

Womenst 692 B History of Feminist Theory
Weds. 2:30-5 pm
Spring 2012

Professor emerita Ann Ferguson, Philosophy and Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies

Office hours: Weds. 1-2:15 pm
And by appointment
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Texts (available at Food for Thought Bookstore, 106 N. Pleasant St., Amherst, also on 3 day loan Library reserve at the WEB Du Bois University Library)

Required:

1. Sally Scholz *Feminism: An Introduction* (2010, One World/Oxford)
2. Michel Foucault *History of Sexuality, v. 1* (1980, Vintage)
3. Linda Nicholson, ed. *The Second Wave: A Reader in Feminist Theory* (1997, Routledge)

Optional:

Rachel Alsop et al, eds. *Theorizing Gender* (2002, Polity)
Silvia Federici *Caliban and the Witch* (2004, Autonomedia)
Rosemary Tong *Feminist Thought* (1998 or 2007, Westview)

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, 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%):

- Students will be expected to **do the assigned reading before each class** and to contribute to the discussion about them.
- **Responding to discussion questions on the reading:** These will be given as homework from time to time which should be responded to on the course email list the night before the seminar. We will alternate students responsible for posting answers.
- **Presentation :** Each student will choose a political issue for feminism related to the readings. The topic should come from the Student

Presentation Choice list online at the SPARK website for the course, (also listed by seminar in this syllabus), or should be an alternative agreed on by instructor and student. The presentation should include an outline of the presentation sent by email to the instructor by 12 noon of the seminar in which it will happen and can include a hard copy handout for the members of the seminar. 20 minutes time (10 minutes for the presentation, 10 minutes for discussion) will be allotted for this process, and presentations will occur in the second half of a relevant seminar.

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 deal with the topic, and defending your own view. Paper length should be from 8-10 pages. **PAPER IS DUE IN CLASS MARCH 28.**

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

APRIL 18 (but can be turned in by APRIL 11 for earlier feedback).

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 IS DUE IN THE INSTRUCTOR'S MAILBOX IN

BARTLETT 208 BY 5 P.M. Friday MAY 4. Please provide a self-addressed and stamped manila envelope if you wish your term paper returned to you, OR you can pick it up in Bartlett 208 in late May or thereafter. Leave a self-addressed and stamped postcard if you want to receive your course grade and term paper grade by mail.

Syllabus of Readings

Seminar I Introduction (Jan. 25)

Readings:

Sally Scholz *Feminism*, ch 1, 2

Ferguson *Blood at the Root* ch. 1

Seminar II Classical Liberal, Black and Anarchist Feminism, First Wave (Feb. 1)

Readings:

Wollstonecraft, *Vindication of the Rights of Women*, selections
JS Mill and Harriet Taylor *The Subjection of Women*, Part I and II
Truth “Ain’t I a Woman?”
Anna Julia Cooper *Voice from the South*, selection
Emma Goldman “Marriage and Love” and “Women’s Suffrage”

Optional:

Scholz *Feminism*, ch 3
De Gouge “Declaration of the Rights of Woman”
Rousseau *Emile*, selection from “Sophie”, Marriage section
Goldman “Anarchism: Where I Stand”
Leyna Lowe “Revolutionary Love: Feminism, Love, and the Transformative Politics of Freedom in the Works of Wollstonecraft, de Beauvoir, and Goldman” [On U Drive]
Tong *Feminist Thought*, ch. 1
Stanton *The Women’s Bible*, selections

Seminar III Existentialist Feminism and the Concept of Oppression (Feb. 8)

Readings:

Beauvoir *The Second Sex*, introduction, selection in Nicholson, ed. *The Second Wave*
Scholz ch 4, first part (pp. 66-88)
Bartky “Psychological Oppression”
hooks “Feminism: A Movement to End Sexist Oppression” (ch. 2) from *Feminist Theory from margin to center*

Optional:

Beauvoir *The Second Sex*, chs. 1-3 and passim, especially the chapter called “The Lesbian”
Alsop et al *Theorizing Gender* ch. 7, pp. 171-181
Tong *Feminist Thought* ch 5

Seminar IV Marxism, Feminist Critiques and Marxist-Feminism (Feb. 15)

Readings:

Selections from Marx *Communist Manifesto* and *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts*
Engels *Origins of the Family, Private Property and the State*, selections
Flax “Do Feminists Need Marxism?”
Benston “Political Economy of Women’s Liberation”
Federici *Caliban and the Witch*, ch. 2 (Pt. I and II)

Optional:

Miller “Occupy, Connect, Create” (anarcho-socialist vision of creating the commons)
Schmitt *Introduction to Marx and Engels*, ch 5, 7-10.
Tong *Feminist Thought* ch 3

Barrett “Capitalism and Women’s Liberation”, in Nicholson text.
Delphy and Leonard *Familiar Exploitation*, ch 2 and 3
Zweig “The Working Class Majority”
Colin Farrelly “Patriarchy and Historical Materialism”, *Hypatia*, v. 26, no. 1
Hennessy “Reclaiming Marxist Feminism for a Need-Based Politics”, in Holmstrom ed
The Socialist Feminist Project

Student presentation:

- (1) How Occupy Wall St. theory, visions and strategy connect to classical Marxism
- (2) Flax’s critique of Engels’s Origin theory of Patriarchy
- (3) Zweig and a class analysis of the US—Is Marxism relevant to social change today?
- (4) Farrelly on the Origins and Perpetuation questions of Patriarchy

Seminar V Radical and Cultural Feminisms (Feb. 22)

Readings:

Firestone “The Dialectic of Sex” in Nicholson text
Wittig “One is Not Born a Woman” in Nicholson text
Rich “Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence”
MacKinnon “Sexuality” in Nicholson text
Starhawk “Power Over and Power from Within”, *Dreaming the Dark*, ch. 1

Optional:

Movie (on library reserve) Lizzie Borden “Born in Flames”
hooks “Ending Female Sexual Oppression” *Feminist Theory from margin to center*, ch.11
Radicalesbians “Women-Identified Women” in Nicholson text.
Ferguson “Sex War: the Debate between Radical and Libertarian Feminists”, Bailey and Cuomo, eds. *Feminist Philosophy Reader*.
Tong, ch. 2
MacKinnon “Feminism, Marxism, Method and the State” from Meyer, ed. *Feminist Social Thought*
Starhawk *Dreaming the Dark*, passim.

Student presentation:

- (1) The Sex Debate between Radical Feminists and Sex Radicals (cf. Ferguson article “Sex War”)
- (2) MacKinnon on Sexuality
- (3) Is being a lesbian or trans more disruptive of patriarchy than heterosexual feminism (cf. Woman-Identified Woman, Rich on Compulsory Heterosexuality)

Seminar VI Dual Systems and Socialist Feminism (Feb 29)

Readings:

Rubin “The Traffic in Women” in Nicholson text

Hartmann “The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism” in Nicholson, ed. *The Second Wave*
Mitchell *Women’s Estate*, ch 5 (Pt. I and II)

Optional:

Bubeck “Justice and the Labor of Care”

*Fraser “After the Family Wage, *Justice Interruptus*, ch.2

Alsop et al, *Theorizing Gender*, ch 3 pp. 64-79.

Jónasdóttir “On Marx and Love Power”

Student presentation:

- (1) The Housework Debate: Should Women be Paid for Housework?
- (2) Bubeck: Is Caring work organized in a just way?

Seminar VII Womanist, Black, Women of Color, and Intersectional Feminism (March 7)

Readings:

Omi and Winant *Racial Formations in the United States* ch 4

Crenshaw “Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Politics, and Violence against Women of Color”

Lorde “Age, Race, Class and Sex: Women Redefining Difference”

Davis “The Prison Industrial Complex” in Bailey and Cuomo eds.,

Young “Five Faces of Oppression”

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

Optional:

Combahee River Collective “A Black Feminist Statement” in Nicholson text

Anzaldúa “La Conciencia de la Mestiza”, selection in Bailey and Cuomo eds. *Feminist Philosophy Reader*

Lugones “Playfulness, ‘World Traveling’ and Loving Perception” in Bailey and Cuomo eds.

hooks “Feminism and Class Power”, “Plantation Patriarchy” and “Feminist Masculinity”

Student presentation: A debate around some feminist political issue where social differences divide women, e.g. reproductive rights, violence against women, rape, prostitution, economic issues, even the debate around the Slut Walk

Seminar VIII Freudian, Freudian Feminism and Feminist Difference Theory (March 14)

Readings:

Freud “Femininity”

Chodorow “Family Structure and Feminine Personality”

Mitchell “Femininity”, selections from *Psychoanalysis and Feminism*, Conclusion, Pt. 2

Irigaray *This Sex which is not One*, in Nicholson text, also on UDrive

Gilligan “Woman’s Place in Man’s Life Cycle”, in Nicholson text

Optional:

Freud “Female Sexuality” and “Anatomical Distinctions between the Sexes”

Mitchell “Freud on the Anatomical Distinctions between the Sexes”

Irigaray “The Poverty of Psychoanalysis”

Chodorow “The Psychodynamics of the Family” in Nicholson text

Braidotti *Nomadic Subjects*, ch. 6, 8, 15

Tong *Feminist Thought*, ch 4

Student presentation choice:

(1) What is the ideal feminist family structure to challenge patriarchy?

(2) Should feminine culture be revalued (e.g. women’s sexuality, women’s skills and values, e.g. Irigaray)

Spring Break

Short Papers Due in Class March 28

Seminar IX Feminist Metaphysics and Epistemology (March 28) [Short Papers Due]

Scholz chapter 4, second part pp. 88-end, ch 5

Alcoff “The Metaphysics of Gender and Sexual Difference” and “The Phenomenology of Racial Embodiment”, in Alcoff *Visible Identities: Race, Gender, and the Self*, chs. 6, 7.

Hartsock “The Feminist Epistemological Standpoint”, in Nicholson text.

Collins “Defining Black Feminist Thought”, in Nicholson text.

Optional: Fausto-Sterling *Sexing the Body*, ch. 4, 9.

No student presentation this week

Seminar X Foucault (Apr 4)

Readings:

Foucault Interview on History of Sexuality from Gordon, ed. *Power/Knowledge*

Foucault Interview on Body/Power from Gordon, ed. *Ibid.*

Foucault “Heterotopias”

Foucault *History of Sexuality*, read whole book.

Optional:

Angell “Epidemic of Mental Illness” (reviews and letters in the New York Review of Books critiquing psychiatry and the drug industry), [on the U Drive]

Braidotti *Nomadic Subjects*, ch 6 (on Foucault and Irigaray)

Student presentation choice:

(1) Normalization and mental health (Angell)

(2) Marginalized vs. resistant/radical (cultural) spaces, social groups

Seminar XI Foucault and Feminism (Apr 11)

Readings:

Bartky “Foucault, Femininity and the Modernization of Patriarchal Power”
Feder *Family Bonds*, ch. 4 “Of Monkeys and Men”, ch 5 “Thinking Gender, Thinking Race”

Alcoff “Feminist Politics and Foucault: the Limits to a Collaboration”

Optional:

Alsop et al, *Theorizing Gender* ch. 3, pp. 79-93.

Student presentation choice:

- (1) Beauty, Sexual Objectification, Eating Disorders as feminist issues
- (2) Parallels and differences between gender and racial normalization

Term Paper Outlines Due in Seminar Apr 18

Seminar XII Poststructural Feminism and Queer Theory(Apr 18) [Outlines due]

Readings:

Butler “Gender Trouble, Feminist Theory, and Psychoanalytic Discourse”

Butler “Imitation and Gender Subordination”, in Nicholson text.

Weedon *Feminist Practice & Poststructuralist Theory*, ch. 2

Fausto-Sterling “Should there be only two sexes?” *Sexing the Body*, ch. 4.

Optional:

Alsop et al, *Theorizing Gender*, “Judith Butler: the Queen of Queer”, ch. 4

Butler “Melancholy Gender”

Alcoff “Cultural Feminism vs. Poststructuralism” in Nicholson text

Stone “A Posttranssexual Manifesto” in Conboy et al *Writing the Body*

Minter “Do Transsexuals Dream of Gay Rights?”

Student presentation choice:

- (1) Transgender questions and debates
- (2) Is there a deep psychological structure to gender or is it only a performance?
Freudian feminism and Poststructural Feminism

Seminar XIII Postcolonial and Ecological Feminisms (Apr 25)

Readings:

Mohanty “Women Workers and Capitalist Scripts”, *Feminism without Borders*, ch. 6

Shiva “Women, Development and Ecology”, *Staying Alive*

Mies “Need for a New Vision”, from Mies and Shiva, *Ecofeminism*, ch. 20.

Gandhi “Postcolonialism and Feminism”

Lugones “Heterosexualism and the Colonial/Modern Gender System”

Optional:

Conway “Transnational Feminisms at the WSF”

Schutte “Feminism and Globalization Processes in Latin America”, Bailey and Cuomo eds.

Federici, ch. 5

Stoler “Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power”, from Haslett and Haslanger *Theorizing Feminisms*

Student presentation:

- (1) Differences in feminist strategies to create global feminist movements
(Conway)
- (2) Women and a Sustainable Development vision (Shiva, Mies)
- (3) Coalitions across Differences in a Postcolonial Globalized World (Mohanty, Lugones)

**Final Term Paper Due Friday May 4 by 5 pm, in hard copy in Ferguson mailbox,
Bartlett 208**