

WOST 791B

Tobin 504

Tues. 4-6:30

Professor Ann Ferguson

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Office Hours T 2-3:30, W 2-3 or by
appointmentferguson@philos.umass.edu**Feminist Theory Seminar**

Required Books (available at Food for Thought Bookstore, N. Pleasant St., Amherst)

Required (available at Food for Thought Bookstore):

1. Diana Tietjens Meyers, ed. Feminist Social Thought (1997, Routledge)
2. Chandra Talpade Mohanty Feminism Without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity (2004, Duke University)
3. Silvia Federici Caliban and the Witch: Women, The Body and Primitive Accumulation (2004, Autonomedia)

Optional Books:

1. Judith Butler Undoing Gender (2004, Routledge)
2. Rosemary Tong Feminist Thought, 2nd edition. (Westview)
3. Elizabeth Wright Lacan and Postfeminism (2000, Icon Books)

Other Required Readings and Library Reserve Readings: All the required readings, both texts and articles, will be available on Library Reserve in the Dubois University Library, 3rd floor on 2 hour/overnight loan. **Readings on syllabus that are not in the listed required texts will on an electronic reserve list.** Most of the texts from which these readings come are in the hard copy course reserve for this course. **(Not all the optional readings are on reserve but many of these will be available soon in hard copy to borrow from Nancy Patteson in the WOST office, Bartlett 208).** There is a list serve for discussions of the seminar and announcements: grad-seminar@wost.umass.edu.

Course Requirements:

1. **Class Report/Discussion:** Members of the seminar will be expected to choose one seminar question (from those 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. Two seminar members will be asked to work together on different aspects of the question. **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. 30:** Students should address one of the questions discussed in Seminars I through VII. 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. 5 seminar. Final term paper is due Monday, December 18 by 5 pm in my mailbox in Bartlett 208.**

Syllabus of Readings

I. **Sept. 4 Introductory Seminar: The Isms!! 1st and 2nd level Questions for Theory**

Calás and Smircich “From the Woman’s Point of View Ten Years Later”, url: intra.som.umass.edu/calas/2006_Calas__Smircich_From_the_Woman_s_Point_of_View_Ten_Years_Later.pdf

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

II. **Sept. 11 Liberal vs. Radical Feminism & 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 Feminist Social Thought text

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

MacKinnon “Sexuality” from Nicholson, ed. The Second Wave, ereserves

Bunch “Lesbians in Revolt” in McCann and Kim, eds. Feminist Theory Reader, ereserves

Wittig “One is Not Born a Woman” in McCann and Kim, eds. Feminist Theory Reader, ereserves

Optional: Rich “Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence”, Signs v. 5 #4 (Summer 1980).

III. **Sept 18 Materialist Feminism and the Agency/Structure Question, Part II**

Fraser “After the Family Wage” (from Justice Interruptus), ereserves

Hartmann “The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism; Toward a More Progressive Union”, reprinted many places, including in Carol McCann and Seung-Kyung Kim, eds. Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives, ereserves

Federici Caliban and the Witch, Preface, Intro and ch. 2, pp. 7-19; 61-131.

Hennessy “Reclaiming Marxist Feminism for a Need-Based Sexual Politics”, Nancy Holmstrom, ed. The Socialist Feminist Project, ereserves

Optional: Rubin “The Traffic in Women” in Nicholson, ed. The Second Wave; Carby “White Woman Listen!!”, in Hennessy and Ingraham, ed. Materialist Feminism; Ferguson “On Conceiving Motherhood and Sexuality”, Meyers, Feminist Social Thought; Wekker “One Finger Does Not Drink Okra Soup: Afro-Surinamese Women and Critical Agency”, in Alexander and Mohanty Feminist Genealogies, Colonial Legacies, Democratic Futures; Federici text, ch 1.

IV. Sept. 25 The Agency/Structure Question, Part III *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? The Feminist Analysis of Rape.*

MacKinnon “Women’s September 11: Rethinking the International Law of Conflict”, in MacKinnon Are Women Human?, ereserves

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

Burton “Resistance to Prevention: Reconsidering Feminist Anti-violence Rhetoric”, Teays et al, eds., Violence against Women, ereserves

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

Woodhull “Sexuality, Power and the Question of Rape”, from Diamond and Quinby, eds. Feminism and Foucault, ereserves

Optional: MacKinnon “Rape, Coercion and Consent” in Katie Conboy et al, eds. Writing on the Body

V. Oct. 2 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

Irigaray, “This Sex which is not One”, in This Sex Which is not One, ereserves

Butler The Psychic Life of Power, ch 5, ereserves

Weedon Feminist Practice and Poststructuralist Theory, ch 3, ereserves

Optional: Wright Lacan and Postfeminism, skim; Alsop, Fitzsimons & Lennon, eds. Theorizing Gender, “Bodily Imaginaries”, ch. 7; Safouan “Feminine Sexuality in Psychoanalytic Doctrine (On Lacan)”, from Mitchell and Rose, eds. Feminine Sexuality: Jacques Lacan and the école freudienne; Chodorow “Psychoanalytic Feminism and the Psychoanalytic Psychology of Women”, in Chodorow Feminism and Psychoanalytic Thought; Kristeva “Stabat Mater”, Meyers text; DiQuinzio The Impossibility of Motherhood, ch. 6 and 7; Rose Introduction II in Mitchell and Rose, eds. Feminine Sexuality: Jacques Lacan and the école freudienne.

No Class Oct 9—Monday classes

VI. Oct 16 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, excerpt from Gender Trouble, Meyers text
Butler “Contingent Foundations” from Butler and Scott eds. Feminists Theorize the Political, reserves
Alcoff “Cultural Feminism versus Post-Structuralism” from Nicholson, ed The Second Wave, reserves
Weedon Feminist Practice and Poststructuralist Theory, ch 2, reserves
Bartky “Foucault, Femininity. . .”, Meyers text
Scott “Deconstructing Equality vs. Difference”, Meyers text
Mohanty “Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses”, in Feminism without Borders, text

Optional: Butler “Introduction” and “Bodies that Matter” in Butler Bodies that Matter, Introduction and ch. 1; Hennessy “Women on the Border: Progress and Progressive Movement under Neo-Liberalism”, mss.; Foucault History of Sexuality, v. 1, ch 2; Ferguson “Butler, Sex/Gender, and a Postmodern Gender Theory”, in Ander, Keller and Schwaratzman, eds. Feminist Interventions in Ethics and Politics (2005, Rowman & Littlefield); Butler The Psychic Life of Power, ch 3

VII. Oct 23 Intersectionality: Class/Race/Ethnicity: *How can we understand gender, class, 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?*

Weber “A Conceptual Framework for Understanding Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality”, Sharline Hesse-Biber, et al, eds. Feminist Perspectives on Social Research, reserves
Lugones, “Playfulness, ‘World’-Traveling, and Loving Perception”, Meyers text.

King “Multiple Jeopardy, Multiple Consciousness: The Context of a Black Feminist Ideology”, Meyers text.
 Mohanty “Feminism without Borders”, chs 2, 6, text
 Federici “Colonization and Christianization” ch 5, text.
 Moya “Postmodernism, “Realism” and the Politics of Identity: Cherrié Moraga and Chicana Feminism” in Alexander and Mohanty, eds. Feminist Genealogies, Colonial Legacies, Democratic Futures, ereserves
 Crenshaw “Whose Story is it Anyway? Feminist and Anti-racist Appropriations of Anita Hill” from Morrison ed., Race-ing Justice, Engendering Power, ereserves
 Brewer “Theorizing Race, Class and Gender”, from James and Busia, eds. Theorizing Black Feminisms, ereserves

Optional: Hennessy “Class”, Mary Eagleton, ed. A Concise Companion to Feminist Theory (2003, Blackwell); Lorde “I Am Your Sister: Black Women Organizing across Sexualities”, in McCann and Kim, eds. Feminist Theory Reader; Kanneh “Black Feminisms”, from Stevi Jackson and Jackie Jones, eds. Contemporary Feminist Theories; Abel “Race, Class and Psychoanalysis? Opening Questions”, Meyers text; hooks “Feminism and Class Power”, Class Matters.

VIII. Oct. 30 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 Undoing Gender, ch 10 (Optional ch 2, 3, 5), ereserves
 Prosser “Judith Butler: Queer Feminism, Transgender, and the Transubstantiation of Sex”, Second Skins: The Body Narratives of Transsexuality (1998, Columbia University), ch. 1, ereserves
 Hausman “Semiotics of Sex, Gender, and the Body”, from Changing Sex: Semiotics of Sex, Gender and the Body, ch 6, ereserves
 Stone “The Empire Strikes Back: A Posttranssexual Manifesto”, from Epstein and Straub, eds. Body Guards; also in K. Conboy et al, eds. Writing on the Body, ereserves
 Anzaldua “La consciencia de la mestiza: Toward a New Consciousness” from Borderlands/La Frontera (1987, Aunt Lute), ereserves
 Smith “Mistaken Identity”, International Socialism, 1994, also in Morton, ed. Material Queer, ereserves
 Spivak (with Ellen Rooney) “In a Word: Interview”, differences 1989, also in Nicholson ed. The Second Wave, ereserves

Optional: Alsop, Fitzsimons and Lennon eds. “Borderlands and Gendered Homes”, Theorizing Gender, ch. 9; Muñoz “Performing Diidentifications” from

Muñoz DisIdentifications: Queers of Color and the Performance of Politics (University of Minnesota, 1999); Halperin “The Queer Politics of Michel Foucault”, from Halperin Saint Foucault, Katz The Invention of Heterosexuality, passim; Hennessy Profit and Pleasure, ch 4, 6; Warner Fear of a Queer Planet, Introduction; Fuss Essentially Speaking, passim; Aguilar-San Juan “Going Home: Enacting Justice in Queer Asian America”, from McCann and Kim, eds. Feminist Theory Reader; Namaste “Tragic Misreadings”, Invisible Lives: The Erasure of Transsexual and Transgendered People (Univ. of Chicago, 2000).

IX. Nov. 6 Student Short Papers Discussed

Reading: Student Short Papers

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

X. Nov. 13 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

Harding “Strong Objectivity”, in Alcoff and Potter, eds. Feminist Epistemologies, ereserves

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

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

Optional: Harding “What is Feminist Epistemology” Whose Science, Whose Knowledge: Thinking from Women’s Lives, ch 5; Code Ecological Thinking: The Politics of Epistemic Location, ch. 1; Bar On “Marginality and Epistemic Privilege” and Nelson “Epistemic Communities”, both in Alcoff and Potter, eds. Feminist Epistemologies

No Seminar NOV 20--Thanksgiving Break

XI. Nov. 27 Post-colonialism and Globalization

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?

Stoler “Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Gender, Race, and Morality in Colonial Asia”, from Hackett and Haslanger, eds. Theorizing Feminisms, ereserves

Hochschild “Global Care Chains and Emotional Surplus Value”, from Hutton and Giddens, eds. Global Capitalism, ereserves
Mohanty, Feminism without Borders, text, ch 4, 9.
Mills “Postcolonial Feminist Theory” in Jackson and Jones, eds., Contemporary Feminist Theories, ereserves
Yuval-Davis “Women, Ethnicity and Empowerment”, in Oakley and Mitchell, eds. Who’s Afraid of Feminism? ereserves
Moallem “Transnationalism, Feminism and Fundamentalism”, in Kaplan, Alarcón and Moallem, eds. Between Woman and Nation, ereserves

Optional: Sato “Subjectivity, Enjoyment, and Development: Preliminary Thoughts on a New Approach to Postdevelopment” Rethinking Marxism, v. 18, #2 (April 2006); Ferguson “Can Development Create Empowerment and Women’s Liberation?” www.globaljusticecenter.org/papers2004.htm; Molyneux “Mobilization without Emancipation? Women’s Interests, the State and Revolution in Nicaragua”, in Women’s Movements in International Perspective, reprinted in McCann and Kim, ed.m Feminist Theory Reader; Miles Integrative Feminism, ch. 6, 9.

XII. Dec. 4 Human Rights and Gender Justice: *Are there universal human rights? If so, what are they and how do they relate to women’s liberation? How do they relate to structures of oppression? Should feminists promote a universal ethics of justice? How do we take context into account?*

Phillips “Multiculturalism, Universalism, and the Claims of Democracy”, in Molyneux and Razavi, eds. Gender, Development and Rights (Oxford 2002), ereserves
Hernández Castillo “National and Indigenous Customary Law: The Struggle for Justice of Indigenous Women in Chiapas, Mexico”, from Molyneux And Razavi, eds. Ibid, ereserves
MacKinnon “Rape, Genocide and Women’s Human Rights”, Harvard Women’s Law Journal 17 (1994), (reprinted in Teays et al, eds. Violence against Women, and MacKinnon Are Women Human?), ereserves
Burn “Women’s Rights as Human Rights”, in Burn Women Across Cultures: A Global Perspective, ereserves
Young Justice and the Politics of Difference ch. 2, ereserves
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, ereserves

Optional: Nussbaum and Glover, eds. Women, Culture and Development, passim (or Nussbaum Women and Human Development, passim), Butler, Undoing Gender, ch.1; Ferguson “Women Organizing for Global Justice”, online at www.globaljusticecenter.org/papers2006.htm

Abstract and Outline of Term Paper due in Seminar Dec 4

XIII. Dec. 12 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, ereserves
- Ferguson "Resisting the Veil of Privilege: Building Bridge Identities as an Ethico-Politics of Global Feminism", Hypatia v. 13, #3 (Summer 1998), ereserves
- Charlton et al "Women, the State and Development", from Charlton, et al, eds. Women, the State, and Development, ereserves
- Bourque "Gender and the State: Perspectives from Latin America", from Charlton et al, eds., Ibid, ereserves
- Ewig "Strengths and Limits of the NGO Women's Movement Model: Shaping Nicaragua's Democratic Institutions", Latin American Research Review, v. 34 #3 (1999), ereserves
- Tinsman "Reviving Feminist Materialism: Gender and Neo-Liberalism in Pinochet's Chile", Signs, v. 26 #1 (Autumn 2000), ereserves

Optional: Moghadam "Transnational Feminist Networks: Collective Action in an Era of Globalization", International Sociology, vol. 15, #1 (March 2000); Escobar, Encountering Development, Intro, ch. 1; 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 Profit and Pleasure ch 5, 7; Sen and Grown Development, Crises and Alternative Visions, especially "Gender and Class"; Jaggar "Global Responsibility and Western Feminism", mss.

Final term paper due Monday, Dec. 17 by 5 pm in Bartlett 208