

Claremont Graduate University
School of Politics and Economics, Department of Politics and Policy
and
Applied Women's Studies

PP455/AWS 301 Feminist Theory
Fall 2007
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Office hours: MW 4:15-5:30 PM and by appointment

This course provides an overview of feminist theory. It is divided into four general topics: (1) The role of women in traditional political thought and the emergence of modern feminist theories. (2) Considerations and contestations of identity. (3) A reexamination and a "rethinking" of basic political concepts and relationships and (4) global challenges.

The course will be conducted as a seminar. Students are required to complete all readings and to participate in class discussions. Occasional oral reports on readings will be assigned. There will be three short essays (5 pages) and a 15 page research paper required to complete the course.

Required Readings (available at Huntley Bookstore) are as follows:

Catherine Mackinnon, Toward a Feminist Theory of the State
Carole Pateman, The Sexual Contract
Luce Irigaray, I Love to You
Patricia Hill Collins, Black Feminist Thought
Donna Haraway, Modest Witness @ Second Millenium. Female Man Meets Oncomouse: Feminism and Technology
Alice Jaggar, Feminist Politics and Human Nature
M. Daly, Gyn/Ecology, Metaethics of Radical Feminism
Hirschmann and Di Stephano, Revisioning the Political
N. Sturgeon, Ecofeminist Natures
Sandra Harding, Is Science Multicultural?

Reserve Book readings listed in the syllabus are on electronic reserves at Honnold Library.

READING ASSIGNMENTS

September 4 **Introduction:** What Is Feminist Theory?

I. The Western Tradition: Silence, Critiques and Rebellions

A. Overview

Moira Gatens, "Feminism, Philosophy and Riddles Without Answers" in Pateman & Gross, Feminist Challenges.

Johanna Brenner, "Best of Times, Worst of Times: Feminism in the United States", in Mapping the Women's Movement ed. by M. Threlfall.

Susan Okin, Women in Western Political Thought, Intro, chp. 1, 4

Recommend:

Diana Coole, Women in Political Theory

Andrea Nye, Feminist Theory and the Philosophies of Man

S. de Beauvoir, The Second Sex, Part II

Wendy Brown, Manhood and Politics, A Feminist Reading in Political Theory.

Sept. 11 B. **Liberalism**

Alison Jagger, Feminist Politics and Human Nature, chp. 3, 7

Recommend:

Wollstonecraft, Vindication of the Rights of Woman

J.S. Mill, On the Subjection of Women

Jane Mansbridge, Why We Lost the ERA

Hoff-Wilson, "The Unfinished Revolution: Changing Legal Status of U.S. Women," Signs, Vol. 13, no. 1, Autumn

Dorothy McBride Stetson, Women's Rights in the USA.
Policy Debates and Gender Roles, 1997.

C. **Marxism**

Catherine Mackinnon, Toward a Feminist Theory of the State, chp. 1-4
Jaggar, chp. 4, 8

Recommend:

Engels, The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State

Ann Ferguson, Sexual Democracy

**II. What Is a "Woman"? A Feminist?
Identity: Nation, Race, Class, Sex, Gender, and Generation.**

Oct. 9

A. Race

Patricia Collins, Black Feminist Thought
 Nancy Carraway, Segregated Sisterhood: Racism and the Politics of American Feminism (selections)
 M. Matsuda, Where is Your Body? Essays on Race, Gender and the Law (selections)

Recommend:

S. Firestone, The Dialectics of Sex
 A. Davis, Women, Race, Class
 Andre Lorde, Sister Outsider
 I. Blea, La Chicana and the Intersection of Race, Class and Gender
 Asian Women United of California (eds.), Making Waves
 Marga and Anzaldúa, This Bridge Called My Back
 Hall, Scott, and Smith (eds.), All the Women are White, All the Blacks are Men, But Some of Us are Brave
 C. Trujillo (ed.), Living Chicana Theory
 S. Shah (ed.), Dragon Ladies
Asian American Feminists Breathe Fire

Oct. 16-23

B. Gender and Sexuality

Wittig, "One is Not Born a Woman"
 Singer, Androgyny (selections)
 Illich, "Vernacular Gender" in Co-evolution Quarterly, Spring, 1982 or Gender
 W. Roscoe, "How to Become a Berdache: Toward a Unified Analysis of Gender Diversity" in Herdt, Third Sex, Third Gender
 Jacobs, Thomas, Lang (eds.) Two-Spirit People (selections)
 Warnke, "Inter sexuality and the categories of Sex," Hypatia, vol 16, No. 3 (summer 2001)
 Feinberg, Transgender Warriors (selections)
 Shane, Phelan, "(Be) Coming Out: Lesbian Identity and Politics," Signs Summer, 1993.

 S. Walters, "From Here to Queer: Radical Feminism, Postmodernism, and the Lesbian Menace," Signs Summer 1996.
 Sarah Hoagland, Lesbian Ethics, chp. 1, pp. 265-292
 Irigaray, I Love To You
 _____, "This Sex Which Is Not One" from This Sex Which is Not One.

_____, Je, tu, nous, Toward a Culture of Difference (selections)
 _____, Thinking the Difference, For a Peaceful Revolution
 (selections)
 _____, To be two (selections)
 _____, Democracy begins between two (selections)

Recommend:

A. Rich, "On Compulsory Heterosexuality" Signs, 1980, p.
631-60

J. Butler, Gender Trouble, Feminism and the Subversion of
Identity

_____, Bodies That Matter

Elizabeth Grosz, Space, Time and Perversion

_____, Volatile Bodies: Toward a Corporal
Feminism

Wittig, Les Guérillères, The Lesbian Body

S. Benhabib, "The Generalized and the Concrete Other" in
Feminism as Critique

Oct. 30

C. Generations

Kristeva, "Women's Time"

Please read selections from the following for your class report:

Heywood and Drake, Third Wave Agenda

Hypatia, "Third Wave Feminisms" Special Issue

vol. 12, No. 3; summer 1997

Baumgardner & Richards, ManifestA young women, feminism and the future

K. Springer, "Third Wave, Black Feminism?" Signs, vol 27, No. 4

Summer 2002

Melody Berger, ed. We Don't Need Another Wave.

D. Nature and Spirituality

S. Griffin, Women and Nature, pp. 1-46

N. Sturgeon, Ecofeminist Natures

S. Harding, Is Science Multicultural?, chp. 6

Recommend:

C. Spretnak, States of Grace

Mies & Shiva, Ecofeminism

Shiva, Staying Alive

Nov. 2

2nd essay due

III. Multiplicity and Community: Confronting the Political

How Should We Relate? Rethinking Concepts and Categories;
Integrating thought and experience.

Nov. 6 A. **What Is Thinking?**

Method/theory: C. Mackinnon, Toward a Feminist Theory of the State,
 Mind/body: C. Lispector, "The Egg and the Chicken" (xerox)
 Practice: "Bringing Together Feminist Theory and Practice: A
 Collective Interview" Signs Summer 1996
 Objectivity & relativity: Harding, Is Science Multicultural?

Ortega Y Gasset, "Relativism & Rationalism" (separate)
 and "The Historical Significance of the Theory of
 Einstein" from The Modern Theme

Recommend:

H. Arendt, The Life of the Mind Vol 1: Thinking
 Sandra Harding, Is Science Multicultural?

Nov. 13 B. **The State and Rights**

Pateman, The Sexual Contract
 Mackinnon, Toward a Feminist Theory of the State Part III
 Eisenstein, The Female Body and the Law, chp. 2
 Elshtain, "Sovereignty, Identity, Sacrifice" in V. Spike Peterson,
Gendered State

Recommend:

B. Lockwood, ed., Women's Rights A Human Rights Quarterly
 Reader

Nov. 20 C. **Justice, Authority, Public/Private Space, Power**

Hirschmann and DiStefano, Revisoning the Political

Recommend:

Iris Young, Justice and the Politics of Difference
 Patricia Boling, Privacy and the Politics of Intimate Life
 J. Tronto, Moral Boundaries, Part III
 K. Jones, Compassion Authority
 Klein, "Gain or Drain? Compassion and the Self-Other
 Boundary", Meeting the Great Bliss Queen
 M. Naples, Grassroots Warriors

Nov. 26 **3rd essays due**

IV Globalization and Contested Boundaries

A. **Technology: Information, Mapping and the Body**

Nov. 27 D. Haraway, *Modest ___ Witness @ Second ___ Millennium. Female Man Meets ___ Oncomouse* : Feminism and Technoscience.

Recommend:

Ginsburg and Rapp, Conceiving the New World Order, The Global Politics of Reproduction

J. Raymond, Women as Wombs

Dec. 4 B. **Global Politics**

(1) The Economy:

S. Sassen, "Toward a Feminist Analysis of the Global Economy" "Notes on the Incorporation of Third World Women into Wage Labor Through Immigrational Offshore Production" from Globalization and Its Discontents

M. Keck and K. Sikkink, "Transnational Networks on Violence Against Women" from Activists Beyond Borders

G. Chang, "The Global Trade in Filipina Workers" in S. Shah (ed.), Dragon Ladies

K. Beeks and D. Amir, Trafficking and the Global Sex Industry (selections)

(2) Environment and Ecofeminism

Sturgeon, Ecofeminist Natures, chp. 5

(3) International Rights

Petchesky, "The UN Conferences as Sites of Discursive Struggle: Gains and Fault Lines", Global Prescriptions, Gendering Health and Human Rights.

K. West, "The United Nations Women's Conference and Feminist Politics" in Meyer and Prüge, (eds.), Gender Politics in Global Governance

Dec. 11 Presentation of Research Projects

Dec. 18 **Research paper due in PP office 5 P.M.**