WGSS syllabus 692C  Spring 2014  History of Feminist Theory

Professor emerita Ann Ferguson

Mondays 2:30-5 pm
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Texts

Optional:

Other readings for the course available on UMass UDrive (www.udrive.oit.umass.edu/xythoswfs/webview/xythoslogin.action, password given in seminar)

Class Requirements and Grading Policies

There are 3 components through which the course will be graded: class participation (which includes a class report and online postings), short paper, and final term paper. The work done by each student for each of these components will be weighted as follows: class participation (including class report) 30%, short paper 30%, and final term paper 40%.

A. Class Participation (30%):
(1) All students will be expected to do the reading before the class for which they are assigned and to contribute to the discussion about them. This will include posting discussion questions on something in the reading for the week suitable for a class discussion. These questions should be clarified by several lines which locate the issue in the reading. They should be posted by noon of the day before the seminar.
(2) The class report may be done with a partner, and be chosen at the beginning of the seminar. It will involve a 10 minute presentation in a particular seminar on a political or theoretical debate on an issue connected to feminist theory, or on issues raised in a movie screened in the optional session Mondays 5-6 pm. If you are doing it
with a partner, meet together to organize the presentation. **Send a 3 page outline of your treatment of the issue to the seminar e-mail list by noon of the day before the seminar. Be prepared to defend your point of view in seminar.** Class reports will start in seminar IV.

**B. Short Paper (30%):** Students should pick a question or issue that connects to one or more of the course readings that have been completed by the week before Spring Break and write a thought paper presenting the topic, indicating how the author or authors and/or film deal with the topic, and defending your own view. Paper length should be from 8-10 pages. **PAPER IS DUE IN CLASS the Monday after Spring break.**

**C. Term Paper (40%):** Students should pick a topic in the history of feminist theory and research it carefully, either concentrating on the work of one key author or by comparing and contrasting the work of several authors. If there is a debate among feminists about it (e.g. Pornography, Equality vs. Difference as a starting point for women’s empowerment, etc.), the basic emphasis in your paper should be on the debate itself and the reasons given on both sides of the issue, although you can present the historical context of the debate if you wish. This should be a research paper, so secondary sources are welcome, but the emphasis of the paper should be on the clear presentation of the positions of the author or authors and the statement of their reasons, as well as how well you defend your own position on the issue. **ABSTRACT/OUTLINE OF TERM PAPER IS DUE IN CLASS the penultimate seminar.** Students will be asked to make appointments to talk to the instructor about their plans for the term paper the last week of the course. **TERM PAPER Due to Instructor Monday after the final seminar by Email copy.** I will comment on your email version of the paper using the Track Change option and email it back to you.

Leave a self-addressed and stamped postcard if you want to receive your course grade and term paper grade by mail.

**READINGS**

* All required readings not in mentioned texts will be available online. Optional readings will be available on 3 day library reserve in the UMass DuBois library.

**Seminar I Introduction Feminist Theory Paradigms, The Biology Question, and Historicizing Theory**

*Readings:*
Ferguson *Blood at the Root* ch. 1
Alsop et al ch 1
Hemmings *Why Stories Matter*, intro

*Optional:*
Mitchell *Women’s Estate*, ch 5, ch 4
Seminar II Feminist Epistemologies, Methodologies, Intersectionalities, and the Postmodern Challenge

Readings:
Harding “Strong Objectivity”
Narayan “Contesting Cultures” in Nicholson text
Weedon Feminist Practice & Poststructuralist Theory, ch. 2

Optional:
Combahee River Collective “A Black Feminist Statement” in Nicholson text
Crenshaw “Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Politics, and Violence against Women of Color”, hooks “Postmodern Blackness” in Haslett and Haslanger eds. Theorizing Feminisms; Benhabib, Butler, Cornell and Fraser Feminist Contention, skim.

Seminar III-IV Class Exploitation and Gender

(1) Seminar III Marxism, Capitalism, Imperialism and Gender

Readings:
Eisenstein Feminism Seduced, ch 1 “Globalization of Women’s Labor”
Benston “Political Economy of Women’s Liberation”
Federici Caliban and the Witch, ch. 2 (Pt. I and II)
From The Nation article “The Real Hunger Games”
Randall When I Look in the Mirror I See You (selections)

Optional:
Marx Selections from Marx Communist Manifesto and Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts, and “Primitive Accumulation”, Capital v. 1, ch. 1; Farrelly “Patriarchy and Historical Materialism”, Mies Patriarchy and Accumulation on a World Scale, ch. 2; Engels Origins of the Family, Private Property and the State, selections; Flax “Do Feminists Need Marxism?” Schmitt Introduction to Marx and Engels, ch 5, 7-10.

(2) Seminar IV Race, Class, Gender and Sexuality in the US

Readings:
Zweig “The Working Class Majority”
Lorde “Age, Race, Class and Sex: Women Redefining Difference”
Eisenstein Feminism Seduced, ch. 3 “Fault Lines of Race and Class”
Alcoff “The Phenomenology of Racial Embodiment”
Davis “The Prison Industrial Complex”
Omi and Winant Racial Formations in the United States, ch. 4

Optional:

**Seminar V Liberal, Anarchist and Existential Feminist Foremothers**

*Readings:*
- Wollstonecraft, *Vindication of the Rights of Women*, selections
- Cooper *Voice from the South*, selection

**Optional:**

**Seminar VI Love and Oppression: Radical and Critical Feminist Theories and Sexism in the Media**

*Readings:*
- Firestone *The Dialectic of Sex*, selection, from Nicholson text, and ch 6 “Love” (on UDrive)
- Bartky “Psychological Oppression”
- hooks “Feminist Masculinity”
- Gunnarsson “Loving Him for Who He Is”
- Douglass “Warrior Women in Thongs” from *Enlightened Sexism*

**Optional:**
- Ferguson “Romantic Couple Love, the Affective Economy, and a Socialist-Feminist Vision”; hooks *All about Love* ch1 “Clarity: Give Love Words”, ch2 “Justice: Childhood Love Lessons”; Alsop et al *Theorizing Gender* ch. 7, pp. 171-181

**Seminar VII: Radical Feminism, Lesbian-Feminism, and the 1980s Sex Debate**

*Readings:*
- Wittig “One is Not Born a Woman”
- Rich “Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence” in Nicholson text
- Radicalesbians “Woman-Identified Women” in Nicholson text
- MacKinnon “Sexuality” in Nicholson text
- Rubin “Thinking Sex”

**Optional:** Alsop et al, ch 5, 6; Butler and Rubin “Sexual Traffic”, in Rubin *Deviations*, Ferguson “Sex War: Debate between Radical and Libertarian Feminists”, Minter “Transsexual and Gay Rights”, Ferguson *Sexual Democracy*, ch 3; articles in Haslett and
Haslanger, eds. on pornography, also Rubin on pornography in *Deviations*, MacKinnon on pornography in *Feminism Unmodified*.

**SPRING BREAK**
**Short papers due in first class after break**

**Seminar VIII Materialist Feminism (Dual Systems Theory): Patriarchy and Capitalism, Work, Love and Sexuality**

*Readings:*
- Rubin “The Traffic in Women”, selections in Nicholson text
- Hartmann “The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism” in Nicholson text
- Ferguson “Feminist Love Politics: Romance, Care and Solidarity”
- Jónasdóttir *Why Women are Oppressed*, ch. 5 “Beyond Oppression”
- Folbre selection “The Care Penalty”, *The Invisible Heart*, ch. 2

*Optional:* Delphy “The Main Enemy”, Delphy “For a Materialist Feminism”, Bubeck “Justice and Care”, Ferguson *Sexual Democracy*, ch 2, 4

**Seminar IX Freud and Feminism: The Family, Gender and Sexuality**

*Readings:*
- Ferguson “Psychoanalysis and Feminism”
- Benjamin “A Desire of Her Own”
- Alsop et al text ch 2 “Psychoanalysis and Gender” (Freud)
- Chodorow “Family Structure and Feminine Personality”
- Irigaray “This Sex which is not One” in Nicholson text


**Seminar X: Foucault, Poststructuralist Feminism, Sexual Identity and Queer Theory**

*Readings:*
- Butler excerpt from *Gender Trouble*
- Butler “Melancholy Gender”
- Feder *Family Bonds*, ch 4 on Race and ch 5 on Gender
- Bartky “Foucault, Femininity and the Modernization of Patriarchal Power”
- Alsop ch 4

Seminar XI Post/Decolonial, Ecological and Transnational Feminisms

Readings:
Gandhi “Postcolonialism and Feminism”
Lugones “Heterosexualism and the Colonial/Modern Gender Regime”
Mohanty Feminism without Borders, ch 2, 6
Mies “Colonialization and Housewification”
Mies “Need for a New Vision”
Shiva “Development, Ecology and Women”


Seminar XII Feminism and Concepts of Global Justice

Readings:
Young “Five Faces of Oppression”
Salleh “From Eco-Efficiency to Global Justice”
Fraser “After the Family Wage”
Fraser “Mapping the Feminist Imagination” from Scales of Justice, ch. 6
Ferguson “Feminist Paradigms of Solidarity and Justice”

Optional: Mills and Pateman Contract and Domination, ch 4

Seminar XIII Solidarity, Community and Feminist Visions

Readings:
Gibson-Graham A Post-Capitalist Politics, ch. 4 “The Community Economy”
Matthaei “Beyond Economic Man”
*Ferguson “Love as a Political Force”
*Hennessy “Love in the Commons” (ch 18 of Jónsdóttir and Ferguson eds. Love
Miller “Occupy, Connect, Create” (anarcho-socialist vision of creating the commons)
*Make PDF copies for the UDrive

Optional: hooks All about Love, ch 6 “Values: Living by a Love-Ethic, ch. 7
“Community: Loving Communion”, ch 9 “Mutuality: the Heart of Love”, Ferguson
Sexual Democracy, ch. 10, Alsop et al, ch 10, Mies Patriarchy and Accumulation, ch. 7

Reminder: Email File of Paper IS DUE to instructor by 5 pm Monday after last seminar. Leave postcard with instructor or in her mailbox in Bartlett 208 for final grade of term paper and final grade.

Paper with comments will be returned by email after grades are posted.