

DRAFT 2.0

SWMS 560 Seminar in Feminist Theory

Spring, 2006

Professor Anne Balsamo
Gender Studies and Interactive Media
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Office: 200 EGG
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Classroom: TBD
3:45-6:30 pm
Tuesday
Office Hours: By appointment

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

Required:

Wendy Kolman and Francis Bartkowski
Feminist Theory: A Reader
Patricia Hill Collins
Black Feminist Thought
Caren Kaplan
Between Woman and Nation
Sandra Harding
The Feminist Standpoint Theory Reader

Individual Presentation Topics

Historical Roots of Feminism
Second Wave Feminism
The Women's Liberation Movement
The Turn against Theory
Identity Politics
Poststructuralism and Feminism
Psychoanalytic Feminism
Feminism and Film
Feminist Epistemology

Ecological Feminism
Feminism and Science
Postcolonialism and Feminism
Feminism and Technology
Global Feminisms
Post-feminism

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%
Individual Presentation	20%
Research Project Final Report	40%

WEEK READING/ASSIGNMENT

Week 1 **Introduction to Course**
Jan 10 What do we Know? How do we Know?

Week 2 **What is Feminist Theory?**
Jan 17

Readings

Kolmar/Bartowski, Part 1 (entire)

Week 3 **Historical Roots of Feminism**
Jan 24 **Women's Liberation Movements**
 Women's Rights, Women's Work, Women's Sphere

Readings

Kolmar/Bartowski, Part 2 (entire)

Kolmar/Bartowski

“Southern Negro Women and Race Cooperation,”

Mary McLeod Bethune

“The Problem that has no Name”

Betty Friedan

“Statement of Purpose”

National Organization for Women

“Redstockings Manifesto”

Redstockings

“An Argument for Black Women's Liberation as a Revolutionary Force”

Mary Ann Weathers

Week 4 **NO CLASS**
Jan 31

Week 5 **Feminism and Cultural Theory**
Feb 7 The Politics of Work and Family
 The Politics of Reproduction

Readings

Kolmar/Bartowski

“Chapters 2, 5, 6 from A Room of One's Own”

Virginia Woolf

“Introduction to the Second Sex”

Simone deBeauvoir

“Is Female to Male as Nature is to Culture”

Sherry Ortner

“The Traffic in Women: Notes on the Political Economy of Sex”

Gayle Rubin

“For a Materialist Feminism”

Christine Delphy

“Outcast Mothers and Surrogates: Racism and Reproductive Politics in the Nineties”
Angela Y. Davis

Patricia Hill Collins

Chapter 3: “Work, Family, and Black Women’s Oppression”
Chapter 4: “Mammies, Matriarchs and Other Controlling Images”
Chapter 8: “Black Women and Motherhood”

Week 6 **Identity Formations and Self-Determination**
Feb 14 The Politics of Sexualities
 Race/Class/Gender

Readings

Kolmar/Bartowski

“Theory of Sexual Politics”
Kate Millett
“The Woman-Identified Woman”
Radicallesbians
“Chicana Feminism”
Anna Nieto Gomez
“A Black Feminist Statement”
Combahee River Collective
“Some Reflections on Separation and Power”
Marilyn Frye
“Age, Race, Class, and Sex: Women Redefining Difference”
Audre Lourde
“Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence”
Adrienne Rich
“Jewish Memory from a Feminist Perspective”
Judith Plaskow
“La Conciencia de la Mestiza: Towards a New Consciousness”
Gloria Anzaldua
“Intersectionality and Identity Politics: Learning from Violence against Women of Color”
Kimberle Crenshaw

Hill Collins

Chapter 1: “The Politics of Black Feminist Thought”
Chapter 2: “Distinguishing Features of Black Feminist Thought”
Chapter 5: “The Power of Self-Definition”

Week 7 **Feminism in the Academy**
Feb 21 Institutional Structures, Institutional Politics
 Pedagogy and Curriculum Transformations

Readings

“Feminism: A Transformational Politic”
Bell hooks

Week 8 **Feminism and Psychoanalysis/Queer Theory**

Feb 28

Readings

Kolmar/Bartowski

“Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema”

Laura Mulvey

“Concepts of Self and Morality”

Carol Gilligan

“From This Sex Which is Not One”

Luce Irigaray

“The Laugh of Medusa”

Helene Cixous

From Gender Trouble

Judith Butler

“Transgender Buth: Buth/FTM Border Wars and the Masculine Continuum”

Judith Halberstam

Week 9 **Feminist Philosophy/Epistemology**

Mar 7

Readings

Sandra Harding, *The Feminist Standpoint Theory Reader* (selections tbd)

“The Theoretical Subject(s) of This Bridge Called My Back and Anglo-American Feminism”

Norma Alarcon

Hill Collins

“Black Feminist Epistemology”

Week 11 **SPRING BREAK**

Mar 20

Week 10 **Feminism and Science/Ecology**

Mar 20

Readings

Kolmar/Bartowski

“A Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology, and Socialist-Feminism in the Late Twentieth Century”

Donna Haraway

“From the Woman Question in Science to the Science Question in Feminism”

Evelyn Fox Keller

“The Ecology of Feminism and the Feminism of Ecology”

Ynestra King

Week 12 **Feminism and Technology**

Mar 27

Readings (will be distributed in class)

"Feminism for the Incurably Informed"

Anne Balsamo

"Teaching in the Belly of the Beast: Feminism in the Best of All Places"

Anne Balsamo

Week 13 **Postcolonialism and Feminism**

Apr 4

Readings

Kolmar/Bartowski

"Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses"

Chandra Talpade Mohanty

"Contesting Cultures: 'Westernization,' Respect for Cultures, and Theird World Feminists"

Uma Narayan

Week 14 **Global Feminisms**

Apr 11 Presentation: *Celebrating Women All Over the World*

Readings

Kolmar/Bartowski

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

"Global Identities: Theorizing Transnational Studies of Sexuality"

Inderpal Grewal and Caren Kaplan

Kaplan/Alarcon/Moallem, *Between Woman and Nation* (selections tbd)

Hill Collins

Chapter 10: "U.S. Black Feminism in Transnational Context"

Week 15 **PostFeminism**

Apr 18

Readings

Kolmar/Bartowski

"Riot Grrrl Philosophy: Revolutions from Whithin"

Bikini Kill

"Meta(l)morphoses: The Becoming Machine"

Rosi Braidotti

Week 16 **CLASS WRAP-UP**

Apr 25

May 3-10 **Final Exams: Final Research Report Due**

