

WGSS syllabus 492C/692C Spring 2015 Topics in Feminist Theory

Professor emerita Ann Ferguson

Mondays 2:30-5 pm, Bartlett 456

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1-2 pm and by appointment  
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Texts

1. Michele Alexander (2010) *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Color Blindness* (The New Press)
2. Hester Eisenstein (2009) *Feminism Seduced: How Global Elites Use Women's Labor and Ideas to Exploit the World* (Paradigm)
3. Silvia Federici (2004) *Caliban and the Witch: Women and Primitive Accumulation* (Autonomedia)
4. Linda Nicholson, ed. (1997) *The Second Wave: A Reader in Feminist Theory* (Routledge)

Optional:

1. Rachel Alsop, Annette Fitzsimmons and Kathleen Lennon (2002) *Theorizing Gender* (Polity)
2. Cinzia Arruzza (2013) *Dangerous Liaisons: The Marriages and Divorces of Marxism and Feminism* (Wales, UK: Merlin Press).
3. Judith Butler (2007) *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity* (Routledge)
4. Tom Digby (2014) *Love and War: How Militarism Shapes Sexuality and Romance* (Columbia University) [also ebook]
5. bell hooks (2000) *All about Love: New Visions* (Harper)

**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), user name: ferguson; 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 and online postings), 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 comments and 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 (Or if a video, give a brief summary of the point made before asking the question). **They should be posted by 6 pm Sunday, the day before the seminar.**

(2) **Class reports** should 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 our readings. ***Send a 3 page outline of your treatment of the issue to the seminar e-mail list by 6 pm Sunday night before the seminar. Be prepared to defend your point of view in seminar.*** **Class reports will start in seminar III. Undergrads will be expected to do one class report; Grads will be expected to do two class reports.**

**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 and/or film deal with the topic, and defending your own view. Paper length should be about 8 pages. **PAPER IS DUE IN CLASS in hard copy the Monday after Spring break.**

**C. Term Paper (40%):** Students should pick a topic in feminist theory connected to our seminar 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 BY MONDAY APRIL 13, emailed to instructor.** Students will be asked to make appointments to talk to the instructor about their plans for the term paper the week of April 13. **If you want the option of doing a draft of the Term Paper to receive by comments and revise, please get the draft to me by FRIDAY APR. 25 at the latest.** I will comment on your email version of the paper using the Track Change option and email it back to you. **FINAL TERM PAPER Due to Instructor by email copy Monday May 4.** I will also give you comments and email it back to you with your grade for the course.

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

## READINGS\*

**\* All required readings not in mentioned texts will be available online. Optional readings will be available on 3 day library reserve in the UMass DuBois library. Please note some online video resources and on AV reserve available through the UMass Dubois library as optional material.**

### **Seminar I Mon. Jan. 26 Introduction Feminist Theory Paradigms, Historicizing Theory and Liberal Feminist Foremothers**

*Readings:*

Ferguson *Blood at the Root* ch. 1  
Arruzza *Dangerous Liaisons*, ch 1  
De Gouges *Declaration of the Rights of Woman*  
Cooper *Voice from the South*, selection  
Truth “Ar’n’t I a Woman?”  
Classical Liberalism and First Wave Feminism HANDOUT

*Optional:*

Cinzia Arruzza *Dangerous Liaisons: The marriages and divorces of Marxism and Feminism*, ch 2.  
Alsop et al, eds. *Theorizing Gender*, ch. 1

### **Seminar II Mon. Feb. 2 Radical Feminist Foremothers and Others: Love, Gender, and Oppression**

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

*Optional:*

Beauvoir *The Second Sex*, chs. 1-3 and passim, especially chapter XXIII “The Woman in Love”

### **Seminar III-IV Class Exploitation and Gender**

#### **(1)Seminar III Feb. 9 How Capitalism Promotes Gender and Racial Domination and Violence**

*Readings:*

Federici *Caliban and the Witch*, ch. 2 “The Accumulation of Labor and the Degradation of Women” (Pt. I and II) [(III-1)Grad class report: also ch. 5]  
Farrelly “Patriarchy and Historical Materialism”  
Young “Five Faces of Oppression” [(III-2]class report]  
Lorde “Age, Race, Class and Sex: Women Redefining Difference”

Anzaldua *Borderlands/La Frontera*, ch. 1 “The Homeland, *Atlán: El Otro México*” (put on UDrive)

*Optional:*

Marx Selections from Marx *Communist Manifesto* and *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts*, and “Primitive Accumulation”, *Capital* v. 1, ch. 1; Schmitt *Introduction to Marx and Engels*, ch 5, 7-10; Engels *Origins of the Family, Private Property and the State*, selections; Federici, ch. 5 “Colonization and Christianization”

**No seminar Monday Feb. 16 (Presidents’Day); our seminar meets Tues. Feb. 17**

**(2) Seminar IV Tues. Feb. 17 Marxist vs Socialist Feminism**

Benston “The Political Economy of Women’s Liberation”

Eisenstein “Globalization of Women’s Labor”, *Feminism Seduced*, ch 1, text

Rubin “The Traffic in Women” [(IV-1) Grad class report]

Hartmann “The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism” in Nicholson ed text [(IV-2) class report]

Combahee River Collective “Black Feminist Statement” in Nicholson ed. text

*Optional:* Arruzza *Dangerous Liaisons*, ch 3; **Video:** *Born in Flames* (Media reserve);

Mitchell *Women’s Estate*, ch. 5; Folbre selection “The Care Penalty”, *The Invisible Heart*, ch. 2; Ferguson “Feminist Love Politics: Romance, Care and Solidarity” in

Jónasdóttir and Ferguson, eds. *Love*; Delphy “For a Materialist Feminism”; Delphy “The Main Enemy”; Ferguson *Sexual Democracy*, ch 2, 4; Jónasdóttir “Feminist Questions: Marxist Methods”

**Seminar V Mon. Feb. 23 : Race, Class, Gender in the US: Institutionalized Violence and Racial Injustice**

*Readings:*

Alexander *The New Jim Crow*, ch 1 “The Rebirth of Caste” and ch 5 “The New Jim Crow” [(V-1) class report]

Eisenstein *Feminism Seduced*, ch. 3 “Fault Lines of Race and Class”

Omi and Winant *Racial Formations in the United States*, ch. 4 [(V-2) class report]

Crenshaw “Intersectionality. . .”

Anzaldua “La Conciencia de la Mestiza/Toward New Consciousness”, From *Borderlands/La Frontera*. 1987 online: <http://faculty.oxy.edu/ron/msi/05/texts/anzaldua-mestizaconsciousness.pdf> [(V-3) class report]

The Truth about Race in America

Meyerson and Denzel Smith “An Economic Program for #Black Lives Matter” (*The Nation*, Jan. 26, 2015) [also UDrive]

*Optional:*

Davis “The Prison Industrial Complex”; Eisenstein *Feminism Seduced*, ch. 2 “Women, Work and the Mainstreaming of Feminism”; Alcoff “Phenomenology of Racial Difference”; hooks “Feminism and Class Power”

## **Seminar VI March 1 Radical Feminism, Lesbian-Feminism, and the 1980s Sex Debate**

### *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 [(VI-1) class report]

Lorde “Uses of the Erotic” in *Sister Outsider* (1984). Online:

<http://www.metahistory.org/guidelines/EroticUses.php>

Rubin “Thinking Sex” [(VI-2) class report]

*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*, cf. **Videos** *Hip Hop; Price of Pleasure; and Dreamworlds 3; Live Nude Girls Unite*.

### **---Short Papers Due online March 23 after Spring Break---**

## **Seminar VII Monday March 9 Love and Oppression: Radical and Critical Feminist Theories, Part II**

### *Readings:*

Firestone *The Dialectic of Sex*, selection, from Nicholson text, and ch 6 “Love” (on UDrive)

Digby *Love and War* (also ebook), ch 2 “Let’s Make a Deal”

Gunnarsson “Loving Him for Who He Is”, in Jónasdóttir and Ferguson, eds. *Love* [(VII-1) class report]

Bartky “Psychological Oppression”

Jónasdóttir “Beyond Oppression” [(VII-2) Grad class report]

*Optional:* Digby *Love and War*, ch 1 “Battle of the Sexes”; Illouz *Why Love Hurts*, ch 2 “The Great Transformation of Love”, and ch 7 “Epilogue”.

## **Seminar VIII March 23 Masculinity, Love and Oppression: Love and Violence, Part III**

Digby *Love and War*, ch 6 “Gender Terrorism and Gender Sacrifice” [(VIII-1) class report]

Douglass “Reality Bites” from *Enlightened Sexism*

Solnit “#Yes All Women: Feminists Rewrite the Story” from *Men Explain Things to Me* hooks *All about Love*, ch. 9 “Mutuality: the Heart of Love”, ch. 10 “Romance: Sweet Love” (Not yet on U Drive) [(VIII-2) class report: include “Feminist Masculinity”]

Ferguson “Romantic Couple Love, the Affective Economy, and a Socialist-Feminist Vision”

Optional: hooks “Feminist Masculinity”; hooks “Feminist Manhood”; hooks “Plantation Masculinity”; Alsop et al *Theorizing Gender* ch. 7, pp. 171-181; Digby ch 3 “How to Make a Warrior”

### **Seminar IX Mon. March 30 Freud and Feminism: The Family, Gender and Sexuality**

*Readings:*

Ferguson “Psychoanalysis and Feminism” (overview)  
Benjamin “A Desire of Her Own” [(IX-1) class report]  
Alsop et al text ch 2 “Psychoanalysis and Gender” (Freud)  
Chodorow “Family Structure and Feminine Personality”  
Irigaray “This Sex which is not One” in Nicholson text [(IX-2) class report]

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

### **Seminar X Mon. April 6 Foucault, Sexuality, Power/Knowledges and (Racial) Biopower**

*Readings:*

Foucault Interview on History of Sexuality from Gordon, ed. *Power/Knowledge*  
Foucault Interview on Body/Power from Gordon, ed.  
Bartky “Foucault, Femininity and the Modernization of Patriarchal Power” [X-1 class report]  
Feder *Family Bonds*, ch 4 on Race [(X-2) Grad class report + ch 5 on Gender]  
Foucault *History of Sexuality*, Part V [(X-3) Grad class report + Foucault “Society Must Be Defended”]

*Optional:* Foucault “Society Must be Defended”; Foucault *History of Sexuality*, skim whole book; Feder *Family Bonds*, ch 5 on Gender; Angell “Epidemic of Mental Illness”

### **Seminar XI April 13 Poststructuralist and De-Colonial Feminism, Sexual Identity and Queer Theory**

Butler *Gender Trouble* ch 1 [(XI-1) class report + read Butler 2007 Preface to book]  
Butler “Imitation and Gender Subordination”, Nicholson text  
Weedon *Feminist Practice and Poststructuralist Theory*, ch. 2  
Stone “The Empire Strikes Back: A Post-Transsexual Manifesto” [(X2) class report]  
Lugones “Heterosexualism and the Colonial/Modern Gender Regime” [(X3) Grad class report]

*Optional:*

Alsop ch 4 “Judith Butler: the Queen of Queer”; Butler “Melancholy Gender” from *The Psychic Life of Power*

### **Seminar XII Weds. Apr. 22 Solidarity, Community and Feminist Visions**

*Readings:*

Eisenstein text, conclusion

Gibson-Graham *A Post-Capitalist Politics*, ch. 4 “The Community Economy” [(XII-1) class report]

hooks *All about Love*. Ch 6 “Values: Living by a Love Ethic”

Miller “Occupy, Connect, Create” (anarcho-socialist vision of creating the commons) [(XII-2) class report]

Mies “Need for a New Vision”

Shiva “Development, Ecology and Women” [(XII-2) class report]

Online article about cooperatives:

<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2015/1/13/worker-run-cooperatives.html>

*Optional:* Hennessy “Love in the Commons”, in Jónasdóttir and Ferguson eds. *Love*; Matthaei “Beyond Economic Man”; Zeese and Flowers “Cooperatives and Community Work. . .”; hooks, ch. 7 “Community: Loving Communion”; Ferguson *Sexual Democracy*, ch. 10; Alsop et al, ch 10

### **Seminar XIII Mon. Apr. 27 Feminism and Concepts of Global Justice**

*Readings:*

Salleh “From Eco-Efficiency to Global Justice”

Fraser “After the Family Wage” [(XIII-1) class report]

Fraser “Mapping the Feminist Imagination” from *Scales of Justice*, ch. 6

Ferguson “Feminist Paradigms of Solidarity and Justice” [(XIII-2) class report]

*Optional:* Lynch “Love, Care, and Solidarity”, in Jónasdóttir and Ferguson, eds; Arruzza ch 4; Bubeck “Justice and Care”; Mills and Pateman *Contract and Domination*, ch 4

**Reminder: Email File of Paper IS DUE to instructor by 5 pm Monday May 4. Paper with comments and your final grade will be returned by email after grades are posted.**