

CLST 332
Wed, 9-11:50 am
Fall, 2009
Claremont Graduate University

Faculty Website: <http://bernard.pitzer.edu/~jparker/>

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Feminist Methods for Interdisciplinary Fields.

Course Description:

Questions about gender have profoundly reshaped epistemological claims and methods for interdisciplinary fields as Cultural Studies, Postcolonial Studies, American Studies, Queer Studies, Disability Studies, and Ethnic Studies. This course surveys feminist challenges to disciplinary and interdisciplinary methods as well as constructive methods developed by major feminists working in diverse fields. Students will write a seminar paper using feminist methods in investigating a topic of their choice.

Course Objectives:

- Understand feminist rejections of objectivist modern methods;
- Understand a range of major feminist alternative epistemologies
- Understand a range of major feminist methods, ranging from postmodern Marxisms, women of color feminisms, and queer studies to postcolonial studies and cultural studies;
- Successfully apply one of these major feminist alternative epistemology and method in a research paper.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

Course attendance and discussion participation 40%; Quiz 10%; Field Site Report 5%; Paper Draft Peer Review Comments 5%; Final Paper 40%.

Note: Students with learning or physical disabilities will be given reasonable accommodations. If you need to request accommodations or other assistance, please contact the CGU Dean of Students Office, extension 79448.

Course Required Readings:

(All textbooks are available both for purchase and at the Honnold Library reserve desk; other readings are available on Sakai and at Honnold reserve desk.)

Anzaldúa, Gloria, Borderlands/La Frontera, Spinsters/Aunt Lute, 1987.

Butler, Judith and Joan W. Scott, Feminists Theorize the Political, Routledge, 1992.

McRobbie, Angela, Postmodernism and Popular Culture, Routledge, 1994.

Muñoz, José Esteban, Disidentifications, University of Minnesota Press, 1999.

Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty, The Death of a Discipline, Columbia University Press, 2003.

Sullivan, Nikki, A Critical Introduction to Queer Theory, New York Univ. Pr., 2003.

Recommended Readings:

Belsey, Catherine, Poststructuralism: A Very Short Introduction, Oxford Univ. Pr.

Weedon, Chris, Feminist Practice and Poststructuralist Theory, Blackwell.

Course Schedule:

Asterisks (*) indicate that the reading is found in course textbook; other readings may be found on Sakai or at the Honnold reserve desk. All textbooks are available both for purchase and on reserve at the Honnold Library reserve desk; other readings are available on Sakai and at Honnold reserves. Some course packet readings are also available on the web through the Honnold Library Reserve Readings website, using the course electronic reserve number: jparker465 (lower case only).

Week 1 Sept. 2	Course Introduction: Recommended Readings: Weedon, <u>Feminist Practice</u> . Belsey, <u>Poststructuralism</u> .
Week 2 Sept. 9	Feminists Rethink Basic Research Assumptions. Readings: *Butler and Scott, "Introduction," (Butler&Scott), xiii-xvii. *Scott, "Evidence of Experience,"(Butler&Scott) 397-415. Davies, "The Concept of Agency," 42-53.
Week 3 Sept. 16	Feminists Respond to Foucault on Power/Knowledge. Readings: Diamond and Quinby, ix-xx. Foucault, "Method," 92-102. Mohanty, "Under Western Eyes," 51-80.
Week 4 Sept. 23	The Politics of Knowledge and Method. Readings: * Butler, "Contingent Foundations"(in Butler&Scott), 3-21. *Crosby, "Dealing with Differences," (in Butler & Scott), 130-43. *Flax, "End of Innocence," (in Butler & Scott), 445-63.
Sept. 23 Key Terms Quiz	
Week 5 Sept. 30	Race, Sexuality, Survival, and Method Readings: *Muñoz, <u>Disidentifications</u> , "Preface," "Introduction," & Ch. 4 & 7.
Week 6 Oct. 7 Tue., Oct. 12	No Class: Field Site Week. Readings: *Muñoz, <u>Disidentifications</u> , Ch. 3 & 6. Last Day to Drop Class without "W" on Transcript
Week 7 Oct. 14	Queering Feminist Methods I. Readings: *Sullivan, <u>Queer Theory</u> , "Preface" and Ch. 3 4, 5.
Week 8 Oct. 21	Queering Feminist Methods II. Readings: *Sullivan, <u>Queer Theory</u> , Ch. 7, 8, 11.
Week 9 Oct. 28 CLST 332	Comparative Feminist Methods I. Readings: *Spivak, <u>Death of Discipline</u> , Ch. 1 & 2.

Course Schedule (cont.)

- Week 10 Comparative Feminist Methods I.
Nov. 4 Readings: *Spivak, Death of Discipline, Ch. 3.
- Week 11 Mestiza Feminist Methods I.
Nov. 11 Readings: *Anzaldúa, Borderlands/La Frontera, Preface (1st ed.),
Preface (2nd ed.), Ch. 1, 3, 6, 7.
- Week 12 Mestiza Feminist Methods II.
Nov. 18 Readings: *Anzaldúa, Borderlands/La Frontera, Sec. II, III, V, VI.
- Week 13 Feminist Cultural Studies I.
Nov. 25 Readings: *McRobbie, Popular Culture,
- Nov. 26-27 Thanksgiving Break
- Week 14 Feminist Cultural Studies II.
Dec. 2 Readings: *McRobbie, Popular Culture,
Dec. 2 Paper Initial Draft Due for Peer Review.
- Week 15 Seminar Paper Presentations.
Dec. 9 Readings: *Mouffe, "Feminism...and Politics," (in Butler & Scott),
369-84.
Dec. 9 Research Paper Peer Review Comments Due.
Dec. 16 Research Paper Final Draft Due.

Feminist Methods for Interdisciplinary Fields.**Sakai Course Materials**

- Mohanty, Chandra Talpade, "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses," in Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism, Ed. Chandra Talpade Mohanty, Ann Russo, and Lourdes Torres, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1991, p.51-80.
- Scott, Joan Wallach, "The Evidence of Experience," in H. Abelove, et al., The Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader, Routledge, 1993, 397-415.
- Davies, Bronwyn, "The Concept of Agency: A Feminist Poststructuralist Analysis," Social Analysis, v. 30 (1991): 42-53.
- Diamond, Irene and Lee Quinby. "Introduction." Feminism and Foucault: Reflections on Resistance. Ed. Diamond and Quinby. Boston: Northeastern University Press, 1988. ix-xx.
- Foucault, Michel, "Method," The History of Sexuality: An Introduction, v. 1, Vintage, 1990 (1976), p. 92-102.