Advanced Topics in Women and Politics: Feminist Theory
16:790:596
Monday 6-8:40
Hickman Hall
Prof. Threadcraft

This seminar is designed to provide an overview of significant themes and debates within feminist theory. It is organized around several topic areas - most centrally Intersectionality and the Body (including the racially marked body, the covered body and the body in motion, across both national and gender boundaries).

Students are required to co-lead 4 class discussions and write a 4-5 page paper responding to the corresponding week’s readings.

Students will have the opportunity to workshop and write 25-30 page research papers on their major area of interest.

Books:


Students might also want to buy:


Week 1: History Lessons

Nancy A. Hewitt, “Re-Rooting American Women’s Activism: Global Perspectives on 1848,” in Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives

Ula Y. Taylor, “Black Feminisms and Human Agency” in No Permanent Waves: Recasting Histories of US Feminism

Marisela R. Chavez, “We Have a Long Beautiful History”: Chicana Feminist Trajectories and Legacies” in No Permanent Waves: Recasting Histories of US Feminism

Ellen L. Fleischmann, The Other “Awakening”: The Emergence of Women’s Movements in the Modern Middle East, 1900-1940 in Globalizing Feminisms, 1789-1945.

Francesca Miller, “Latin American Feminism and The Transnational Arena,” in Globalizing Feminisms, 1789-1945.

Linda Nicholson, “Feminism in “Waves”: Useful Metaphor or Not?,” Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives

(Supplemental Reading)

Joan W. Scott, Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis


Becky Thompson, “Multiracial Feminism: Recasting the Chronology of Second Wave Feminism” in No Permanent Waves


Kimberly Springer, “The Soul of Women’s Lib” in Living for the Revolution


Week 2: Classics


Shulamith Firestone, “The Dialectic of Sex,” in The Second Wave: A Reader

Monique Witting, “One is Not Born a Woman” in The Second Wave: A Reader


Luce Irigaray, “The Sex Which is Not One” in The Second Wave: A Reader in Feminist Theory

Week 3: Classics Continued

Heidi Hartmann, “The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism: Towards a More Progressive Union,” in The Second Wave: A Reader in Feminist Theory

Linda Nicholson, “Feminism and Marx: Integrating Kinship with the Economic,” The Second Wave: A Reader in Feminist Theory


Uma Narayan, “Contesting Cultures: “Westernization.” Respect for Cultures and Third World Feminists in Feminist Theory: Local and Global Perspectives
Week 4: Standpoint Theory


Patricia Hill Collins, “Defining Black Feminist Thought” in Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives

Uma Narayan, “The Project of Feminist Epistemology: Perspectives from a Nonwestern Feminist,” in Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives

Donna Harraway, “Situated Knowledges: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspective” in Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives


Week 5: Title TBD

Lila Abu-Lughod, “Orientalism and Middle East Feminist Studies,” in Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives

Leila Ahmed, “The Veil Debate Again” in Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives


**Week 6: The Body**


Moira Gatens, “Corporeal Representation in/and the Body Politic” in *Imaginary Bodies: Ethics, Power and Corporeality*


Judith Butler, “Bodies That Matter,” in *Feminist theory and the Body: A Reader*

**Week 7: Power and the Body**

Sandra Bartky, “Foucault, Femininity and the Modernization of Patriarchal Power,” in *Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives*

Susan Bordo “Feminism, Foucault and the Politics of the Body” in *Feminist Theory and the Body: A Reader*

Moira Gatens, “Power, Bodies and Difference” in *Imaginary Bodies: Ethics, Power and Corporeality*

Elizabeth Grosz, “Psychoanalysis and the Body” and “Bodies-Cities” in *Feminist Theory and the Body*

**Week 8: Power and the Body Continued**


Barbara Creed, “Lesbian Bodies: Tribades, Tomboys, Tarts” in *Feminist Theory and the Body: A Reader*

Susan Wendell, “Feminism, Disability and Transcendence of the Body” in *Feminist Theory and the Body: A Reader*
Week 9: Power and the Trans Body


Leslie Feinberg, “Transgender Liberation: A Movement Whose Time Has Come” in Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives


Week 10: Intersectionality (A Theory of Power)


Week 11: Intersectionality (a Theory of Power) Continued


Week 12 Thanksgiving Break No Class

Week 13: On New Materialisms and the Affective Turn


Rosa Bradiotti, Interview with Rosi Braidotti in New Materialism: Interviews & Cartographies

Sara Ahmed, “The Affective Politics of Fear” and “The Performativity of Disgust” and “Conclusion: Just Emotions” in The Cultural Politics of Emotion


Week 14 In class presentations
Week XX (Potential Revision) Critical Sexualities

Catherine A. MacKinnon, Sexualities, in *The Second Wave: A Reader in Feminist Theory*


Evelyn Hammonds, “Toward a Genealogy of Black Female Sexuality: The Problematic of Silence” in Feminist Theory and the Body: A Reader

Jennifer Nash, *The Black Body in Ecstasy: Reading Race, Reading Pornography*

Mireille Miller-Young, *A Taste for Brown Sugar: Black Women in Pornography*