

WOMS/PHIL 216-010/080
INTRODUCTION TO FEMINIST THEORY

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Course Description:

Feminism is a social movement whose goal is to raise the status of women. Over the centuries, feminists have developed theories to explain the reasons for gender inequality. This course is intended as an introduction to the varieties of feminist thought, focusing primarily on 19th and 20th century Western thought. It explores major developments within the feminist theoretical discourse. It aims to provide students with analytical tools for evaluating the various theories which seek to explain how gender is socially constructed in terms of institutions, ideologies, and methodologies. The social process involved in the development of theory will also be explored.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS:

It is absolutely essential that everyone come to class prepared, having read and thought about the reading assignments and be ready and willing to raise questions and participate in discussions. All assigned readings are required. Reading assignments are listed on the syllabus for the current week's classes. Students should have completed the assigned readings **BEFORE EACH CLASS**. Courtesy is crucial: you are encouraged to disagree with points others make in the course, but need to phrase your objections so as to address the statement, not criticize the person making it. You are expected to be on time for the class and not to leave early without informing the instructor before class of your reason. Excessive absences will affect your grade.

You are expected to incorporate material from class meetings, lectures, discussions, videos and readings into all of your class work. Grades will be based on points acquired through two exams, class participation and assignments which includes a team teaching assignment, response papers and an issue analysis paper.

DUE DATES & POINT COUNTS

Midterm Exam -	up to 25 pts
Final Exam - TBA	up to 25 pts
Response Papers	up to 20 pts
Class Participation	up to 10 pts
What's Theory...10/4	up to 10 pts
Team Teaching	up to 10 pts
Total	up to 100 points

GRADE COMPUTATION:

94-100 pts = A	73-76 pts = C
90-93 pts = A-	70-72 pts = C-
87-89 pts = B+	67-69 pts = D+
83-86 pts = B	63-66 pts = D
80-82 pts = B-	60-62 pts = D-
77-79 pts = C+	

Required texts:

Feminist Theory: A Reader (2005) 2nd ed. Wendy Kolmar & Frances Bartkowski. Appears as FTR in readings outline.

Manifesta: Young Women, Feminism and the Future, (2000) Jennifer Baumgardner & Amy Richards. Appears as Manifesta in readings outline.

Colonize This!: Young Women of Color on Today's Feminism, (2002) ed. Daisy Hernandez &

Bushra Rehman, Seal Press Appears as CT in readings outline.

EXAMINATIONS: (25 points each) There will be TWO exams each worth 25% of your grade. These exams will be take home exams, consisting of essay questions drawing on material from texts, films, lectures, and discussions. The dates of the exams are listed above. Details forthcoming.

CLASS PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS (10 points)

As stated above, students are expected to come prepared to discuss readings and other class material. Your class participation grade will be based on the following. Failure to complete assignments on the dates indicated will result in a zero, unless official medical excuses or pre-arranged excuses are submitted.

Class Activities/ Discussions: The format of this class will be a combination of lecture & discussion. Class attendance is vitally important and you are expected to be an active participant in discussion. In order to participate respectfully, intelligently, and constructively you are expected to have read the assignments by the dates noted on the syllabus.

As part of this grade we will regularly do short in class writing assignment. For these in class assignments, you will have about 3 minutes to respond to a specific question assigned that day. These should be turned in on a 5x8 card - so you should be sure to have at least one of these cards with you each day when you come to class. These questions may relate to the lecture of the day, or to specific readings which are underlined on the syllabus. When you look at the assignments, you will see that for each weeks readings I have underlined a specific reading that everyone should have read and be prepared to respond to. More information and examples will be given in class. You will not be graded on the responses but simply have them checked off that you have done them. They will be used to help in discussion of the issues related to each weeks materials.

We will regularly have class discussions to address particular issues. Discussions are meant to be interactive, therefore, missed classes cannot be made-up. Thus, if you foresee missing many classes, I strongly suggest that you take another course. Regular class participation, weekly questions and class assignments will count as 10 pts of your class participation grade.

"WHAT'S THEORY GOT TO DO WITH IT?" Paper (10 pts)

For this assignment, you will be applying theory to your day to day life. I would like to you spend a few days, exploring what is going on around you through a feminist theoretical lens. Feminism has been a response to the fact that women have been either left out of, or included in demean ways in what has been an exclusively male account of the world. Select two ways you have seen this happen in your daily life and write your feminist response to these experiences. Since feminist theory builds on other theories, you will want to incorporate some of the authors we have read to date to show how you support or disagree with their arguments and analysis of "your" experiences. This paper will be 2 - 3 pages in length, due on Oct. 6th. More information on this assignment will follow.

TEAM TEACHING: You will be assigned to groups which you will work with throughout the semester. Each group will work a collaboratively. Each team will make a presentation on how feminist theory helps us understand a particular "women's issue" or problem (e.g. equal pay, sexual

harassment, equal educational opportunity, birth control, motherhood, welfare etc) This presentation will be based on an examination of the relationship between the issue the team chooses and the theoretical literature we have discussed in class.

As part of this effort, I would like you to explore different feminist organizational websites and explore how they have made the connection between theory and practice. I suggest you check out some of the leads cited in Manifesta, pp 339-380 for different activist organization's websites. You can also locate some on your own. Select one and examine their "theory". Do they have within their organizational message a visible theoretical perspective that relates to some of the theories we have been discussing? If so, what is it and how do you think it has influenced their work - their strategies etc. If not - do you think any of the strategies we have discussed would help their efforts? Write a short assessment of this group and its theory and be prepared to present information about the group to the class as part of the team effort. Please be sure these are "activist" sites and not simply commercial sites. The presentation's primary purpose is to focus on the relationship between feminist theory and social or political issues. This discussion should be very specific. You will have about fifteen minutes. Each group receives one grade. Each member of the group will write a short paper in part summarizing your group effort, but also analyzing your topic. This team teaching effort will count as 10 pts of participation grade.

RESPONSE PAPERS ASSIGNMENT: (20 points)

Response Papers: Five response papers are due during the semester. The purpose of these papers is to assist you in focusing on the material in the readings and help you synthesize the material. Each student can select the particular week's readings they wish to respond to. These papers are due in class on the day we discuss the material reviewed and will not be accepted late. These papers should be informal and about 2 pages in length.

These papers should briefly do three things:

- synthesize key point(s) of the article(s) arguments(s)
- respond to that/those points
- make connections to other readings or to preceding readings and discussion

Two papers are due on or before Oct 11th and three are due after. Papers will be graded as follows:

- 5 papers, 4 or more with a "+" = A or 20 pts
- 5 acceptable papers = B or 17 pts
- 4 acceptable papers = C or 15 pts
- 3 acceptable papers = D or 13 pts
- 2 acceptable papers or fewer = F or 0 pts

An acceptable paper is one that shows a serious attempt to grapple with the ideas in the reading and which does all three things listed above. A "+" paper does at least two of the above things excellently in a brief space. Unacceptable papers do not address all three of the criteria listed above. All 5 papers are required to get the full 20 points. More information will be forthcoming.

Helpful Hints: 1) When in doubt, ask questions. If you don't understand something, ask for clarification. 2) Come to class prepared. Keep up with the reading. You will find your learning experience will be enhanced if you read the material before class. Class lectures will not necessarily repeat information given in the textbook. 3) The key to passing the course and getting a decent grade is to READ the assignments. 4) If I talk too fast, ask me to slow down.

READINGS INFORMATION --THIS IS IMPORTANT: Everyone should be sure to read the underlined reading for each week - this is the essay that I will be developing writing assignments for you for the 5x8 cards and ones we will be discussing in class that week in more detail.

You will also notice that I have occasionally indicated beside FTR readings that you may choose from a few of the listed readings - ie 2 out of 4 etc. What this means is that in you will read the underlined essay and then select from the others up to the number required. You are responsible for ALL of the Manifesta and all the Colonize This essays but where indicated, may choose from the listed readings for FTR. Feel free to read them all! :)

COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSIGNMENTS:

WEEK 1 - Feb 12, 14 Logistics and Requirements; Why Study Feminist Theory? Debates in Feminist Theory

Readings: FTR, Part 1, pp 1-41, Hooks (85), "Lexicon of the Debates," pp 42-60
 Manifesta, "Prologue," "The Dinner Party," pp 1- 49, "Manifesta's Lexicon," 399-402
 CT, Balli, "Thirty Eight," 182- 200; Hurdis, "Heartbroken," 279-292; Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha, "browngirlworld," 3-16 (Do all readings for this week)

WEEK 2 - Feb 19, 21 First Wave Feminism; British Feminist Theory; The Nineteenth Century US Movement; Diverse Voices from First Wave - Racial, Class and Economic Inequality

Readings: Manifesta, "What is Feminism?," pp 50-86
 FTR, Wollstonecraft, (9), Mills, (15), Taylor, (12), Butler (16) Beard (37) (4 out of 5)
 FTR, Grimke, (10), Stanton (11), Truth (13, 14), Anthony (17) (3 out of 5)
 FTR, Douglass (19), Cooper (21), Terrell (24), Bethune (31), Gilman (23), Goldman (26) (4 of 6)

WEEK 3 - Feb 26, 28 Prelude to Second Wave Feminism// Liberal Feminism

Readings: FTR, Sanger (30), Horney (35); Mead (36); Kennedy (38); deBeauvoir (40) (3 of 5)
 FTR, Friedan (42), NOW (44) (do all readings)

WEEK 4 - March 4, 6 Marxist Feminism; Socialist Feminism

Readings: FTR, Lexicon: Sexual Division of Labor, pp 55-56, Engels (20), Kollantai (28), Eastman (29), Delphy (60), Hartmann (72) (Lexicon, Engels and 2 out of other 4)
 CT, Smith, "What happens when ...," 54-70

"WHAT'S THEORY GOT TO DO WITH IT?" Paper Due Thursday Oct. 4th

WEEK 5 - March 11, 13 Radical Feminism; Lesbian Feminism

Readings: FTR, Freeman (45); Millet (46), Redstockings (47); Firestone (49); Koedt (50); MacKinnon (87) (4 of 6)
 FTR, Radicalesbians (52), Bunch (55); Frye (68); Rich (71); Wittig (70) (3 of 5)
 CT, Ibura Salaam, "How sexual harassment slaughtered, then saved me," 326-342

WEEK 6 - March 8, 20 Social Construction Feminism; Feminism and Religion

Readings: FTR Lexicon - Essentialism, Social Construction/Difference, pp 47-49;

Ortner (54) , Rubin (59) (Read all)
 CT, Lantigua, "Man of the house," 40-53; Prophete, "Feminist Musings...", 170-181; Ijeoma A.,
 "Because you're a girl," 215-229; Sethi, "Ladies only," 245-256
 FTR, Navaho Origin Myth (8); Pagels (63), Plaskow (79), Daley (67) (3 of 4)
 CT, Horn-Miller, "Bring Us Back...", 230-244; Jones, "Falling off...", 312-325

WEEK 7 - March 25, 27 Multicultural Feminism

Readings: NTB, Ch 4, all

FTR Lexicon - Intersections of Race, Class & Gender, pp 49-50; Weathers (48), Murray (51);
 Nietogomez (62); Combahee River Collective (64), Lorde (69); Yamada (73) (Lexicon & 4 of 6)
 CT, Weiner-Mahfuz, "Organizing 101," 29-39, Luna, "HIV and Me," 71-84, Lopez, "In praise of
 difficult Chicas," 119-132, Gonzalez Martinez, "Dutiful Hijas," 142-157

MIDTERM EXAM - DUE Thursday October 18

WEEK 8 - Spring Break

WEEK 9 - April 8, 10 Psychoanalytic Feminism

Readings: FTR, Lexicon, Psychoanalysis in /and Feminism, pp 53-55 Horney (35); Chodorow, (66);
 Mulvey (61), Gilligan (74) (Lexicon and 3 of 4)
 Manifesta, Ch 5 "Barbie vs the menstrual kit" - critique of developmental theories
 CT, Brooks, "Black Feminism in Everyday Life," 99-118

WEEK 10 - April 15, 17 Post-Colonial Feminism

Readings FTR, Lexicon - Third World/Global Feminism, pp 58-60; Anzaldua (80), Mernissi (58),
 Mohanty (75), Gunn Allen (77), Beijing Conference (93); La Duke (94), Narayan, (97) (Lexicon &
 4 of 7)
 CT, Tzintzun, "Colonize This!," 17-28, Sayeed, "Chappels and Gym Shorts," 203-214; Mody, "Lost
 in the Indophile Translation," 268-278, Muaddi Darraj, "Its not an oxymoron," 295-311

WEEK 11 - April 22, 24 Standpoint Feminism

Readings: FTR, Lexicon - Epistemologies, pp 45-47; Haraway (76), Harding (78), Hill Collins (90),
 Alarcon, (88) Keller (92) (Lexicon and 3 of 5)

WEEK 12 - April 29, May 1 "Third Wave Feminism"

Readings: Manifesta, rest of book; FTR, Bikini Kill (95) (read all)
 CT, Pough, "Love Feminism But ...," 85-98, Im, "Love Clinic," 133-141; Austin. "Femme-inism,"
 157-169; Gray, "I Sold my Soul...", 257-267

Week 13 - May 6, 8 Men's Feminism

Readings: Readings are on Reserve at Library: NOMAS , "Statement of Principle"; and Michael
 S. Kimmel, "Clarence, William, Iron Mike, Tailhook, Senator Packwood, Spur Posse, Magic...and
 Us" (read all)

WEEK 14 -May 13, 15 Postmodern Feminism & Queer Theory

Readings: FTR Cixous (56), Irigaray (65); Alcoff (81), Riley (82); Scott, (83); Butler (89); Halbertson (98) (4 of 7)

WEEK 15 - May 20 The Future of Feminist Theory

Readings: NTB, Ch 14, all

FTR, King (86); Crenshaw (96); Enloe (99) Read all

Manifesta, Ch. 8, "What is Activism?"; "Epilogue: A Day With Feminism," pp 267-322

CT, Leong, "Living Outside the box," 343-356, Riley, "The Black Beauty Myth," 357-369,

Tumang, "Nasaan ka anak ko?...", 370-381, kamila, "Can I get a Witness?," 382-394

FINAL EXAM - DUE DURING EXAM WEEK - DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED