

HIST/WMNS 951
GRADUATE SEMINAR
COMPARATIVE HISTORY OF WOMEN AND GENDER

Women, Gender, and Empire
Dr. Margaret Jacobs

Spring 2018
Tuesdays, 3:30-6
638 Oldfather Hall

This class will study the history of women, gender, and empire in comparative perspective. Key issues will include: “the intimacies of empire,” including interracial sex and marriage, childrearing, and domestic service in colonial settings; the role of western/white women in colonization; masculinity and empire; changes in Indigenous gender systems with colonization; colonization of “the body;” the colonial control of sexuality and reproduction; the concern with hygiene and the role of science and medicine in colonization and empire; modernity, gender, and empire; and imperial representations of Indigenous women and gender. The course will compare several key sites of colonialism in the world, including North America, Australia, Indonesia, parts of Africa, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines. No prior knowledge of any of these areas of the world is required. This course counts as a comparative thematic seminar in the History graduate program and toward the graduate specialization in Women’s and Gender Studies for non-History students.

Course Objectives:

- To inquire into how agents of colonialism gained and maintained power over colonized populations
- To examine how colonized populations interacted with, made sense of, resisted, and/or adapted to colonial influences
- To explore the development of new social and cultural forms that grew out of colonial encounters
- To integrate gender into the study of empire and colonialism, and to bring insights from colonial and postcolonial studies to the study of gender
- To deepen students’ knowledge of major issues, debates, and themes in the study of gender and empire
- To develop a comparative and global framework for the study of history
- To promote the ability to critically evaluate and engage with primary historical sources
- To enhance student’s oral communication skills
- To cultivate students’ writing skills
- To create a classroom intellectual community that fosters respect for one another's perspectives and promotes creative thinking