Gender and Law
Seattle University School of Law
Spring 2018
Prof. Dean Spade

Course Description
This course examines how gender categories and norms are constructed in and enforced by law. Course materials engage an intersectional approach, analyzing how gender norms are co-constituted with other categories such as race, nation, and ability. The course will look at how systems of law enforcement, including criminal and immigration enforcement, produce gendered surveillance, confinement and violence. We will use interdisciplinary materials to ask how various scholars and social movements have understood law as both a site of the enforcement of coercive gender systems and as a potential tool of resistance to such systems.

Week 1
(January 14, 16)

Week 2
(January 23) (Jan. 21 classes cancelled for MLK Day)


Week 3
(January 28, 30)

Excerpts from This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color, eds. Cherrie Moraga and Gloria Anzaldúa (Albany: State University of New York Press, 2015):

Barbara Cameron, “Gee, You Don’t Seem Like an Indian From the Reservation”
Audre Lorde, “The Master’s Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master’s House”
Combahee River Collective, “A Black Feminist Statement”
Pat Parker, “Revolution: It’s Not Neat or Pretty or Quick”
Optional:

Cherríe Moraga, “La Güera”
Mitsuye Yamada, “Invisibility Is an Unnatural Disaster: Reflections of an Asian American Woman”

Week 4
(Feb 4,6)
Danielle L. McGuire, At the Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Rape, and Resistance, Prologue and Chapters 2, 3, 7, and 8.

Week 5
(February 11, 13)
http://issuu.com/undergroundsketchbook/docs/blackwomenmatteronline

Week 6
(February 20) (Feb 18 Classes Cancelled for Presidents’ Day)

Week 7
(February 25, 27)

Week 8
(March 4, 6)
Emi Koyama, “Understanding the Complexities of Sex Trade/Work and Trafficking” zine, excerpts:

- “The Anti-Trafficking Movement and the Betrayal of Street Youth by the Social Service Industrial Complex,”
- “Youth in the Sex Trade: How Understanding Push & Pull Factors Can Better Inform Public Policy.”

Week 9
(March 11, 13)

Excerpts from Kim, Meiners, Petty, Petty, Richie and Ross, eds. The Long Term: Resisting Life Sentences, Working Toward Freedom:

- “Do We Want Justice or Do We Want Punishment?” A Conversation about Carceral Feminism between Rachel Caidor, Shira Hassan, Deana Lewis, and Beth E. Richie”
- Boneta-Marie Mabo, “The Longest Long Term: Colonization and Criminalization of First Nations’ Land and Bodies”
- Victory Law, “Against Carceral Feminism”
- Mariame Kaba, “Circles of Grief, Circles of Healing”
- Janaé E. Bonsu, “Fund Black Futures as an Abolitionist Demand”
- Rachel Herzing and Erica R. Meiners, “Meditations on Abolitionist Practices, Reformist Moments”


Week 10
(March 25, 27)


Week 11
(April 1, 3)


Week 12
(April 8, 10)

Week 13
(April 15, 17)
Eithne Luibheid, Entry Denied: Controlling Sexuality at Border, p. 77-146 (2002).

Week 14
(April 22, 24)

Week 15
(April 29, May 1)