

Syllabus WOST 591E
Advanced Introduction to Feminist Theory
Fall 2008 Bartlett 3

Professor Ann Ferguson
Office: Bartlett 7-C
Hours: Tues. 6-7, Weds. 1:30-3
and by arrangement
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Texts (on sale at Food for Thought books in downtown Amherst)
Jude Browne, ed. The Future of Gender (2007, Cambridge University).
Ellen Feder Family Bonds: Genealogies of Race and Gender (2007, Oxford University).
Michel Foucault The History of Sexuality, vol. 1 (1978, Vintage Press)
Richard Schmitt Introduction to Marx and Engels (1997, Westview Press)

Optional

Rachel Alsop, Annette Fitzsimmons and Kathleen Lennon Theorizing Gender (2002, Polity Press)
Charles W. Mills and Carole Pateman Contract and Domination (2007, Polity Press)
Juliet Mitchell Women's Estate (1973, Vintage), available from Amazonbooks.com as a used book.
Ann Ferguson Blood at the Root: Motherhood, Sexuality and Male Domination (1989, Pandora/Unwin and Hyman), available from Amazonbooks.com as a used book.

COURSE DESCRIPTION & REQUIREMENTS

This seminar is designed to act as an advanced introduction to feminist theory to advanced undergraduates and to graduate students. It provides a background of the key paradigms of social theory that are assumed as starting points by contemporary feminist theorists and examples of feminist theoretical applications and developments from these different paradigms. Marxism, Freudian Psychoanalysis, Foucaultian approaches, Intersectional Feminism, and Critical Race Theory are the core paradigms. Queer Poststructuralism and Postcolonial Theory will be presented as offshoots of the deconstructive aspects of these earlier paradigms. Radical feminism is considered as it feeds into a branch of materialist feminist theory coming from Marxism and (in some versions) Freudian theory. Liberal feminism is not dealt with directly but connects to aspects of Intersectional and Critical Race Theory. The course will begin from a historical base in the debates in the U.S. women's movement, and move into contemporary debates.

Texts for the course are listed above. **All of the texts, plus the optional readings listed, will be on 3 day course reserve at the University library.** Other required readings will be available online at the UMass Spark website for the course, and a hard copy will be available for overnight reserve at the WOST office, 208 Bartlett through

Nancy Patteson, the Graduate Certificate Program Coordinator. Some of the texts and optional readings will be available there as well.

GRADING COMPONENTS:

There will be three main components on which student grades will be based: Class Participation, Short Paper, and the Term Paper.

Class Participation (25 % of grade): This component will be based on **attendance, short homework and class presentation assignments.** There will be a weekly one page thought question **due to the course online list serve on the readings the night before the seminar**, and a sign up sheet for a brief 5 minute summary class presentation of one of the required readings for the course.

Short Paper (35% of grade): There will be a short paper of 5-8 pages due at the seminar **October 29.** Students will be expected to bring copies of their paper for all the other members of the seminar, and the seminar will read and discuss them in class **November 5.** These papers should deal with some issues raised by the required readings in the seminar up to that date. They should be thought papers which outline the line of thought of an author or authors on an issue in one or more of the required readings we have read for the seminar, and which provide critical questions and/or support for their position.

Term Paper (40% of grade): The term paper should be from 10- 15 or so pages on some theoretical line of thought or issue raised in the required and optional readings for the course (or some related issue and readings). It can be either a thought or a research paper, and can develop some aspect of your short paper. Students should turn in an outline and/or abstract of their term paper topic by the **December 3 seminar**, listing their likely references, and will receive comments and suggestions back to guide their writing of the paper by the final seminar December 10. **Term Paper due Monday, Dec. 15 by 5 pm in hard copy at the WOST office, Bartlett 208.**

READINGS

I. Sept. 3 Introduction [Issues and Dimensions of Women's Power and Oppression]

Readings:

Juliet Mitchell Women's Estate, ch. 5 "The Position of Women"

Valerie Bryson "Perspectives on Gender Inequality" in Jude Browne text.

II. Sept. 10 Marx and Engels: Dialectical Materialism [The Mode of Production, Dialectical Materialist Theory of History]

Readings:

Selections from Schmitt Introduction to Marx and Engels, 1997 chs. 5, 7-9, 12 [If you have the 1987 edition, read chs. 4, 6-8, 12].

Class Handouts on Dialectical Materialism

Optional:

John Brentlinger "Notes on Feuerbach and the German Ideology" (WOST office reserve)

Markar Melkonian Marxism: a Post-Cold War Primer, ch.3-5.
Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels Selections from The Communist Manifesto, The Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts, The German Ideology and the Grundrisse in Robert Tucker, ed. The Marx-Engels Reader

III. Sept. 17 Marxist Theories of Class and Gender [Classes as Relations and Processes, Gender and the Sexual Division of Labor]

Readings:

Michael Zweig “The Class Structure of the United States” in The Working Class Majority: America’s Best Kept Secret

Richard Schmitt text, 1997, ch. 13 [1987 edition ch. 13,14]

Selections from Friedrich Engels The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State

Handout on Class

Optional:

Mark Melkonian Marxism: A Post-Cold War Primer, ch. 2

Jane Flax “Do Feminists Need Marxism?” (WOST office reserve)

IV. Sept 24 Materialist Feminism/Marxist Feminism [Mode of Production and Reproduction, Re-interpretations of Marxism from a feminist perspective]

Readings:

Margaret Benston “The Political Economy of Women’s Liberation” in R.

Hennessy and C. Ingraham, eds. Materialist Feminism

Silvia Federici Caliban and the Witch, ch. 2 “The Accumulation of Labor and the Degradation of Women”

Paddy Quick “The Class Nature of Women’s Oppression”, The Review of Radical Polical Economics vol.9, no. 3 (Fall 1977), pp. 42-53.

Optional:

Maria Dalla Costa “Women and the Subversion of the Community”, in Hennessy and Ingraham, eds. op. cit. (WOST office reserve)

Cristine Delphy “For a Materialist Feminism” in Hennessy and Ingraham, eds. op. cit.

Ann Ferguson Blood at the Root, ch.1 (WOST office reserve)

V. Oct. 1 Materialist/Socialist Feminism/Dual Systems theory [Production and Love/Sexuality: Two Separate but Interlocking Systems]

Readings:

Juliet Mitchell Women’s Estate, ch. 4 “The Politics of Women’s Liberation 2”

Anna Jonasdottir “Feminist Questions, Marx’s Method, and the Actualization of ‘Love Power’”

Juliet Mitchell “Procreative Mothers (sexual difference) and Child-free Sisters (gender)”, in Jude Brown text.

Catharine MacKinnon “Feminism, Marxism, Method and the State” in D.T. Meyers, ed. Feminist Social Thought

Optional:

Rachel Alsop et al, eds. “The Social Construction of Gender”, Theorizing Gender, ch. 3.

Heidi Hartmann “The Family as the Locus of Gender, Class, and Political Struggle: The Example of Housework” in A. Herrmann and A. Stewart, eds. Theorizing Feminism

Gayle Rubin “The Traffic in Women” in R. Reiter, ed. Toward an Anthropology of Women

Iris Young “Socialist Feminism and the Limits of Dual Systems Theory” in R. Hennessy and C. Ingraham, ed. Materialist Feminism

Ann Ferguson “Sex/Affective Production”, Blood at the Root, ch. 4.

Rosemary Crompton “Gender Inequality and the Division of Labor” in Jude Brown text

VI. Oct. 8 Freud: Gender and Sexuality [Gender as a consequence of the social-psychological construction of Sexuality]

Readings:

Sigmund Freud “Some Psychological Consequences of the Anatomical Distinction between the Sexes” (1925),

Sigmund Freud “Female Sexuality” (1931)

Sigmund Freud “Femininity” (1933)

[All three are in Jean Strouse, ed. Women and Analysis; also the first two are in P. Reiff, ed. Sexuality and the Psychology of Love]

Chodorow’s Introduction to Freud’s Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality

Optional:

Sigmund Freud “A Case of Homosexuality in a Woman” in P. Reiff, ed. Sexuality and the Psychology of Love

Sigmund Freud “An Excerpt from chapter III of The Ego and the Id” in E. Young-Buehl, ed. Freud on Women

Elisabeth Young-Buehl “Introduction to E. Young Buehl, ed. Freud on Women

VII. Oct. 15 Freudian Feminism [Gender as the social-psychological construction of Patriarchy]

Readings:

Juliet Mitchell “On Freud and the Distinction between the Sexes”, in J. Strouse, ed. Women and Analysis

Juliet Mitchell Psychoanalysis and Feminism, Conclusion, including “The Holy Family” and “Femininity”.

Nancy Chodorow “Family Structure and Feminine Personality”, from M. Rosaldo and L. Lamphere, eds. Women, Culture and Society

Optional:

R. Alsop et al “Psychoanalysis and Gender”, Theorizing Gender, ch. 2

Ann Ferguson Blood at the Root, ch.2

VIII. Oct. 22 Foucault [Discursive and bodily practices as the bases of Power/Knowledges]

Readings:

Michel Foucault Selections from Discipline and Punish, Pt II, 1 “Generalized punishment”, pp. 83-103

Michel Foucault Selections from History of Sexuality, vol. 1 text, Pt. IV, 3-4 “The Deployment of Sexuality (Domain and Periodization), Pt. V “Right of Death and Power over Life”, pp. 103-59.

Michel Foucault “Body/Power” and “History of Sexuality” from Colin Gordon, ed. Power/Knowledges

Nancy Fraser “Foucault’s Body Language”, Salmagundi, no. 61 (Fall 1985).

Optional:

Michel Foucault interviews from Colin Gordon, ed. Power/Knowledge, passim

Chris Weedon “Discourse, Power, and Resistance”, in Feminist Practice and Poststructuralist Theory, ch. 5.

- IX. Oct. 29 Foucauldian Feminism and Critiques** [Feminist uses of Foucault to understand historical gender and race power relations, feminist concerns about Foucault]

STUDENT SHORT PAPERS DUE WITH COPIES FOR ALL

Reading:

Ellen Feder Family Bonds, chs. 1-3 text.

Sandra Bartky “Foucault, Femininity, and the Modernization of Patriarchal Power” in I. Diamond and L. Quinby, eds. Feminism and Foucault

Linda Alcoff “Feminist Politics and Foucault: The Limits to a Collaboration” (WOST office reserve)

Jana Sawicki “Identity Politics and Sexual Freedom: Foucault and Feminism” in I. Diamond and L. Quinby, eds. op. cit.

Optional:

Chris Weedon Feminist Practice and Poststructuralist Theory, ch. 2, 3.

Shane Phelan “Foucault and Feminism” (WOST office reserve)

Irene Diamond and Lee Quinby, eds. Feminism and Foucault, passim.

Lois McNay Foucault and Feminism, ch. 1 “Power, Body, and Experience”

- X. Nov. 5 Student Short Paper Discussions**

No seminar Nov. 12: Tuesday class schedule followed

- XI. Nov. 19 Intersectional Feminist Critiques and Positions** [What does an intersectional approach require? What are the political implications for feminist practice?]

Readings:

Leslie McCall “The Complexity of Intersectionality”, from Signs, vol. 30, no. 3 (2005).

Kimberly Crenshaw “Intersectionality and Identity Politics: Learning from Violence against Women of Color”, in M. L. Shanley and U. Narayan, eds. Reconstructing Political Theory: Feminist Perspectives

Patricia Hill Collins “Black Women and the Sex/Gender Hierarchy”, selections from Black Feminist Thought, reprinted in S. Jackson and A. Scott, eds. Feminism and Sexuality

Iris Young “Five Faces of Oppression” from Justice and the Politics of Difference, ch. 2.

bell hooks “Feminism and Class Power” from Where We Stand: Class Matters

Optional:

E.V. Spelman Inessential Woman, passim

Joanna Brenner “Intersections, Locations, and Capitalist Class Relations: Intersectionality from a Marxist Perspective”, in N. Holmstrom, ed. The Socialist Feminist Project

Gloria Anzaldua “La Consciencia de la Mestiza” from Borderland/La Frontera

Paula Moya “Postmodernism, “Realism”, and the Politics of Identity: Cherrie Moraga and Chicana Feminism”, from J. Alexander and C. T. Mohanty, eds. Feminist Genealogies, Colonial Legacies, Democratic Futures

Ann Ferguson “Gender, Race and Class in the US Today”, in Sexual Democracy

XII. Nov. 26 Critical Race Theory, Part I [What is the concept of “race” and how has racism been perpetuated by historical conquest, economic and political power? What different theories are in conflict here?]

Readings:

Michael Omi and Howard Winant Selection from Racial Formation in the US, “Racial Formation”, ch. 4

Carole Pateman “The Settler Contract” in C. Mills and C. Pateman Contract and Domination, ch. 2 AND/OR “Sex, Race, and Indifference”, ch. 5.

Charles Mills “Contract of Breach: Repairing the Racial Contract “ in C. Mills and C. Pateman , Contract and Domination, ch. 4.

Ellen Feder “Of Monkeys and Men: Biopower and the Production of Race”, Family Bonds, ch. 4

Optional:

Michael Omi and Howard Winant Racial Formation in the US, passim

Charles Mills The Racial Contract, Introduction, ch. 1, and passim

Carole Pateman The Sexual Contract, passim

Charles Mills “Intersecting Contracts” in C. Mills and C. Pateman Contract and Domination, ch 6.

Carole Pateman “Sex, Race and Indifference” in Ibid

XIII. Dec. 3 Poststructuralist and Queer Thinkers

[Collapsing Sex and Gender, Dividing Sexuality from Gender, Challenging Identity Politics]

Term Paper Outline/Abstract Due in Seminar

Readings:

Judith Butler “Gender Trouble, Feminist Theory, and Psychoanalytic Discourse”, in L. Nicholson, ed. Feminism/Postmodernism

Judith Butler Selection “Melancholy Gender”, from The Psychic Life of Power ch. 5

Terrell Carver ““Trans” Trouble: Transsexuality and the End of Gender” in Jude Brown text
Anna Jonasdottir and Kathy Jones “Out of Epistemology: Feminist Theory in the 1980s and Beyond” (WOST office reserve)

Optional:

Rachel Alsop, et al, ed. “Judith Butler: The Queen of Queer”, “Gender and Sexuality”, and “Borderlands and Gendered Homes”, Theorizing Gender, chs. 4, 5, 9.

Tony Lawson “Gender and Social Change” in Jude Browne text.

Judith Butler “Imitation and Gender Subordination”, in H. Abelove et al, eds. Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader

Gayle Rubin and Judith Butler “Sexual Traffic” (WOST office reserve)

XIV. Dec. 10 Postcolonial and Race Theory, Part II [How does postcolonial theory connect to different theories of imperialism, racism and patriarchy? What feminist politics is suggested by feminist postcolonial theorists?]

Readings:

Chandra Mohanty Feminism without Borders, ch. 2, 6

Aihwa Ong “Colonialism and Modernity” in A.Herrmann and A. Stewart, eds. Theorizing Feminism

Maria Mies “Colonization and Housewification”, in R. Hennessy and C. Ingraham, eds. Materialist Feminism

Optional:

Markar Melkonian “Imperialism” in Marxism: A Post-Cold War Primer, ch. 5

Rosemary Hennessy and Rajeswari Mohan “The Construction of Woman in Three Popular Texts of Empire: Toward a Critique of Materialist Feminism”, in Hennessy and Ingraham, eds. op. cit.

Maria Lugones “Heterosexualism and the Modern Colonial Gender System”, Hypatia, vol. 22, no. 1 (Winter 2007) (WOST office reserve)

Rachel Alsop et al, eds. “Gender and the Politics of Identity”, Theorizing Gender, ch. 10.

Ann Ferguson “Global Gender Solidarity and Feminist Paradigms of Justice” (WOST office reserve)

Adrienne Wing ed. Critical Global Race Feminism, passim

Term Paper Due Monday , Dec. 15 at 5 pm in WOST office, Bartlett 208