

Tel Aviv University  
The Lester & Sally Entin Faculty of Humanities  
The Department of English and American Studies  
סיפורת וגבריות בארה"ב – 0626465601 – Fictions of Masculinity in the U.S.  
סמסטר א' תשע"ט 2018-19 Fall Semester

**This seminar will explore the growing field of masculinity studies in the context of American culture and history. The first part of the semester will be devoted to a critical examination of some theories about masculinity originating from men's studies, feminist theory, psychoanalytical thought, and cultural studies. Topics will include: the masculinity/femininity binary, relations between men, the father-son plot, masculinity in relation to emotion and violence, and the male body. In the subsequent parts, we will trace the development of fictions of masculinity in the US, from the Early Republic to the present.**

### **Requirements**

**Participation** - The students' active participation is absolutely vital for the success of this seminar. Students are required to come to every meeting, to come on time, and (most importantly) to come prepared to participate in discussion. Students are also expected to log into our website on a regular basis to check for updates. A student who has to miss a class is required to notify me, when possible in advance.

**Weekly Assignments** - For each meeting, I will post in advance in the syllabus below an assignment to be completed before class. The assignment will be based on the reading for the following meeting, and will take a different form each time: in some cases, I will ask you to hand in a short written response; in other cases I will ask you to post something in the discussion forum, or prepare a small presentation for the class. These assignments will intensify the preparation for class discussion, and will help pave the way for the final paper project. You are expected to complete all of these assignments, and because the point is preparation for discussion in advance, no late assignments will be accepted. The weekly assignments combined with your participation in discussion will account for 40% of the final grade.

**Final Paper** - Students will write a final referat paper at the conclusion of this seminar. The paper will be about twelve pages long. It will propose an original argument about one or more texts, present this argument coherently and logically, and use both close reading of the text(s) and secondary sources to support it. Every paper should include a "works cited" list of sources, which would ideally include theoretical as well as critical material. It should use the MLA (parenthetical) style of citation, not the footnote style. It should look like an article in a scholarly journal, not be broken down into chapters or begin with a table of contents. Students will submit their topic in writing before the end of the semester. If you wish to submit a seminar paper for this course, please discuss this with me before the semester is over. The paper you submit will account for 60% of final grade.

**Contact details:** Prof. Milette Shamir | Office Hours: Sundays 14:00-15:00 Webb 519 | [mshamir@post.tau.ac.il](mailto:mshamir@post.tau.ac.il)

## **SCHEDULE:**

### **Part One: Theoretical Inquiries**

#### **October 17: Men, Masculinity, and the Male Body**

##### **Required reading:**

- Jeff Hearn. "[Men, Masculinity and Masculinities.](#)" In *Gender: Key Concepts*, ed. by Mary Evans and Carolyn H. Williams. New York: Routledge, 2013. 149-156.
- Susan Bordo. "[Hard and Soft.](#)" *The Male Body: A New Look at Men in Public and in Private*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1999. 36-68.

##### **Recommended reading:**

- R. W. Connell. "Men's Bodies." *Masculinities*. Berkeley: U. of California Press, 2005. 45-67.
- Anne Fausto-Sterling. "[How to Build a Man.](#)" In *Constructing Masculinity*, ed. Maurice Berger et al. New York: Routledge, 1995. 127-34.
- Dafna Joel, TED talk.

#### **October 24: Fathers and Sons**

##### **Required reading:**

- Sigmund Freud. "[The Ego and the Ego Ideal.](#)" *The Ego and the Id* (Standard Edition). New York: Norton, 1990. 34-53.
- Sigmund Freud. From *Totem and Taboo* (Standard Edition). New York: Norton, 1990. 140-161.

##### **Recommended reading:**

- Kaja Silverman. "The Dominant Fiction." *Male Subjectivity on the Margins*. New York: Routledge, 1992. 15-51.
- Homi K. Bhabha. "Are You a Man or a Mouse?" In *Constructing Masculinity*, ed. Maurice Berger et al. New York: Routledge, 1995. 57-68.

#### **October 31: Men "vs." Women?**

##### **Required reading:**

- Nancy Chodorow. "Being and Doing: A Cross-Cultural Examination of Socialization of Males and Females." *Feminism and Psychoanalytic Theory*. New Haven: Yale UP, 1991. 23-44.
- R. W. Connell. "The Social Organization of Masculinity." *Masculinities*. Cambridge, UK: Polity, 1995. 67-86.

### Recommended reading:

- Demetrakis Z. Demetriou. "Connell's Concept of Hegemonic Masculinity: A Critique." *Theory and Society* 30 (2001): 337-361.
- Isaac D. Balbus. "Masculinity and the [M]other: Toward a synthesis of Feminist Mothering Theory and Psychoanalytic Theories of Narcissism." In *Masculinity Studies and Feminist Theory: New Directions*, ed. Judith Kegan Gardiner. New York: Columbia UP, 2002. 210-34.
- Catherine Keller. *From a Broken Web: Separation, Sexism, and Self*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1988.
- Jessica Benjamin. "Gender and Domination." *The Bonds of Love*. New York: Pantheon, 1988. 183-218.

## November 7 - Between Men

### Required reading:

- Judith Butler. "Gender Melancholy/Refused Identification." In *Constructing Masculinity*. 21-36.
- Eve Sedgwick. From *Between Men: English Literature and Male Homosocial Desire*. New York: Columbia UP, 1985.1-5, 21-27.

### Recommended reading:

- Todd W. Reeser. "Social Masculinity and Triangulation." *Masculinities in Theory: An Introduction*. Malden: Blackwell, 2010. 55-71.
- Carol Pateman. "The Fraternal Social Contract." In *The Masculinity Studies Reader*, ed. Rachel Adams and David Savran. Malden: Blackwell, 2002. 119-134.

## Part Two: Self-Made Men

### November 14 - Early Paradigms

#### Required reading:

- Benjamin Franklin. From *Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin* (1793).

- J. Hector St. John de Crevecoeur. From *Letters from an American Farmer* (1782).'
- Washington Irving. "Rip Van Winkle" (1819-20).
- Michael Kimmel. "The Birth of the Self-Made Man" and "Born to Run" (chapters 1-2). *Manhood in America: A Cultural History*. New York: Free Press, 1996. Free Press, 1996.

### Recommended reading:

- Anne Lombard. Introduction and Epilogue. *Making Manhood: Growing Up Male in Colonial New England*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard UP, 2003.
- Milette Shamir. "Manhood and the Early American Novel." In *The Cambridge History of the American Novel*, ed. Leonard Cassutto et al. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2011.
- Evan Carton. "What Feels an American?" *Boys Don't Cry? Rethinking US Narratives of Masculinity and Emotion*, ed. by Milette Shamir and Jennifer Travis. New York: Columbia UP, 2003.
- David Leverenz. "Three Ideologies of Manhood." *Manhood and the American Renaissance*. Ithaca: Cornell UP, 1989.
- Michael Rogin. "Revolutionary Fathers." *Fathers and Children: Andrew Jackson and the Subjugation of the American Indian*. New Brunswick, N.J.: Transaction Publishers, 1991 [1975].
- Jay Fliegelman. *Prodigals and Pilgrims: The American Revolution against the Patriarchal Authority*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1982.
- Nina Baym. "Melodramas of Beset Manhood: How Theories of American Fiction Exclude Women Authors." In *The New Feminist Criticism: Essays on Women, Literature and Theory*, ed. Elaine Showalter. New York: Pantheon, 1985. 62-80.

## November 21 - Racial Fraternity, Racial Violence (I)

Visiting scholar: Prof. Michael Zakim (history department, TAU)

### Required reading:

- James Fenimore Cooper. *The Deerslayer* (1841), chapters 7, 27-30 (summary of the full plot can be found in [here](#)).
- Carroll Smith-Rosenberg. "Surrogate Americans: Masculinity, Masquerade, and the Formation of a National Identity." *PMLA* 119.5 (2004): 1325-35.
- Michael Zakim. from *Accounting for Capitalism*. Chicago: Chicago UP, 2018.

### Recommended reading:

- Michael Rogin. "Liberal Society and the Indian Question." *Fathers and Children: Andrew Jackson and the Subjugation of the American Indian*. New Brunswick, N.J.: Transaction Publishers, 1991 [1975].
- Leland S. Person. "The Historical Paradoxes of Manhood in Cooper's *The Deerslayer*." *Novel: A Forum on Fiction* 32 (1998): 76-98.

- Carroll Smith-Rosenberg. "Davy Crocket as Trickster: Pornography, Liminality, and Perversion in Victorian America." *Disorderly Conduct: Visions of Gender in Victorian America*. New York: Oxford UP, 1985.

### **Part Three: Passionate Manhood**

#### **November 28 - Passionate Bachelors**

##### **Required reading:**

- Anthony Rotundo. "[Passionate Manhood](#)." *American Manhood: Transformation in Masculinity from the Revolution to the Modern Era*. New York: Basic Books, 1993.
- Henry James. "The Beast in the Jungle" (1903).

##### **Recommended reading:**

- Michael Kimmel. *Manhood in America*. Parts Two and Three.

#### **December 5 - Passionate Husbands**

##### **Required reading:**

- Gail Bederman. [Selection from \*Manliness and Civilization: A Cultural History of Gender and Race in the United States, 1880-1917\*](#). Chicago: Chicago UP, 1995.
- Ernest Hemingway. "The Short, Happy Life of Francis Macomber" (1936).

### **Part Four: White, Male Victims**

#### **December 12 - Post-Vietnam Masculinity**

##### **Required Reading:**

- Richard Dyer. "[The White Man's Muscles](#)." In *The Masculinity Reader*, ed. Rachel Adams and David Savran. Malden: Blackwell, 2002. 262-73.
- Selections from *The Ultimate Stallone Reader* (2014).

##### **Required Viewing:**

- *First Blood* (1982). Dir. Ted Kotcheff.

##### **Recommended Reading:**

- Susan Jeffords. *Chapter Two from Hard Bodies: Hollywood Masculinity in the Reagan Era*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1994.

## December 19 - Racial Fraternity, Racial Violence (II)

### Required Reading:

- Leslie Fiedler. Selection from *Love and Death in the American Novel*.

### Required Viewing:

- *Lethal Weapon* (1987). Dir. Richard Donner.

## December 26 - No Class

## January 2 - Angry White Men

### Required Reading:

- Chuck Palahniuk. *Fight Club* (1996).
- Michael Kimmel. From *Angry White Men: American Masculinity at the End of an Era*. New York: Nation Books, 2015.

### Recommended Reading:

- David Savran. From *Taking it like a Man: White Masculinity, Masochism, and Contemporary American Culture*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1998.
- Hamilton Carroll. *Affirmative Reaction: New Formations of White Masculinity*. Durham: Duke UP, 2011. Chapter Six.
- Latham Hunter. "Fathers, Sons, and Business in the Hollywood 'Office Movie'." In *Performing American Masculinities: The 21st--Century Man in Popular Culture*, ed. Elwood Watson and Marc E. Shaw. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 2011. 76-102.
- Fred Pfeil. "Chips off the Old Block." *White Guys: Studies in Postmodern Domination and Difference*. London: Verso, 1995. 233-262.

## Part Five: Masculinity Without Men

## January 9 - Female Masculinity

### Required reading:

- Judith Halberstam. "Introduction to *Female Masculinity*." In *The Masculinity Reader*, ed. Rachel Adams and David Savran. Malden: Blackwell, 2002. 355-74.

### **January 13 - Makeup Class (12-2) - Millennial Manhood**

#### **Required Reading:**

- Kristen Roupenian, "[Cat Person](#)" (2017).
- Hanna Rosin. "[The End of Men.](#)" *The Atlantic* (July/August, 2010). Electronic Edition.