

FEMINIST THEORY
Sociology G 202
Department of Sociology/Anthropology

Professor Wini Breines
533 Holmes; 373-3857
Spring 2006

REQUIRED BOOKS:

Linda Nicholson, ed.	<u>Feminism / Postmodernism (F/P)</u>
Linda Nicholson, ed.	<u>The Second Wave: A Reader in Feminist Theory (SW)</u>
Rosemary Putnam Tong	<u>Feminist Thought</u> , Second Edition
Susan Bordo	<u>Unbearable Weight: Feminism, Western Culture, and the Body</u>
Sandra Harding, ed.	<u>The Feminist Standpoint Theory Reader</u>
Chilla Bulbeck	<u>Re-Orienting Western Feminisms: Women's Diversity in a Postcolonial World</u>

** An X after a reading selection indicates that it is photocopied.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is organized around the goal of providing a broad overview of the development of American and international feminist theory since the early seventies. We will read literature produced during the more than thirty years of the second wave of the women's liberation movement. There is an historical thread to the course. We consider the major trends in feminist theory, how they have been characterized, and debates and questions theorists face in the twenty-first century.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Attendance and participation. Absolutely necessary if a seminar is to be successful.
2. Keeping up with the reading. To encourage engaged reading and to foster lively, productive discussions, **each week you must prepare comments and/or questions about the sessions's reading.** They must be one or two pages, typed, double-spaced, and turned in at the end of class.
3. Seminar facilitators. **Each student must facilitate or co-facilitate one seminar discussion.** Your presentation should be at least twenty minutes and you should distribute written questions and comments to the class to structure the discussion. The facilitator will have help from other students who will be prepared with their own comments and questions. The idea is to inspire lively, challenging discussion. Facilitators should briefly summarize the material but then raise

issues, themes, questions, or reflections on the reading's implications for feminist theory, for work of your own, for social change, or for whatever seems pertinent to your intellectual concerns.

4. A paper developed in close consultation with me. **A five page proposal, four pages written with a one-page relevant bibliography is due on February 13. On March 13, each student will orally report in class on her/his topic and progress.** The final paper should be double-spaced and 15 to 20 pages in length. **It is due by Friday, April 20, 2006.**

COURSE OUTLINE:

Organization and Introductions **January 9**

SECOND WAVE SOCIALIST FEMINISM **January 23**

Introduction to Section in The Second Wave, 93-95
Heidi Hartmann, "The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism" (SW)
Michele Barrett, "Capitalism and Women's Liberation" (SW)
Linda Nicholson, "Feminism and Marx" (SW)
Combahee River Collective, "A Black Feminist Statement" (SW)
Gloria Hull, "History/ My History" X
Leslie Rabine, "Stormy Weather: A Memoir of the Second Wave" X

SECOND WAVE RADICAL FEMINISM **January 30**

Introduction to Section in The Second Wave, 147-151
Shulamith Firestone, "The Dialectic of Sex" (SW)
Radicalesbians, "The Woman Identified Woman" (SW)
Catherine MacKinnon, "Sexuality" (SW)
Carol Gilligan, "Woman's Place in Man's Life Cycle" (SW)
Ann Snitow, "A Gender Diary" X
Adrienne Rich, "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence" X

SECOND WAVE PSYCHOANALYTIC FEMINISM **February 6**

Nancy Chodorow, "The Psychodynamics of the Family" (SW)
Gayle Rubin, "The Traffic in Women" (SW)
Jane Flax, "The Conflict Between Nurturance and Autonomy in Mother-Daughter Relationships and Within Feminism" X
Jessica Benjamin, "Gender and Domination" from The Bonds of Love X

Paper proposals due, February 13

POSTMODERN FEMINIST THEORY

February 13

Optional: Nicholson, Introduction (F/P)

Nancy Fraser and L. Nicholson, "Social Criticism Without Philosophy: An Encounter Between Feminism and Postmodernism" (F/P)

Jane Flax, "Postmodernism and Gender Relations in Feminist Theory", (F/P)

Sandra Harding, "Feminism, Science, and the Anti-Enlightenment Critique" (F/P)

Judith Butler, "Gender Trouble, Feminist Theory, and Psychoanalytic Discourse" (F/P)

Jerry Aline Flieger, "Growing Up Theoretical: Across the Divide" X

CRITIQUES OF POSTMODERN FEMINIST THEORY

February 27

Christine De Stefano, "Dilemmas of Difference: Feminism, Modernity, Postmodernism: (F/P)

Susan Bordo, "Feminism, Postmodernism, and Gender-Scepticism" (F/P)

Nancy Hartsock, "Foucault on Power: A Theory for Women?" (F/P)

Linda Alcoff, "Cultural Feminism versus Post-Structuralism" (SW)

Barbara Christian, "The Race for Theory" X

Susan Stanford Friedman, "Negotiating the Transatlantic Divide: Feminism *After* Poststructuralism" X

Bonnie Zimmerman, "In Academia and Out: The Experience of a Lesbian Feminist Literary Critic" X

Progress report on papers: informal, oral, in-class, March 13

FEMINIST THEORY OVERVIEW

March 13

Rosemary Tong, Feminist Thought

Sherry Ortner, "So *Is* Female to Male as Nature Is to Culture?", Making Gender X

FEMINIST STANDPOINT THEORY

March 20

All from Harding, ed. The Feminist Standpoint Theory Reader:

Sandra Harding, "Introduction: Standpoint Theory as a Site of Political, Philosophic, and Scientific Debate"; Section I Introduction, 17-20

Dorothy E. Smith, "Women's Perspective as a Radical Critique of Sociology"

Nancy C. M. Hartsock, "The Feminist Standpoint: Developing the Ground for a Specifically Feminist Historical Materialism"

Patricia Hill Collins, "Learning from the Outsider Within: The Sociological Significance of Black Feminist Thought"

bell hooks, "Choosing the Margin as a Space of Radical Openness"

Sara Ruddick, "Maternal Thinking as a Feminist Standpoint"

Nancy J. Hirschmann, "Feminist Standpoint as Postmodern Strategy"

Mies and Shiva, "The Subsistence Perspective"

Optional: Kathi Weeks, "Labor, Standpoints, and Feminist Subjects"

BLACK, LATINA, AND THIRD WORLD FEMINIST THEORY March 27

Chandra Talpade Mohanty, "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses" X
Patricia Hill Collins, "Defining Black Feminist Thought" (SW)
Norma Alarcon "The Theoretical Subject(s) of This Bridge Called My Back and Anglo-American Feminism" (SW)
Elsa Barkley Brown "'What Has Happened Here': The Politics of Difference in Women's History and Feminist Politics" (SW)
Uma Narayan, "Contesting Cultures: Westernization, Respect for Cultures, and Third-World Feminists" (SW)
Nellie McKay, "Acknowledging Differences: Can Women Find Unity Through Diversity?" X
Susan Stanford Friedman, "'Beyond' White and 'Other': Narratives of Race in Feminist Discourse" X

FEMINIST CULTURAL THEORY: The Body April 3

Susan Bordo, Unbearable Weight

GLOBAL FEMINIST THEORY April 10

Chilla Bulbeck, Reorienting Western Feminisms: "Introduction," 1, "Fracturing Binarism: First and Third Worlds"; 2, "Individual versus Community"; 3, "Mothers and Wives"
Chandra Talpade Mohanty "'Under Western Eyes' Revisited: Feminist Solidarity through Anti-Capitalist Struggles" X
C. M. Mardorossian, "Toward a New Feminist Theory of Rape" X

Recommended:

Bulbeck, 4, "Sexual Identities: Western Imperialism?"; 5, "The International Traffic in Women"; "Conclusion"

Papers due April 20.