

SWMS 410
Senior Seminar in Gender Studies
Science, Technology and Gender

Spring, 2005

Professor Anne Balsamo
Gender Studies and Interactive Media
Director, Institute for Multimedia Literacy
Office: 200 EGG
Phone: 213-746-4769

Classroom: GFS210
2:00 – 4:50
Thursday

The broad topics of this course include:

- 1) Discussion of basic philosophical issues pertaining to the study of science, technology, and gender;
- 2) The investigation of cultural media(ted) myths of gender identity;
- 3) Collaborative research project: Campaigns for Change: History of Feminist Media Activism

TEXTS: (Some at Bookstore, some need to be ordered through Amazon)

Anne Balsamo, *Technologies of the Gendered Body: Reading Cyborg Women* (Durham: Duke UP, 1996)

Autumn Stanley, *Mothers of Invention: Notes toward a revised history of technology*

Judy Wacjman, *Feminism Confronts Technology* (Penn State UP, 1991)

FICTION (Select One)

Margaret Atwood, *He, She It* (Fawcett, 1993)

Joanna Russ, *The Female Man* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2000)

Pat Cadigan, *Synners* (Four Walls Eight, 2001)

Neal Stephenson, *The Diamond Age* (Bantam, 2000)

READINGS:

(Copies of the readings will be distributed in class)

Bernice Sandler, “The Chilly Climate”

Stephen Brush, “Women in Science and Engineering”

Donna Haraway, “The Cyborg Manifesto”

MULTIMEDIA PRESENTATIONS

The Montreal Massacre
Women of the World Talk Back
Celebrating Women All Over the World

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Cyborgs in Popular Culture
Designing Culture: Women and Invention
History of Women in Science Fiction
Feminist Media Activism

REQUIREMENTS:

Participation in class discussion is expected.
Attendance at every class session is required; more than 2 absences will result in a final grade reduction.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

Weekly Discussion	40%
Research Updates	20%
Research Project Final Report	40%

“I’d rather be a cyborg than a goddess.”

WEEK	READING/ASSIGNMENT
Week 1 Jan 13	Introduction to Course What do we Know? How do we Know? Presentation: Science, Technology and Gender in Popular Culture Assignment: Demographics of Women in Science and Engineering at USC
Week 2 Jan 20	Women in Science and Engineering: Is it Still a Man's World? Bernice Sandler, "The Chilly Climate" (handout) Stephen Brush, "Women in Science and Engineering" (handout) Evelyn Fox Keller, "Feminism and Science," <i>Feminism and Science</i> (handout) Presentation: <i>The Montreal Massacre</i> (video) Women at USC: Research Report #1
Week 3 Jan 27	Feminist Epistemology and the Critique of Objectivity Sandra Harding, "Strong Objectivity," <i>Feminism and Science</i> (handout) Donna Haraway, "Situated Knowledges," <i>Feminism and Science</i> (handout) Presentation: Evelyn Fox Keller, <i>Feminism and Science</i> (video)
Week 4 Feb 3	A Strategic Intervention and a Call to Action Donna Haraway, "A Cyborg Manifesto" (handout)
Week 5 Feb 10	Guest Instructor Reading ASSIGNMENT Balsamo, "Reading Cyborgs, Writing Feminism" Balsamo, "Public Pregnancies and Cultural Narratives of Surveillance" Balsamo, "On the Cutting Edge"
Week 6 Feb 17	Bodywork (Joint meeting with Professor Tim Lenoir's class at Duke University) Balsamo, "The Virtual Body in Cyberspace" Feminism and the Body: Research Report #2
Week 7 Feb 24	NO CLASS ASSIGNMENT: A science fiction novel (see list)
Week 8 Mar 3	Gender and Technology Judy Wajcman, "Feminist Critiques of Science and Technology" Judy Wajcman, "The Technology of Production" Judy Wajcman, "Domestic Technology: Labour-saving or enslaving?" Judy Wajcman, "The Built Environment" Feminist Science Fiction: Research Report #3
Week 9 Mar 10	Reproductive Technologies and the Reproduction of Gender Emily Martin, "The Egg and the Sperm," <i>Feminism and Science</i> (handout) Judy Wajcman, "Reproductive Technologies"
Week 10 Mar 17	SPRING BREAK

Week 11 Mar 24	A Reproductive Theory of Technology Balsamo, "Feminism for the Incurably Informed" Balsamo, "Designing Culture: The Technological Imagination Revisited"
Week 12 Mar 31	Gendering the Technological Imagination Balsamo, "Teaching in the Belly of the Beast" (handout) Mary Hocks, "Women Making Multimedia: Possibilities for Feminist Activism" Presentation: <i>Women of the World Talk Back</i>
Week 13 Apr 7	Feminist Media Activism Presentation: <i>Celebrating Women All Over the World</i>
Week 14 Apr 14	Research Report #4: Media Activism Research Reports
Week 15 Apr 21	NO CLASS
Week 16 Apr 28	CLASS WRAP-UP
May 3-10	Final Exams: Final Research Report Due