

Feminist Theory Phil 791B/WOST 791B
Fall 04
Weds. 3:35-6:05 pm Bartlett 274

Professor Ann Ferguson
Office: Bartlett 370
Hours: Tues. 1-2, 4-6 pm or by appointment:
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Books:

Required (available at Food for Thought Bookstore):

1. Diana Tietjens Meyers, ed. Feminist Social Thought (Routledge)
2. Jacqui Alexander and Chandra Mohanty, eds. Feminist Genealogies, Colonial Legacies, Democratic Futures (Routledge)
3. Judith Butler The Psychic Life of Power (Stanford University Press)

4. **Feminist Theory Electronic Reserve and Readings:** Most of the readings not in the above texts will be on electronic reserve, and the rest will be on regular library reserve, 3rd floor, WEB Dubois Library. Electronics reserve for this course is available at: <http://ereserves.library.umass.edu>. The password for the readings is FEMTHY. Seminar will decide at first class how to produce, distribute and pay for any hard copies individuals desire of these readings. There is a website for the course at: <https://webct.oit.umass.edu>.

- Optional:
1. Angela Miles Integrative Feminisms (Routledge)
 2. Rosemarie Tong Feminist Thought, 2nd edition (Westview)

Course Requirements:

1. **Class Report/Discussion:** Members of the seminar will be grouped in pairs, asked to choose one seminar question (noted for each week on the syllabus below) and to prepare a 10 minute presentation on it, in conjunction with one or more of the readings for that seminar. A signup sheet will be passed around the second seminar for people to sign up for their report. The object of the presentation is to present a point of view on the question in order to stimulate class discussion.
2. **Short Paper (with copies for all participants) due in class Oct. 27 :** Students should address one of the questions discussed in Seminars I through VI. Arguments on all sides of the issue should be presented, and your own position defended. Papers should be from 4-8 pages.
3. **Term Paper:** The term paper can be either a research paper or an extended thought paper, depending on the topic, which demonstrates your command of the debate around a particular issue, or a defense or critique of a particular feminist theoretical approach. Your term paper can be an extended development of your short paper for the seminar. **An abstract and outline of your term paper, including initial**

references, will be due at the Dec. 1 seminar. Final term paper is due Monday, Dec. 20 by 5 pm in Bartlett 208.

Syllabus of Readings

I. Sept. 8 Introductory Seminar: The Isms!! 1st and 2nd level Questions for Theory

Calás and Smircich “From the Woman’s Point of View”, handout

Optional: Ferguson Blood at the Root, ch. 1; Tong Feminist Thought, pp.10-20, 45-71, 94-110.

II. Sept. 15 Liberal, Radical, and Materialist Feminism and The Agency/Structure Question, Part I : *What are the structures that perpetuate social domination? To what extent are they universal and to what extent historically specific? How do they operate, and which are key for perpetuating male domination?*

Williams “The Equality Crisis” in Meyers text

MacKinnon “Feminism, Marxism, Method and the State” in Meyers text

Fraser “Beyond the Master/Subject Model” (from Justice Interruptus), reserve

Hartmann “The Family as the Locus of Gender, Class and Political Struggle: The Case of Housework”, in Tuana and Tong, eds. Feminism and Philosophy, reserve

Mohanty “Women Workers and Capitalist Scripts” from Alexander and Mohanty text

Carby “White Woman Listen!!”, in Hennessy and Ingraham, ed. Materialist Feminism , reserve

Optional: Ferguson “ On Conceiving Motherhood and Sexuality”, Meyers text
Wekker “One Finger Does Not Drink Okra Soup: Afro-Surinamese Women and Critical Agency”, Alexander and Mohanty text; Hennessy “The Material of Sex”, Profit and Pleasure, ch 3.

III. Sept 22 The Agency/Structure Question, Part II *Where is the agency? If social structures enforce gender and other domination systems, to what extent are individuals free to challenge them? How is social change possible?*

Butler Psychic Life of Power, ch 2, text

Chodorow “Toward a Relational Individualism” from Feminism and Psychoanalytic Theory, reserve

Mardorossian “Toward a New Feminist Theory of Rape”, Signs, (v.27, #3, Spring 2002): reserve

Burton “Resistance to Prevention: Reconsidering Feminist Anti-violence Rhetoric”, Teays et al, eds., personal copy, reserve

Marcus "Fighting Bodies, Fighting Words: A Theory and Practice of Rape Prevention", Butler and Scott eds. Feminists Theorize the Political, reserve

Woodhull "Sexuality, Power and the Question of Rape", from Diamond and Quinby, eds. Feminism and Foucault, reserve

IV. Sept 29 Psychoanalytic Feminism: Subjectivity, Gender, Sexual Difference, and Sexuality (Chodorow, Irigaray, Butler) *Do we perform our gender or does it perform us? How important is sexual difference and the "bodily imaginary"? How important is symbolic gender in the social construction of subjectivity? Of sexuality? How does gender connect to sexuality? Regarding the Agency/Structure question, how does the psychoanalytic theory of the split self allow for agency, and for challenging psychological/symbolic patriarchal structures?*

Chodorow, "Gender, Relation and Difference in Psychoanalytic Perspective", Meyers text

Kristeva "Stabat Mater", Meyers text

Irigaray, "This Sex which is not One", in This Sex Which is not One, reserve.

Butler The Psychic Life of Power, ch 5, text.

Also, Fitzsimons and Lennon, eds. Theorizing Gender, "Bodily Imaginaries" (ch. 7), reserve.

Weedon Feminist Practice and Poststructuralist Theory, ch 3, reserve.

Optional:

Chodorow "Psychoanalytic Feminism and the Psychoanalytic Psychology of Women", in Chodorow Feminism and Psychoanalytic Thought; DiQuinzio The Impossibility of Motherhood, ch. 6 and 7.

V. Oct 6 Post-structuralism: *How important are discourses and power/knowledges in the construction of reality? Can the "linguistic turn" help us avoid over-universalizing claims and provide a "history of the present" that can be a helpful tool for feminist analysis? What problems does post-structuralism involve?*

Butler "Contingent Foundations" from Butler and Scott eds. Feminists Theorize the Political, reserve

Foucault History of Sexuality, v. 1, ch 2, reserve

Weedon Feminist Practice and Poststructuralist Theory, ch 2, reserve

Bartky "Foucault, Femininity. . .", Meyers text

Scott "Deconstructing Equality vs. Difference", Meyers text

Canning "Feminist History after the Linguistic Turn: Historicizing Discourse and Experience", Signs v. 19 #2 1994, reserve

Butler, excerpt from Gender Trouble, Meyers text

Butler The Psychic Life of Power, ch 3, text

Weds. Oct 13 no seminar: Monday class schedule

VI. Oct 20 Intersectionality: Race/Ethnicity: *How can we understand gender and race/ethnicity as interlocking systems? How do racial and ethnic differences alter gender identity and political priorities? Are there problems with the intersectionality metaphor as an analytic tool?*

Lugones, “Playfulness, ‘World’-Traveling, and Loving Perception”, Meyers text.
Abel “Race, Class and Psychoanalysis? Opening Questions”, Meyers text
King “Multiple Jeopardy, Multiple Consciousness: The Context of a Black Feminist Ideology”, Meyers text
Crenshaw “Whose Story is it Anyway? Feminist and Anti-racist Appropriations of Anita Hill” from Morrison ed., Race-ing Justice, Engendering Power, handout
Collins “US Black Feminism in Transnational Context”, from Black Feminist Thought, 2nd edition, reserve
Brewer “Theorizing Race, Class and Gender”, from James and Busia, eds. Theorizing Black Feminisms, reserve
Kanneh “Black Feminisms”, from Stevi Jackson and Jackie Jones, eds. Contemporary Feminist Theories, reserve

Optional: Toni Morrison, ed. Race-ing Justice, Engendering Power, passim

VII. Oct. 27 Intersectionality: Sexuality and Queer Theory: *To what extent is sexual identity connected to gender identity? Is the connection universal or historically specific? How does Queer Theory challenge lesbian/gay identity politics? What is (should be) Queer Theory’s relation to feminism?*

Student Short Papers Due in Seminar, with copies for all other seminar participants

Butler “Imitation and Gender Insubordination”, from Diana Fuss, ed. Inside/Out (1991, Routledge), reserve
Hausman Changing Sex, ch 6, reserve
Warner Fear of a Queer Planet, Introduction, reserve
Stone “The Empire Strikes Back: A Posttranssexual Manifesto”, from Epstein and Straub, eds. Body Guards, reserve
Halperin “The Queer Politics of Michel Foucault”, from Halperin Saint Foucault, reserve

Optional: Katz The Invention of Heterosexuality, passim; Wittig “One is Not Born a Woman”, in Conboy et al, ed. Writing on the Body; Hennessy Profit and Pleasure, ch 4.

VIII. Nov. 3 Student Short Papers Discussed

Reading: Student Short Papers

Homework: Please come with written comments and feedback on each paper

IX. Nov. 10 Essentialism, Identity and Post-Identity Politics: *How can a non-essentialist feminism understand the oppression of women under patriarchal systems? And how do different racial, class and national positions allow for the possibility of feminist coalitions if women do not share a common oppression? Must we give up identity politics to avoid racism, heterosexism, classism and national chauvinism?*

Spelman “Woman: The One and the Many”, in Meyers text

Alcoff “Cultural Feminism vs. Poststructuralism” Signs (v. 13, #2 1988) , also in Nicholson ed. Feminism/Postmodernism, reserve

Hammond “Toward a Genealogy of Black Female Sexuality” in Alexander and Mohanty text

Smith “Mistaken Identity”, from Morton ed. The Material Queer, reserve

Spivak (with Ellen Rooney) “In a Word: Interview”, differences (1989), reserve

hooks “Sisterhood: Political Solidarity between Women”, Meyers text

Optional: Fuss Essentially Speaking, passim; Hennessy, ch 6

X. Nov. 17 Feminist Epistemology, Objectivism and Ethical Relativism: *Can the idea of epistemological standpoints resolve the traditional problem of objectivism (there are universal ethical values and independent facts) vs. relativism (values and facts are relative to observers’ perceptions)? How does a pluralist democratic politics deal with the problem of relativism? Do where values originate (e.g from the West, or within non-Western cultures) make a difference as to whether they apply to other cultures?*

Hartsock “The Feminist Standpoint”, Meyers text

Haraway “A Manifesto for Cyborgs”, Meyers text

Collins, Black Feminist Thought, 2nd edition, ch. 11, “Black Feminist Epistemology”, reserve

Sullivan “Transactional Knowing: Toward a Pragmatist-Feminist Standpoint Theory”, Living Across and Through Skins, reserve

Mouffe “Feminism, Citizenship and Radical Democratic Politics”, Meyers text

Nicholson and Fraser “Social Criticism without Philosophy”, in Nicholson, ed. Feminism/Postmodernism, reserve

Narayan “Contesting Cultures: ‘Westernization’, Respect for Cultures, and Third World Feminists” in Nicholson ed. . The Second Wave, reserve

No seminar Weds. Nov. 24 before Thanksgiving

XI. Dec. 1 Human Rights, Justice and Care: *Are there universal human rights? If so, what are they and how do they relate to women’s liberation? Should feminists promote an ethics of justice or an ethics of care, or do we have to choose? If we incorporate some aspects of an ethics of care, how do we avoid the ways caring has been used to trap women into perpetuating male domination?*

Friedman “Beyond Caring: The Demoralization of Gender” in Meyers text

Ferguson and Folbre “Care as a Public Good”, in Anton, Fisk, and Holmstrom, eds. Not for Sale: In Defense of Public Goods, reserve
MacKinnon “Rape, Genocide and Women’s Human Rights”, Harvard Women’s Law Journal 17 (1994), reserve
Burn “Women’s Rights as Human Rights”, in Burn Women Across Cultures: A Global Perspective, reserve
Tronto “Care and Political Theory”, Moral Boundaries , reserve
Fraser Justice Interruptus, ch. 2, reserve
Lewis “Women (Under) Development: The Relevance of the Right to Development to Poor Women of Color in the United States”, in Wing, ed. Global Critical Race Feminism, reserve

Optional: Gilligan “In a Different Voice”, selection, in Meyers text; Nussbaum and Glover, eds. Women, Culture and Development, passim (or Nussbaum Women and Human Development, passim)

Abstract and Outline of Term Paper due in Seminar Dec. 1

XII Dec. 8 Global Feminism, Development Theory, and Theory and Practice: *Is there some universal model of human, national and global development and human good(s) that feminists can accept? If not, are there other models on which we can build global feminist coalitions? Should national governments provide safety nets and basic human services for their citizens, e.g. education and health, thus challenging neo-liberalism? If they don’t, can NGOs empower women by doing so?*

Nussbaum “Human Capabilities, Female Human Beings”, in Nussbaum and Glover, eds. Women, Culture and Development , reserve
Jaggar “ Saving Amina”, mss., reserve
Ferguson “Resisting the Veil of Privilege: Building Bridge Identities as an Ethico-Politics of Global Feminism”, Hypatia v. 13, #3 (Summer 1998), reserve
Charlton et al “Women, the State and Development”, from Charlton, et al, eds. Women, the State, and Development , reserve
Bourque “Gender and the State: Perspectives from Latin America”, from Charlton et al, eds., Ibid, reserve
Ewig “Strengths and Limits of the NGO Women’s Movement Model: Shaping Nicaragua’s Democratic Institutions”, Latin American Research Review, v. 34 #3 (1999), reserve
Tinsman “Reviving Feminist Materialism: Gender and Neo-Liberalism in Pinochet’s Chile”, Signs, v. 26 #1 (Autumn 2000), reserve

Optional: Dandekar “International Development Paradigms and Violence Against Women:” in French, Teays and Purdy, ed. Violence Against Women; Hirschman “Women and Development: A Critique”, from Marianne Marchand and Jane Parpart, eds. Feminism/Postmodernism/Development; Hennessy ch 5, 7;

Sen and Grown Development, Crises and Alternative Visions, especially “Gender and Class”

XIII. Dec. 15 Post-colonialism and Globalization

(note: This is a make-up seminar to replace the one missed on the Weds. Before Thanksgiving)

How can Western feminists avoid a neo-colonialist understanding of women’s empowerment in poor countries of the South? What is globalization and how do globalization processes both undermine and provide opportunities for women? How should feminists deal with religious fundamentalisms of East and West?

Hochschild “Global Care Chains and Emotional Surplus Value”, from Hutton and Giddens, eds. Global Capitalism, reserve

Alexander and Mohanty, Introduction, text

Mills “Postcolonial Feminist Theory” in Jackson and Jones, eds., Contemporary Feminist Theories, reserve

Yuval-Davis “Women, Ethnicity and Empowerment”, in Oakley and Mitchell, eds. Who’s Afraid of Feminism?, reserve

Moallem “Transnationalism, Feminism and Fundamentalism”, in Kaplan, Alarcón and Moallem, eds. Between Woman and Nation, reserve

Ferguson “Empowerment, Development and Women’s Liberation”, mss., reserve

Optional: Tong Feminist Thought (2nd ed.), ch. 7, “Multicultural and Global Feminism”; Molyneux Women’s Movements in International Perspective, passim; Miles Integrative Feminism, ch. 6, 9.

Final term paper due Monday, Dec. 20 by 5 pm in Bartlett 208