

FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES ON SOCIETY
Sociology U 402
Spring 2006

Professor Breines
533 Holmes
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Required Books:

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| Miriam Schneir | <u>Feminism in Our Time (FIOT)</u> |
| Sara Evans | <u>Personal Politics: The Roots of Women's Liberation in the Civil Rights Movement and the New Left</u> |
| Wini Breines | <u>Young, White and Miserable: Growing Up Female in the Fifties</u> |
| L. Richardson, V. Taylor,
N. Whittier | <u>Feminist Frontiers (FF)</u> |
| Lisa Dodson | <u>Don't Call Us Out of Name: The Untold Lives of Women and Girls in Poor America</u> |

Course Description:

The course begins by considering the development of the second wave of the American women's liberation movement, feminism, from the 1950s to the present. It looks at how and why feminism developed as a social movement and at perspectives and analyses of women's situation. The rest of the course focuses on issues and institutions that shape women's lives: gender and family, work, bodies, sexuality, violence against women, and international women.

Course Requirements:

The course requires attendance and participation, which means keeping up with the reading. Participation is expected. Completing the reading at the appropriate time and contributing to class discussion is important for the everyone in the class and contributes to your ability to do well on exams, present material to the class, and write the papers. Attendance will be taken often and will influence your grade.

Written assignments: There will be an exam on February 6 and three 5-6 page papers. The papers are due on March 13, April 3, and April 19. The first paper will be based on reading after the midterm: March 13 paper topics: Gender/ Families and Work. April 3 paper topics: Sexuality and Bodies. April 19 paper topics: Violence Against Women and Globalization. You will choose your own paper subject. I will provide some suggestions. The idea is to use the assigned reading to write the paper on a subject of interest to you. Of

course, you may use additional sources. You may also refer to earlier reading. Use the reading to explore an issue or subject you find interesting. For example: compare and contrast authors and approaches; evaluate whether and how authors shed light on a problem or issue; explore gender as a central explanatory factor in a situation or analysis. The papers must engage with the appropriate assigned reading, citing relevant books or essays.

- Several two page response papers about required reading or a relevant subject will be assigned from time to time. They will not be graded but will be count in your final grade.

All papers and take-home exams must have numbered pages, be double spaced, and stapled. Do not use electronic mail to hand in papers or response papers. You must hand in a hard copy. Keep a copy.

Oral assignment: You must lead a class discussion based on class reading. During the second class we will organize a schedule that ensures that a presenter or presenters come to class with summaries of the reading, prepared questions, comments, and issues that you present for discussion. You are expected to take a leadership role in the discussion on your assigned day, although everyone is expected to have completed and thought about the reading. You are also expected to participate in class discussion.

The midterm is worth 30% of your grade, each paper (3) is worth 15% of your grade, response papers are 10%, and the class presentation and participation in class discussion is worth 10% and attendance 5%.

As we begin a new topic, read the appropriate introduction to each section in Feminist Frontiers.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Sources of the U.S. Women's Liberation Movement in the 1950s

Weeks of January 9 and January 16

- Breines, Young, White and Miserable, entire
- Sylvia Plath, Purdah 33-37 (FIOT)
- Betty Friedan, The Feminine Mystique 48-67 (FIOT)

Sources of the Women's Liberation Movement in the Movements of the 1960s

January 19

- Evans, Personal Politics, entire except for 1, Prologue
- Section II: Civil Rights Act of 1964; Murray and Eastwood, 71-86 (FIOT)

The Women's Liberation Movement/ Feminism: The 1960s, 1970s, and Beyond

Weeks of January 23 and January 30

- Section III, Sisterhood: Hayden and King; NOW Statement of Purpose; An SDS Statement; Redstockings Manifesto; McAfee and Wood; Morgan; Radicalesbians; Lorde; NBFO Statement of Purpose; Combahee River Collective; 89-187 (FIOT)
- Introduction, Section One : #1 Frye; #2 Gonzalez; #3 Allen, #4 Truth; #22 Lorde; #5 Shacht (FF)
- Section 2: Alice Walker (FF)
- Sections 10 & 11: #39 Woods; #45 Neuborne; Urvashi Vaid (FF)

FIRST EXAM, February 6

Gender and Families

Weeks of February 6, February 13, and February 20

Gender:

- Section Two: #6 Lorber; Cameron, #7 Kessler (FF)
- Section Three: # 9 Richardson; Kleinman, #13 Espiritu (FF)
- Section Four: #15 Thorne; #16 Kimmel (FF)
- Gilligan (428-438) (FIOT)

Families:

- Section Six: #14 Dill; #22 Hertz; Enrenreich; #24 Thai; #25 Walters; Nancy Naples (FF)
Recommended: #23 Segura

Work

Weeks of February 27 and March 13

- Lisa Dodson, Don't Call Us Out of Name, entire
- Section Five: #19 Bose and Whaley; #20 Padavic and Reskin; #21 Honagneu-Sotelo;
Recommended: #18 Kessler-Harris (FF)
- Section Ten: #38 Edin (FF)

PAPER DUE, March 13 (Gender, Families, Work)

Sexuality

Week of March 20

- Section Seven: #27 Bordo; #28 Tolman; Mackler; 468-470 Norimitsu Onishi
Recommended: #26 Rupp; #29 Messner (FF)
- Section Three: for weeks of March 20 and 27: #10 Gimlin; Roberta Galler; #11 Banks;
#12 hooks (FF)
- Recommended: Rich, 310-326 (FIOT)

Bodies

Week of March 27

- Section Eight: entire: #30 Fausto-Sterling; Steinem; Porter; #31 Thompson; #32 Nsiah-Jefferson; Deevy; #33 Jennifer Hargreaves (FF)
- Section V, Our Bodies: Koedt 329-365 (FIOT)
- Recommended: Sexton; Greer; Boston Women's Health Book Collective (FIOT)

PAPER DUE, April 3 (Sexuality, Bodies)

Violence Against Women

Week of April 3

- Section Nine, entire: #34 Martin and Hummer; Robert Allen and Paul Kivel;
- #35 Steinem; Claudia Brenner; #36 Crenshaw; # 37 Tetreault (FF)
- Recommended: Dworkin, 419-427 (FIOT)

Globalization

Week of April 10

- Section Ten: (minus Edin and Woods): Kristof; #40 Enloe; (FF)

PAPER DUE, April 19 (Violence Against Women, Globalization)