

Phil 381H/WOST 393H
Philosophy of Woman/Gender and Sexuality
Fall 2003 TTh 1-2:15

Professor Ann Ferguson
Bartlett 370, 5-5802
Hours: Weds. 4-5, Thurs.
2:30-4 and by appointment
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REQUIRED: Philosophy 381H/WOST 393H XEROX READER (available from Collective Copies, 70 S. Pleasant St., Amherst). **There will also be 11 required (free) reading handouts.**

REQUIRED BOOKS:

(All books available at Food for Thought Books, 106 N. Pleasant St., Amherst)

Katie Conboy, Nadia Medina and Susan Stanburg, eds. Writing on the Body (Columbia University Press)

Sigmund Freud Sexuality and the Psychology of Love (Simon and Shuster)

Michel Foucault History of Sexuality, v. 1 (Pantheon)

OPTIONAL:

Simone De Beauvoir The Second Sex (Bantam)

Class Requirements:

- 1. Three short thought papers (50% of grade):** These will be papers which should address some question on the readings and class discussions. The papers should give an exposition of one or more of our authors on a particular issue and your own critique or support for that position. Half the paper's grade will concern the accuracy of your exposition and the other half the quality of your critique or defense of the author(s)' position. You may write either on one of the suggested reading questions which have been given on the reading we have covered in the period of the course covered by the paper, or create your own question to write about, with the permission of the instructor. **Short papers should be 2-4 pages in length. Short papers are due Sept. 30, Oct. 30 and Dec. 2. **Note: There is a rewrite option for the papers if the re-write is returned by one week after the paper is graded and returned for the first time.**
- 2. (20% of grade) Class Participation:** You will be expected to attend most classes, read the reading on time and take part in class discussions. Attendance

will be taken and you will be asked to think about, and occasionally write a one page response to questions on the reading for discussion. **There will be one possible class report: a ten minute summary of a starred (*) reading.** You should pose a question for discussion based on the selection. Several people can team up to talk about one reading. There will be a sign-up sheet for the class reports the first week of class.

3. **(30% of Grade) Term Paper:** A term paper of from 8-12 pages is expected at the end of the semester. In general this should be a thought paper on the views of an author on a particular topic (e.g. their theory of gender, of male domination, etc.) or on a general topic such as gender and essentialism which ties together several authors' views on the issue. In either case, you should develop your own position on the issue by giving reasons which support it. It is important to frame the questions involved in the issue as clearly as you can. **A one paragraph abstract of your term paper, with a short outline of your intended line of thought, and a list of references, will be due Dec. 4. Final term paper will be due Monday Dec. 16.**

SYLLABUS OF READINGS

I. Introduction to Some Feminist Questions (1 ½ weeks Sept 4, 9, 11)

- A. Sex vs. Gender vs. Sexuality
- B. Sexism and Heterosexism
- C. Essentialism vs. Social Constructionism
- D. Feminist Identity Politics and Differences between Women: Where do Racism/Ethnicism, Classism and Imperialism Fit In?

Readings (Sept 9):

Frye "Sexism", reader

(Sept 11):

*Hooks "Black Women: Shaping Feminist Theory", reader

Evans "Is Feminism a 4 Letter Word?" reader

Optional:

hooks Feminist theory from margin to center, passim

II. Biology, Sex and Gender

- A. Classic writings from the History of Philosophy (2 weeks, Sept. 16, 18, 23)

(Sept 16) Kant "Of the Distinction of the Beautiful and the Sublime in the Interrelations of the Two Sexes", handout I; and

*Rousseau "Marriage" from Emile, selections, handout I

(Sept 18) Wollstonecraft selection from Vindication of the Rights of Woman, handout I

(Sept 23) Cooper selections from A Voice from the South, handout II; and
*Williams “On Being the Object of Property” Conboy text.
*(Sept. 25) Beauvoir The Second Sex, Introduction, handout III (this handout
will also include Beauvoir, ch 2, for reading Oct. 24, and ch. 3 for reading Oct. 17)

1st Paper Due Sept. 30

B. Contemporary writings on Biology and Gender (1 week, Sept. 30, Oct. 2)

(Sept. 30)

Oakley Sex, Gender and Society, ch. 2, reader.

*Kimmel “Masculinity as Homophobia”, reader

(Oct. 2)

*Goldberg The Inevitability of Patriarchy, selection, reader

Lowie “The Dialectic of Biology and Culture”, handout IV

Optional :

Holliday The Violent Sex, passim

Dworkin Womanhating, ch 6

Weeks Sexuality, ch 3

III. Freud’s Philosophy of Gender and Sexuality (1 week Oct. 7, 9)

Freud essays:

(Oct. 7) Introductory Lectures in P-A, ch. 20-21, handout V

(Oct. 9) “A Case of Homosexuality in a Woman” (1920),

“Some Psychological Consequences of Anatomical Differences” (1925)

“Female Sexuality” (1931), all from Sexuality and the Psychology of Love, text

“Femininity” (1933), handout V

Optional:

Freud “The Sexual Aberrations”, reprinted in Donald Morton, ed. The Material
Queer

IV. Marxian, Feminist and Black Freudian Theories of Gender and Sexuality (1
½ weeks) (Oct. 14, 16 and 21)

*(Oct. 14) Engels, Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State, from
Mahowald, ed., Philosophy of Woman, handout VI

*(Oct 16) Beauvoir The Second Sex, ch 3, handout III

Marcuse “Surplus Repression” from Eros and Civilization (also in Morton, ed),
reader

*(Oct 21) Fanon Black Skins, White Masks, selections, reader

Optional:

Foreman Femininity as Alienation, ch 5

Freud Civilization and Its Discontents, ch. IV, V
Hernton Sex and Racism in America, ch 1, 6 and passim
Stember Sexual Racism, passim
Weeks Sexuality and Its Discontents, passim

V. More Feminist Readings and Critiques of Freud (1 1/2 weeks) (Oct. 23, 28, 30)

(Oct. 23) A. Radical Feminist Rejections

Wittig “One is Not Born a Woman”, Conboy text

Wittig “The Straight Mind” from Abelove, et al, handout VII

*Rich “Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence”, handout VII

B. Feminist Re-Appropriations

(Oct. 28)

*Chodorow “Family Structure and Feminine Personality”, handout VIII

Rubin “The Traffic in Women”, handout VIII

(Oct. 30) **Video Showing “Paris Is Burning”**

Judith Butler, “Gender Is Burning”, reader

*bell hooks “Is Paris Burning?”, reader

Optional:

Butler “Imitation and Gender Insubordination”, in Diana Fuss, ed. ??

Fuss “Freud’s Fallen Women: Identification, Desire, and “A Case of Homosexuality in a Woman” in Warner, ed. Fear of a Queer Planet

2nd Short Paper Due Oct. 30

VI. Historical Perspectives on Sexuality (1 week)

(Nov. 4) **Michel Foucault**

Foucault History of Sexuality, v. 1, text; Part I, II.

(Nov. 6) Foucault, Part III to end.

*D’Emilio “Capitalism and Gay Identity” (from Morton, ed), reader

Optional:

Vicinus “They Wonder to Which Sex I Belong”: The History Roots of the Modern Lesbian Identity” in Abelove et al, eds., Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader

Halperin “Is There a History of Sexuality?” in Abelove, et al, op.cit.

Katz The Invention of Heterosexuality, ch 1, 8.

Faderman Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers, passim

No class Tues. Nov. 11—Veteran’s Day Holiday

VII. A Case Study in Sexual Identity and Domination (Nov.13)

Reading: *Feinberg Stone Butch Blues, selections, handout IX

VIII. Sexual Violence Against Women: Some Philosophical Questions (1 week Nov. 18, 20)

Reading 1st class:

Brisson “Surviving Sexual Violence”, handout X
O’ Sullivan “Fraternities and the Rape Culture”, reader
Kaufman “The Construction of Masculinity and the Triad of Men’s Violence”,
reader

Video Showing: Tough Guise

Reading 2nd class:

Phillips “What’s a Young Woman (Not) to Think?” reader
*MacKinnon “Rape, Coercion and Consent”, Conboy text
Davis “Rape, Racism and the Myth of the Black Rapist”, handout X

IX. Contemporary Feminist Critiques of Gender and the Body (1 week)

A. Identity, Self-Definition and the Body (Nov. 25)

Butler “Performative Acts and Gender Constitution”, Conboy text
*Stone “The Empire Strikes Back: A Post-Transsexual Manifesto”,
Conboy text
Feinberg Trans-Gender Warriors, ch. 14, reader

3rd Short Paper Due Dec. 2

B. Disciplining the Body/Socialization (Dec. 2)

Bordo “The Body and the Reproduction of Femininity”, Conboy text
*Martin “Medical Metaphors of Women’s Bodies”, Conboy text

Optional: Bartky “Foucault, Femininity and the Modernization of Patriarchal Power”,
Conboy text; articles in M. Berger, B. Wallis and S. Watson, eds. Constructing
Masculinity, esp. articles by Butler, Williams, Delgado and Stefano.

X. Race/Ethnicity and Gender in Identity and Representations (Dec. 4, 9)

Sojourner Truth, “Aint I a Woman?” Conboy text
*Anzaldúa “La Consciencia de la Mestiza”, Conboy text
*hooks “Selling Hot Pussy”, Conboy text
hooks “Reconstructing Black Masculinity”, reader

Optional:

K. Crenshaw “Beyond Racism and Misogyny”, in D. Tietjens Meyers, ed. Feminist Social Thought, Library Reserve

Abstract of Final Term Paper Due Dec. 4 (with a list of references)

XI. Identity Politics, Queer Politics and Post-Identity Politics (1 week)

(Dec. 11)

Warner “Introduction” from Fear of a Queer Planet, reader

*Friedland & Highleyman “The Fine Art of Labeling” from Hutchins and Kaahumanu, eds.), reader.

Udis-Kessler “Present Tense: Biphobia as a Crisis of Meaning” in Morton, ed., handout XII

Smith “What is This Thing Called Queer?” in Morton, ed., handout XI

*Smith “Mistaken Identity--Or Can Identity Politics Liberate the Oppressed” in Morton, ed., handout XI

Optional:

Susanna D. Walters “From Here to Queer: Radical Feminism, Postmodernism, and the Lesbian Menace (Or Why Can’t a Woman Be More Like a Fag?)”, Signs (handout available from instructor).

Hutchins and Kaahumanu, eds. Bi Any Other Name: Bisexual People Speak Out, passim

Steven Seidman Embattled Eros: Sexual Politics and Ethics in Contemporary America (1992, Routledge), passim

Final Term Paper Due Monday Dec. 16