

WGSS syllabus 692C Spring 2013 Topics in Feminist Theory

Professor emerita Ann Ferguson

Tuesdays 4-6:30

Office hours Tues 2:30-3:30,  
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and by appointment  
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Texts (available at Food for Thought Books in Amherst)

1. Linda Nicholson, ed. (1997) *The Second Wave: A Reader in Feminist Theory* (Routledge)
2. Rosemary Hennessy (2000) *Profit and Pleasure: Sexual Identities in Late Capitalism* (Routledge)
3. Rachel Alsop, Annette Fitzsimmons and Kathleen Lennon (2002) *Theorizing Gender* (Polity)

Optional:

Silvia Federici (2004) *Caliban and the Witch: Women and Primitive Accumulation* (Autonomedia)

Eva Illouz (2012) *Why Love Hurts: A Sociological Explanation* (Polity)

**Other readings for the course available on UMass UDrive** ([www.udrive.oit.umass.edu/xythoswfs/webview/xythoslogin.action](http://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%):**

(1) All students will be expected **to do the reading** before the class for which they are assigned and to contribute to the discussion about them. This will include posting **discussion questions** on something in the reading for the week suitable for a class discussion. These questions should be clarified by several lines which locate the issue in the reading. **They should be posted by noon Monday of the day before the seminar!!**

(2) **The class report may done with a partner**, and be chosen at the beginning of the seminar. It will involve a 10 minute presentation in a particular seminar on a political or theoretical debate on an issue connected to feminist theory. Meet with your

partner to organize the presentation. *Send a 3 page outline of your treatment of the issue to the seminar e-mail list by Monday noon of the day before the seminar. Be prepared to defend your point of view in seminar.* Class reports will start in seminar IV.

**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 Tues. MARCH 26.**

**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 APR 16.** 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 (Hard copy) IS DUE IN THE INSTRUCTOR'S MAILBOX IN BARTLETT 208 BY 5 P.M. FRI. MAY 3. Email copy is also due to me on that day.** I will comment on your email version of the paper using the Track Change option and email it back to you.

**Leave a self-addressed and stamped postcard if you want to receive your course grade and term paper grade by mail.**

## READINGS

### **Seminar I Introduction (Jan. 22) Love, Sexuality and Male Domination**

*Readings:*

Ferguson *Blood at the Root* ch. 1

Alsop et al ch 1

Ferguson "Questions about Love and Feminism"

*Optional:*

Mitchell *Women's Estate*, ch 5, ch. 4

### **Seminar II Feminist Epistemologies and Methodologies (Jan. 29)**

*Readings:*

Falmagne "Epistemology" overview

Hartsock "The Feminist Epistemological Standpoint", in Nicholson text.

Collins “Defining Black Feminist Thought”, in Nicholson text.  
Harding “Strong Objectivity”  
Narayan “Contesting Cultures” in Nicholson text

*Optional:*

McCall “The Complexity of Intersectionality” (from *Signs*, vol. 30, no. 3, 2005)  
Combahee River Collective “A Black Feminist Statement” in Nicholson text  
Crenshaw “Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Politics, and Violence against Women of Color”, hooks “Postmodern Blackness” in Haslett and Haslanger eds. *Theorizing Feminisms*; Clare Hemmings *Why Stories Matter*, introduction

**Seminar III-IV Class Exploitation and Gender (Feb 5 and 12)**

**(1) Seminar III Marxism, Capitalism, Imperialism and Gender (Feb. 5)**

*Readings:*

Hennessy *Profit and Pleasure*, ch 1  
Eisenstein *Feminism Seduced*, ch 1 “Globalization of Women’s Labor”  
Benston “Political Economy of Women’s Liberation”  
Federici *Caliban and the Witch*, ch. 2 (Pt. I and II)

*Optional:*

Marx Selections from Marx *Communist Manifesto* and *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts*, and “Primitive Accumulation”, *Capital* v. 1, ch. 1; Farrelly “Patriarchy and Historical Materialism”, Mies *Patriarchy and Accumulation on a World Scale*, ch. 2; Engels *Origins of the Family, Private Property and the State*, selections; Flax “Do Feminists Need Marxism?” Schmitt *Introduction to Marx and Engels*, ch 5, 7-10.

**(2) Seminar IV Race, Class, Gender and Sexuality in the US (Feb. 12)**

*Readings:*

Zweig “The Working Class Majority”  
Lorde “Age, Race, Class and Sex: Women Redefining Difference”  
Eisenstein *Feminism Seduced*, ch. 3 “Fault Lines of Race and Class”  
Alcoff “The Phenomenology of Racial Embodiment”  
Davis “The Prison Industrial Complex”  
Omi and Winant *Racial Formations in the United States*, ch. 4

*Optional:*

Eisenstein *Feminism Seduced*, ch. 2 “Women, Work and the Mainstreaming of Feminism”, hooks “Feminism and Class Power”, Alexander “The New Jim Crow”

**No Seminar Feb 19—Monday schedule followed**

***Seminar V-VII Lov, Sexuality and Oppression (Feb. 26, March 5 and 12 )***

## **Seminar V Love and Oppression Part I (Feb. 26)**

### *Readings:*

Wollstonecraft, *Vindication of the Rights of Women*, selections  
Leyna Lowe “Revolutionary Love: Feminism, Love, and the Transformative Politics of Freedom in the Works of Wollstonecraft, de Beauvoir, and Goldman”  
Goldman “The Tragedy of Women’s Emancipation”, “The Traffic in Women”, “Marriage and Love”  
Cooper *Voice from the South*, selection  
Beauvoir *The Second Sex*, introduction, selection in Nicholson, ed. *The Second Wave*

### *Optional:*

Beauvoir *The Second Sex*, chs. 1-3 and passim, especially the chapter called “The Lesbian”;

## **(2) Seminar VI Love and Oppression Part II (Mar. 5)**

### *Readings:*

Firestone *The Dialectic of Sex*, selection, from Nicholson text, and ch 6 “Love” (on UDrive)  
Bartky “Psychological Oppression”  
hooks “Feminist Masculinity”  
Illouz *Why Love Hurts*, ch 2 “The Great Transformation of Love”, and ch 7 “Epilogue”.  
Gunnarsson “Loving Him for Who He Is”

### *Optional:*

Ferguson “Romantic Couple Love, the Affective Economy, and a Socialist-Feminist Vision”; hooks *All about Love* ch1 “Clarity: Give Love Words”, ch2 “Justice: Childhood Love Lessons; Alsop et al *Theorizing Gender* ch. 7, pp. 171-181

## **Seminar VII: Radical Feminism and the 1980s Sex Debate (Mar. 12)**

### *Readings:*

Wittig “One is Not Born a Woman”  
Rich “Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence” in Nicholson text  
Radicalesbians “Woman-Identified Women” in Nicholson text  
MacKinnon “Sexuality” in Nicholson text  
Rubin “Thinking Sex”  
Hennessy ch 6 (On Rubin)

*Optional:* Alsop et al, ch 5, 6; Butler and Rubin “Sexual Traffic”, in Rubin *Deviations*, Ferguson “Sex War: Debate between Radical and Libertarian Feminists”, Minter “Transsexual and Gay Rights”, Ferguson *Sexual Democracy*, ch 3; articles in Haslett and Haslanger, eds. on pornography, also Rubin on pornography in *Deviations*, MacKinnon on pornography in *Feminism Unmodified*.

## **SPRING BREAK**

**Short papers due in seminar Mar. 26**

## **Seminar VIII Materialist Feminism: Patriarchy and Capitalism, Work, Love and Sexuality (Mar. 26)**

### *Readings:*

Rubin “The Traffic in Women”, selections in Nicholson text  
Hartmann “The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism” in Nicholson text  
Folbre selection “The Care Penalty”, *The Invisible Heart*, ch. 2  
Jónasdóttir *Why Women are Oppressed*, ch. 5 “Beyond Oppression”  
Hennessy text ch 2, ch 5

*Optional:* Delphy “The Main Enemy”, Delphy “For a Materialist Feminism”, Bubeck “Justice and Care”, Ferguson *Sexual Democracy*, ch 2, 4

## **Seminar IX Freud and Feminism: The Family, Gender and Sexuality (Apr. 2)**

### *Readings:*

Ferguson “Psychoanalysis and Feminism”  
Alsop et al text ch 2 “Psychoanalysis and Gender” (Freud)  
Chodorow “Family Structure and Feminine Personality”  
Mitchell “Femininity”, *Psychoanalysis and Feminism*  
Irigaray “This Sex which is not One” in Nicholson text

*Optional:* Chodorow “Psychodynamics of the Family” in Nicholson text; Gilligan “Woman’s Place in Man’s Life Cycle” Nicholson text, Freud readings on UDrive, Alsop et al text, ch 2, 7, 8

## **Seminar X: Foucault, Poststructuralist Feminism, Sexual Identity and Queer Theory) (Apr. 9)**

### *Readings:*

Butler excerpt from *Gender Trouble*  
Butler “Melancholy Gender”  
Feder *Family Bonds*, ch 4 on Race and ch 5 on Gender  
Bartky “Foucault, Femininity and the Modernization of Patriarchal Power”  
Weedon *Feminist Practice & Poststructuralist Theory*, ch. 2  
Alsop ch 4

*Optional:* Foucault Interview on History of Sexuality from Gordon, ed. *Power/Knowledge*; Foucault Interview on Body/Power from Gordon, ed. Foucault *History of Sexuality*, skim whole book, Angell “Epidemic of Mental Illness”, Hennessy text, ch 6, Butler “Imitation and Gender Subordination”, Nicholson text.

## **Seminar XI Post/Decolonial, Ecological and Transnational Feminisms (Apr. 16)**

### *Readings:*

Gandhi “Postcolonialism and Feminism”  
Lugones “Heterosexualism and the Colonial/Modern Gender Regime”  
Mohanty *Feminism without Borders*, ch 2, 6  
Mies “Colonialization and Housewification”

Mies “Need for a New Vision”  
Shiva “Development, Ecology and Women”

*Optional:* Conway “Feminist Transformations at the WSF”, Saleh, “Ecological Debt: Embodied Debt”, Mies *Patriarchy and Accumulation on a World Scale*, ch. 3, Hennessy, ch 5 “Sexual Alibis, Colonial Displacements”; Ong “Higher Learning in Global Space”

### **Seminar XII Feminism and Concepts of Global Justice (Apr. 23)**

*Readings:*

Young “Five Faces of Oppression”  
Salleh “From Eco-Efficiency to Global Justice”  
Fraser “After the Family Wage”  
Fraser “Mapping the Feminist Imagination” from *Scales of Justice*, ch. 6  
Ferguson “Feminist Paradigms of Solidarity and Justice”

*Optional:* Mills and Pateman *Contract and Domination*, ch 4

### **Seminar XIII Solidarity, Community and Feminist Visions (Apr. 30)**

*Readings:*

Gibson-Graham *A Post-Capitalist Politics*, ch. 4 “The Community Economy”  
Matthaei “Beyond Economic Man”  
Ferguson “Feminist Politics”  
Hennessy text ch 7  
Miller “Occupy, Connect, Create” (anarcho-socialist vision of creating the commons)

*Optional:* hooks *All about Love*, ch 6 “Values: Living by a Love-Ethic, ch. 7  
“Community: Loving Communion”, ch 9 “Mutuality: the Heart of Love”, Ferguson  
*Sexual Democracy*, ch. 10, Alsop et al, ch 10, Mies *Patriarchy and Accumulation*, ch. 7

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