Gender, Sex and Power*, Routledge Press, 2008.

- Film: "Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes"

### **February 2: Race and Masculinity I (cont'd)**

- Ronald Weitzer and Charis Kubrin, "Misogyny in Rap Music: A Content Analysis of Prevalence and Meanings" in *Men's Lives*, 9th edition.
- Preview "Barack and Curtis: Examining Black Masculinity" by Byron Hurt, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5YoS3bqk5g>

### **Week 5**

### **February 7: Race and Masculinity II**

- Ty Tengan and Jesse Markham, "Performing Polynesian Masculinities in American Football: From 'Rainbows to Warriors'" in *The International Journal of the History of Sports*, Volume 26, Issue 16, 2009.
- Assignment: Please watch the film, "In Football We Trust," on reserve at the Sinclair Library. For the information on the film, please check the following PBS web site: <http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/films/in-football-we-trust/>

### **February 9: Race and Masculinity II (cont'd)**

- April Henderson, "Fleeting Substantiality: The Samoan Giant in US Popular Culture" in *The Contemporary Pacific*, Volume 23, No. 2, 2011.

### **Week 6**

### **February 14: Race and Masculinity III**

- Yen Le Espiritu, "All Men Are Not Created Equal: Asian Men in US History" in *Men's Lives*, 9th edition.
- Film: Excerpts from "The Slanted Screen"

### **February 16: Race and Masculinity III (cont'd)**

- Mire Koikari, "Japanese Eyes, American Heart: Politics of Race, Nation, and Masculinity in Japanese American Veterans' WWII Narratives" in *Journal of Men and Masculinities*, Volume 12, Number. 5, 2010

- Film: Excerpts from “Looking Like the Enemy”

### Week 7

**February 21: Catch Up and Review**

**February 23: Exam 1**

## **3. Nation, Empire, and Masculinity**

### Week 8

**February 28: Empire and Masculinity I**

- R. W. Connell, “Globalization, Imperialism, and Masculinities” in Michael Kimmel, Jeff Hearn, and R. W. Connell eds, *Handbook of Studies on Men and Masculinities*, Sage Publications, 2005.
- Film: Excerpts from “To Conquer or Redeem: Manifest Destiny”

**March 2: Empire and Masculinity I (cont'd)**

- Gail Bederman, “Remaking Manhood through Race and ‘Civilization’” in *Manliness and Civilization: A Cultural History of Gender and Race in the United States, 1880 – 1917*, The University of Chicago Press, 1995.

### Week 9

**March 7: Empire and Masculinity I (cont'd)**

- Gail Bederman, “Theodore Roosevelt as Western Ranchman” in *Manliness and Civilization*.
- Film: Excerpts from “To Conquer or Redeem: Manifest Destiny”

**March 9: Empire and Masculinity I (cont'd)**

- Michael Kimmel, “Men’s Responses to Feminism at the Turn of the Century” in *The History of Men*.

### Week 10

**March 14: Empire and Masculinity II**

- David Stannard, “The Massie Case: Injustice and Courage” in *The Honolulu Advertiser*, Sunday, October 14, 2001.

- Film: “Massie Affair”

### **March 16: Empire and Masculinity II (cont’d)**

- Jane Desmond, “Surfers and ‘Beachboys’: Euro-American Representations of Native Hawaiian Men and Interracial Romance” in *Staging Tourism: Bodies on Display from Waikiki to Sea World*, The University of Chicago Press, 1999.
- Assignment: Please bring 2 – 3 items that show images of indigenous men in Hawai‘i and/or the Pacific. In what ways do they reveal mainstream assumptions of race, gender, and sexuality attached to indigenous men’s bodies?

### **Week 11:**

### **March 21: Empire and Masculinity II (cont’d)**

- Isaiah Walker, “Colonial Violence and Hawaiian Resistance” in *Waves of Resistance: Surfing and History in Twentieth-Century Hawaii*, University of Hawaii Press, 2011.
- Film: Excerpts from “White Wash”

### **March 23: Empire and Masculinity II (cont’d)**

- Isaiah Walker, “Hui Nalu, Outrigger, and Waikiki Beachboys” in *Waves of Resistance*.

### **Week 12**

**March 28: Spring Break – No Class**

**March 30: Spring Break – No Class**

### **Week 13**

### **April 4: Empire and Masculinity III**

- Teresia Teaiwa, “Globalizing and Gendered Forces: The Contemporary Militarization of Pacific/Oceania” in Kathy Ferguson and Monique Mironesco eds., *Gender and Globalization in Asia and the Pacific: Method, Practice, Theory*, University of Hawaii Press, 2008.
- Film: Excerpts from “The Insular Empire”

**April 6: Empire and Masculinity III (cont'd)**

- Greg Dvorak, “‘The Martial Islands’: Making Marshallese Masculinities between American and Japanese Militarism” in *The Contemporary Pacific*, Volume 20, Number 1, 2008.

**Week 14**

**April 11: Empire and Masculinity III (cont'd)**

- George Lewis, “From Minnesota Fat to Seoul Food: Spam in America and the Pacific Rim” in *The Journal of Popular Culture*, Volume 34, Issue 2, 2000.

**April 13: Empire and Masculinity IV**

- Cynthia Enloe, “Masculinity, Oil, War, Torture” in *Left Business Observer*, July 2004.
- Film: “Ghosts of Abu Ghraib”

**Week 15**

**April 18: Empire and Masculinity IV (cont'd)**

- Michael Kimmel, “Gender, Class, and Terrorism” in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, February 8, 2002.
- Cynthia Enloe, “Wielding Masculinity Inside Abu Ghraib” in *Men’s Lives*, 9th edition.
- Anne McClintock, “Paranoid Empire: Specters from Guantanamo and Abu Ghraib” in *Small Axe*, Volume 13, Number 1, 2009.

**April 20: Group Presentations**

**Week 16**

**April 25: Group Presentations**

**April 27: Group Presentations**

**Week 17**

**May 2: Summary and Review for Exam 2**

**\*Final Exam: TBA\***