

GS/GP 290: INTERDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES ON GENDER

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Haverford, Hall 106

T., Th. 2.30 - 4 p.m.

This course will examine gender as a marker of social and cultural differentiation, hierarchy, and division, drawing on the feminist scholarship of the past 25 years; the instructors' specializations (literary theory and history) will figure prominently but not exclusively in this syllabus. Focussing on critiques and subversions of dominant constructions of femininity, masculinity, and sexuality, the course will explore issues that have become central to feminist politics and scholarship: the heterogeneity encompassed by the category "woman"; the pressures generated by this heterogeneity on feminist intellectual practice; the feminist dismantling of the divisions between the personal and the political, the emotional and the rational, the scholarly and the activist. In so doing, the course will introduce you to some of the ways in which feminist scholarship has challenged existing academic and disciplinary conventions.

The course is intended primarily for students taking the bi-college Concentration in Feminist and Gender Studies, but others may be enrolled as space allows. Prerequisite is at least one approved introductory course in women's studies (see Bryn Mawr catalog p. 295, Haverford catalog p. 81): there will be no exceptions to this rule.

Assignments:

1. Regular class attendance, completion of readings before each class, active participation in class discussion.
2. Response papers (2 pp.) on at least three weeks' readings: these should show evidence of careful and critical reading, and should summarize your intellectual and personal reactions to the material. As the course develops, you should also aim to consider the texts in relation to one another. Always include at least two questions that could be the subject for class discussion. Papers must be given to either instructor by 9 a.m. on the morning of the appropriate class.
3. Two short (5-7pp.) papers, by February 27 & March 31; full details TBA.
4. Final paper (10-15 pp.), preceded by proposal and bibliography; detailed schedule TBA.

For purchase at Haverford bookstore:

Sneja Gunew, ed., A Reader in Feminist Knowledge

Simone de Beauvoir, The Second Sex

Toni Morrison, Beloved

Zillah Eisenstein, The Radical Future of Liberal Feminism

- A xerox coursepack of all other prescribed readings will be available at cost from the Secretaries' Office at Woodside Cottage.

- Most readings will also be on reserve at Haverford and Bryn Mawr Libraries.

SYLLABUS

I. INTRODUCTION:

Jan. 21: Introduction to the Course

Audre Lorde, 'The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House'

Camille Paglia, 'Thinking about sex...'

Jan. 23: What Is Feminism?

Rosalind Delmar, 'What is Feminism?'

bell hooks, 'Sisterhood', in Gunew, ed., Feminist Knowledge

Jan. 28 & 30: Feminist Classics (1)

S. de Beauvoir, The Second Sex, Introduction, Parts IV-VII.

Feb. 4: Feminist Classics (2)

Adrienne Rich, 'Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence'

Gayle Rubin, 'The Traffic in Women'

Frances M. Beal, 'Double Jeopardy: To Be Black and Female'

Anna Koedt, 'The Myth of the Vaginal Orgasm', in Gunew, Feminist Knowledge

Feb. 6: Feminism and the Disciplines

Gunew, Feminist Knowledge, Part II

Feb. 11: Theory and Practice

Elizabeth Fox-Genovese 'From Feminist Theory to Feminist Politics'

Patricia Collins, 'The Social Construction of Black Feminist Thought'

Karen Offen, 'Defining Feminism: A Comparative Historical Approach'

Maria Lugones & Elizabeth Spelman, 'Have We Got a Theory for You!'

II. FEMINIST FRAMEWORKS

Feb. 13: Liberal Feminism

Zillah Eisenstein, The Radical Future of Liberal Feminism (concentrate on Introduction, chs. 5,6,9,10)

Feb. 18: Psychoanalysis

Gunew, Feminist Knowledge, Parts IV, VI

Terry Brown, 'Feminism' and Psychoanalysis: A Family Affair'

Nancy Chodorow, 'Family Structure and Feminine Personality'

Feb. 20: Marxism:

Gunew, Feminist Knowledge, Part X

Linda Nicholson, 'Feminism and Marx'

Catherine MacKinnon, 'Feminism, Marxism, Method'

Feb. 25: Radical Feminism

Gunew, Feminist Knowledge, Part IX

Combahee River Collective, 'A Black Feminist Statement'

Audre Lorde, 'An Open Letter to Mary Daly'

Mar. 3: Power, Representation, and the State

Mary Dietz, 'Context is All: Feminism and Theories of Citizenship'

Carole Pateman, 'The Patriarchal Welfare State'

Rebecca Grant, 'The Sources of Gender Bias in International Relations Theory'

Cynthia Enloe, 'Carmen Miranda on My Mind: International Politics of the Banana'

Mar 5: Blank Screen**III. DOING FEMINIST SCHOLARSHIP****Mar. 17: History (1): Feminist Historiography**

Joan Scott, 'Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis'

Exchange between Scott and Linda Gordon, Signs 1990

Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, 'The Problem of Race in Women's History'

Jane Caplan, 'Sexuality and Homosexuality'

Mar.19: History (2): Victorian Prostitution: the Sources

Judith Walkowitz, Prostitution and Victorian Society, Part I

W.R. Greg, 'Prostitution' (1850)

Josephine Butler, 'An Appeal to the People of England...' (1870)

Mar. 24: History (3): Victorian Prostitution: a History

Judith Walkowitz, Prostitution and Victorian Society, the rest

Mar 26: Literary Theory (1)

Valerie Traub, 'The Ambiguities of "Lesbian" Viewing Pleasure'

Annette Kolodny, 'Dancing Through the Minefield'
 Elaine Showalter, 'A Criticism of Our Own'

Mar. 31: Literary Theory (2)

Toni Morrison, Beloved

Nellie McKay, 'Reflections on Black Women Writers'

Apr. 2: Literary Theory (3)

Nina Baym, 'The Madwoman and her Languages'

Further reading TBA

Apr. 7: Feminist Epistemologies (1)

Gunew, Feminist Knowledge, Part VI

Sandra Harding, 'Whose Science, Whose Knowledge?'

Chandra Mohanty, 'Under Western Eyes'

Apr. 9: Feminist Epistemologies (2)

Donna Haraway, 'Manifesto for Cyborgs'

Jane Flax, 'Postmodernism and Gender Relations'

Apr. 14: The Body

Luce Irigaray, This Sex Which is Not One, selections

Rajeswari Sunder Rajan, 'The Subject of Sati'

Apr. 16: No Class

IV. SUPERCESSIONS

Apr. 21: Staying Power

Catherine MacKinnon, Feminism Unmodified, selections

Apr. 23: Men in Feminism

Paul Smith, 'Vas'

Stephen Heath, 'Male Feminism'

Leo Bersani, 'Is the Rectum a Grave?'

Apr. 28: Away From It All

Judith Butler, Gender Trouble, ch. 1

Apr. 30: Post-Feminism?

Tania Modleski, Feminism Without Women, selections

Susan Faludi, Backlash, Introduction