

WMNS 330: FEMINIST THEORY
WF 2:10-3:30

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1. COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is an introduction to the debates within feminist theory. It will address three major questions: 1. How do oppressive social relationships come into being? 2. How are they sustained? 3. How does social change occur? We will examine and evaluate the answers provided to these questions by a variety of feminist frameworks, both historical and contemporary. In the process, we will employ the distinctive methodologies and epistemologies that feminist theorists use to construct theory. We will analyze feminism both from a philosophical and political standpoint and explore the relationship between these two perspectives. To this end, we will discuss the connection between theory and practice and whether or not theory is necessary for the advancement of feminism.

2. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND GRADING

Grades will be determined as follows:

Two 7-10 page papers:	25% each	
13-17 page paper:	25%	
Participation:	25%	(includes class presentations and reading responses)

Attendance and Participation: There will be no formal lectures in this course. You are expected to complete the readings in advance and come to class prepared to discuss them. Each person will lead class discussion on at least two of the readings over the course of the semester. In addition, each person must complete 7 reading responses. These may be no more than two pages in length (single spaced) and must be emailed to me by 5 pm the day before class.

Four unexcused class absences will incur a forfeiture of the participation component of your grade. Students who are habitually tardy may also have their participation grade reduced.

Papers: The first 7-10 page paper will be due on October 10. The second 7-10 page paper will be due on November 9. The 13-17 page paper will be due on December 14.

Papers must be handed in at the start of class on the day they are due. Late papers will be marked down one letter grade for the first day they are late and one-half a letter grade for each day thereafter (this includes weekends). Papers will not be marked late if you have a medical excuse or another excuse approved by a Dean.

Grade Dispute Policy: If you wish to contest a grade that you have received on a paper, you must submit a memo to me **no more** than 2 pages double-spaced in length explaining your reasons for contesting the grade. After receiving your memo, I will arrange a meeting with you to discuss the merits of your claim.

Academic Honesty: Please consult the *Student Handbook* for the College's policy on academic honesty. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. All papers must have proper citations. You are encouraged to discuss your papers with your fellow classmates and/or me while working on them.

Disabilities: If you have a disability that will affect your participation in class please let me know and contact Erin Salva, Coordinator of Disability Services, at x5453 or by email.

3. Readings

É Wendy Brown, *States of Injury*. Princeton University Press.

É Alice Echols, *Daring to Be Bad: Radical Feminism in America, 1967-1975*.
University of Minnesota Press.

É Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality: An Introduction*, Vintage.

É Charlotte Perkins Gilman, *Herland, the Yellow Wall-Paper, and Selected Writings*,
Penguin.

É Elizabeth Hackett and Sally Haslanger, eds. *Theorizing Feminisms: A Reader*.
Oxford University Press.

É Catharine MacKinnon. *Towards a Feminist Theory of the State*. Harvard University
Press.

É Jean-Jacques Rousseau. *Emile*. Basic Books.

In addition, a substantial amount of reading will be available on eReserve. eReserves are found at <http://consort.library.denison.edu/>. The password for this class is “gender”. It is your responsibility to obtain copies of these readings and to bring the readings to class.

Week 1: Doing Feminist Theory (Aug. 29)

É bell hooks, "Feminism: A Movement to End Sexist Oppression" (eReserve)

É Recommended: Haslanger, "Gender and Social Construction" (TF, 16-22)

Aug. 31: No Class

Week 2: Gender and Nature (Sept. 5, 7)

É Rousseau, Emile, Preface, Book 1, Book 5 (page 357-450; 471-480)

É Sherry B. Orton, 1972, "Is Female to Male as Nature is to Culture?" *Feminist Studies*, 1(2): 5-31. (JSTOR)

Week 3: The Foundations of Liberal Feminism (Sept. 12, 14)

É Mary Wollstonecraft, "A Vindication of the Rights of Woman" (eReserve)

É John Stuart Mill, "Subjection of Women", Chapters 1 and 2 (TF, 97-112 and eReserve)

Week 4: The Development of Liberal Feminism (Sept. 19, 21)

É Elizabeth Cady Stanton, "Address to the Legislature of New York" (1854)

"Destructive Male" (1868)

"The Declaration of

Sentiments" (1889)

"The Solitude of Self" (1892)

É Emma Goldman, "Woman Suffrage", (TF, 271-76)

É Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique*, Chapter 1:

<http://www.h-net.org/~hst203/documents/friedan1.html>

É NOW Statement of Purpose (1966). TBD

É *Roe v. Wade* (TBD)

É Susan Moller Okin, *Justice, Gender, and the Family* (selections)

Week 5: The Critique of Liberal Feminism (Sept. 26, 28)

E Carole Pateman, *The Disorder of Women*, Introduction,
Chapters 1, 3, 4, 6, 8

 E Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex* (TF, 114-123)

Week 6: Feminism and Socialism (Oct. 3, 5)

 E Engels, *Origins of the Family, Private Property, and
the State*, selections:
[http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1884/origin-
family/ch02d.htm](http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1884/origin-family/ch02d.htm)

 E Iris M. Young, "Socialist Feminism and the Limits
of Dual Systems Theory" (TF, 490-500)

 E Alison Jagger, "The Politics of Socialist
Feminism" (eRserve)

 E Nancy Hartsock, "The Feminist Standpoint:
Developing the Ground for a
Specifically Feminist Historical Materialism"
(eReserve).

Week 7: Feminism and Psychoanalysis (Oct. 10, 12)

 E Freud, Fragment of an Analysis of a Case of Hysteria,
selections (eReserve)

 E Jaques Lacan, "The Signification of the Phallus"
(eReserve)

 E Nancy Chodorow, *The Reproduction of Mothering*,
selections (eReserve)

 E Luce Irigaray, "Sexual Difference" (eReserve)

Week 8: Consciousness Raising (Oct. 10, 12)

 E MacKinnon, Chapter 5

 E Echols, pp. 1-202.

Week 9: Radical Feminism (Oct. 17, 19)

 E Valerie Solanas, SCUM Manifesto,
<http://www.womynkind.org/scum.htm>

 E Redstockings Manifesto:
[http://fsweb.berry.edu/academic/hass/csnider/berry/hum2
00/redstockings.htm](http://fsweb.berry.edu/academic/hass/csnider/berry/hum200/redstockings.htm)

 E BITCH Manifesto:
<http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/wlm/bitch/>

 E Radicalesbians, "The Woman Identified Woman"
<http://scriptorium.lib.duke.edu/wlm/womid/>

 E Shulamith Firestone, *The Dialectic of Sex*,
selections (eReserve)

Week 10: Cultural Feminism (Oct. 24, 26)

- E Charlotte Perkins Gilman, *Herland*
- E Jane Addams, "Women and Public Housekeeping" (TF, 187-88)
- E Carol Gilligan, "Moral Orientation and Moral Development" (TF, 200-210)

Week 11: Cultural Feminism Continued (Oct. 31, Nov. 2)

- E Echols, pp. 203-295.
- E Carol P. Christ, "Why Women Need the Goddess" (TF, 211-218)
- E Sara Ruddick, "Notes Towards a Feminist Maternal Peace Politics" (TF, 225-236)
- E Iris Young, "Humanism, Gynocentrism, and Feminist Politics" (TF, 174-186)

Week 12: Power and Domination (Nov. 7, 9)

- E Catharine MacKinnon, Chapters 1, 4, 6-13

Week 13: Feminism and Postmodernism (Nov. 14, 16)

- E Foucault, *The History of Sexuality*, vol. 1, all
- E Sandra Lee Bartky, "Foucault, Femininity, and the Modernization of Patriarchal Power" (TF)
- E Nancy Fraser and Linda J. Nicholson, "Social Criticism without Philosophy" (TF)
- E Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble*, selections (TF)
- E Gayle Rubin, "Thinking Sex" (TF)

Week 14: Feminism and the State (Nov. 28, 30)

- E Wendy Brown, *States of Injury* (all)

Week 15: Questions of Race and Ethnicity (Dec. 5, 7)

- E Elizabeth Spelman, *Inessential Woman: Problems of Exclusion in Feminist Thought*, selections (eReserve)
- E Uma Narayan, *Dislocating Cultures: Identities, Tradition, and Third-World Feminism*, selections (eReserve)