
CONTEMPORARY FEMINIST THEORY in Fall 2019 (GS2006)

Course Code	GS2006	Professor(s)	Elizabeth Kinne
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	G-117
Class Schedule	MR: 12:10-13:30 in G-002	Office Hours	After class or by appointment
Credits	4	Email	ekinne@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2019	Office Tel. Ext.	846

Course Description

This course will survey a broad range of feminist thinkers and writers from the 1970's until the present day. We will seek to understand how feminist theory/ies has/ve evolved and embrace it/them in all the complexity, diversity, intricacy and depth that these tools for understanding the world and thinking through questions of gender and sexuality provide. From a primary differentiation between the categories of sex and gender, to the promotion of non-binary thinking, from standpoint and postmodern feminist theories to transnational and intersectional understandings, this course will explore the many voices that make up feminist theories and encourage students to theorize in their turn. It also integrates a digital humanities project in which we will attempt to map the genesis of theory transnationally.

Course Learning Outcomes

To become familiar with a variety of feminist theorists and be able to articulate distinctions and resonances between their bodies of scholarship.

To be able to apply useful feminist tools in their thinking about real world problems and issues, in order to appreciate how elements of race, class, sexuality, ability, and gender interact.

To discover the tools of the digital humanities.

To think deeply about the material, political, economic, and cultural implications for the genesis of feminist theories and their applications in activism.

To explore one area of feminist theory that is of particular interest to them and become the class expert on this theorist/body of knowledge.

To appropriate feminist approaches in order to theorize themselves.

To practice scholarly writing and research.

General Education

[PLEASE EDIT OR REMOVE THE FOLLOWING TEXT AS APPLICABLE]

The general education program at AUP consists of four requirements: Speaking the World, Modeling the World, Mapping the World, and Comparing Worlds Past and Present.

This course can be used to fulfill the [INDICATE THE REQUIREMENT(S) FULFILLED BY THE COURSE] requirement and as such has the following learning outcomes:

[INDICATE THE GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES]

Course Outline

CLASS SCHEDULE:

Please enter your course schedule with a guide to “Topics” or “Readings” of each session and/or week (subject to modifications).

September

Week I – Sept. 2nd – 6th:

Monday 2nd – Course Introduction

Thursday 5th – FTR: Becky Thompson (pp. 56-67); Amrita Basu (pp. 68-76); Deniz Kandiyoti (pp. 98-106)

September 8th – last day to drop/add courses online

Week II – Sept. 9th - 13th: French and North American Feminisms in Dialogue

Monday 9th – FTR: Simone de Beauvoir (pp. 40-48) and Judith Butler (pp. 462-476)

Thursday 12th – FTR: Monique Wittig (pp. 246-251) and Adrienne Rich “Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence” (on Blackboard)

Week III – Sept. 16th – 20nd: The Origins of the Patriarchy?

Monday 16th – Gayle Rubin “The Traffic in Women: Notes on the Political Economy of Sex” (on Blackboard)

Thursday 19th – **Library Session, (Journal entry due on choice of book for review)**

Week IV – Sept. 23rd – 29th: Contemporary Feminist Toolkits

Monday 23rd – Sara Ahmed “A Killjoy Survival Kit”; “A Killjoy Manifesto” (on Blackboard)

Thursday 26th – Patricia Hill Collins and Sirma Bilge “What is Intersectionality?” (on Blackboard), FTR: Intersectionality (4th ed. 182-212)

October

Week V – Sept. 30th - Oct. 4th: Materialist Feminism, Standpoint Theory and Feminist Epistemology

Monday 30th – FTR: Heidi Hartmann (pp. 187-201)/(214-228); Nancy Hartsock (pp. 354-369)/(368-383)

Thursday 3rd – FTR: Lila Abu-Lughod (pp. 218-226)/(245-253); Uma Narayan **On-line 3rd edition** (pp. 370-378) **(First Short Paper due in class)**

Week VI – Oct. 7th – 11th:

Monday 7th – **Presentation of the Mapping Transnational Feminisms Project**

Thursday 10th – FTR: Mrinalini Sinha (pp. 227-245)/(254-272); Andrea Smith **4th edition** (273-281), **[\(Journal entry #1 for Book Review Project due before midnight\)](#)**

Week VII – Oct. 14th-18th: Feminism and Multiculturalism

Monday 14th – Midterm exam

Thursday 17th – FTR: Gloria Anzaldua On-line 3rd edition (pp. 277-284); Sara Ahmed (pp. 517-532)/539-554), (Journal entry #2 for Book Review Project due before midnight**)**

October 18th, Mid-semester grades due

Week VIII – Oct. 21st – 25th: Identities and Sexualities

Monday 21st – FTR: Audre Lorde (pp. 292-295)/(320-324); Lionel Cantú Jr. (325-334)/(351-366)

Thursday 24th – FTR: Obioma Nnaemeka (pp. 317-320)/(347-350); The Combahee River Collective 3rd edition (pp. 116-122); Emi Koyama 4th edition (pp. 150-160), (Journal entry #3 for Book Review Project due before midnight**)**

Week IX – Oct. 28th – 30th

Monday 28th – (see Manifesto collection on Blackboard for complementary readings to prepare the Manifesto project), (Second Short Paper due in class**)**

October 30th - November 3rd, (included) Fall break, No classes

November

Week X – Nov. 4th -8th: Global Feminisms

Monday 4th – FTR: Rhacel Salazar Parrenas (pp. 202-217)/(229-244); Chandra Talpade

Mohanty **3rd edition** (pp. 536-552)

Thursday 7th – Library Session: Book Reviews (Journal entry #4 for Book Review Project due before midnight)

Week XI – Nov. 11th – 15th: Colonial Legacies and Post-colonial Feminism

Monday 11th – Armistice Break – No class

Thursday 14th – FTR: Leila Ahmed (pp. 306-316)/(335-346); Kathy Davis (pp. 502-516)/(525-538) ([Journal entry #5 for Book Review Project due before midnight](#))

Week XII – Nov. 18th-22nd:

Monday 18th – FTR: Patricia Hill Collins (pp. 379-394)/(384-400); Paula M.L. Moya (pp. 571-588)/(558-575)

Thursday 21st – FTR: Raewyn Connell (pp. 252-264)/(288-300)

Week XIII – Nov. 25th – 29th:

Monday 25rd – FTR: Viviane Namaste **4th edition** (pp. 608-621); Julia Serano, Excerpts from *Whipping Girl* (on Blackboard) (**Book Reviews due in class**)

Thursday 28th – FTR Eileen Boris and Rhacel Salazar Parrenas [4th edition](#) (pp. 586-593); Angela McRobbie **4th edition** (pp. 622-626)

December

Week XIV – 2nd – 6th:

Monday 2nd – Free Day

Thursday 5th – Course wrap-up and presentation and discussion of DH project, (Digital Humanities Short Paper due in class**)**

December 6th: Last day of classes; December 7th – 11th: Reading days

Final Exam: Dec. 16th 12:00-14:30: Feminist Manifesto Presentations

Textbooks

Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN	Required
Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives	Carole R. McCann and Seung-Kyung Kim	Routledge	978-1138930216	Yes

Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Grading Policy

GRADING:

Attendance, Participation and Quizzes (10%): Punctuality, preparation, and active appropriate

participation/engagement; reading quizzes may be given periodically throughout the semester with lowest quiz grade dropped; you must have assigned readings with you for each class.

Scholarly Book Review (30%) includes journal entries: 1000-word book review of the feminist theory

monograph of your choice (please see Bibliography for recommendations)

Journal entries due Sept. 19th (book choice), Oct. 10th, Oct. 17th, Oct. 24th, Nov. 7th, Nov. 14th

Book review due Nov. 25th

Two Short Papers (30%): Two 2000-word papers applying two or more feminist theory

concepts/tools to a current event (MLA bibliography required)

Paper #1 due Oct. 3rd

Paper #2 due Oct. 28th

Midterm Exam (10%): Short midterm exam: **Monday, Oct. 14th**

Digital Humanities Project Short Paper (10%): Data collection and entry into the Mapping Transnational Feminisms Project; 1000-word critical analysis paper on the project

Due Dec. 5th in class

Feminist Manifesto (10%): Composition of a feminist manifesto (500 words) individually or as a collective to be presented during the final exam period

Dec. 16th 12:00-14:30

Grading Scale:

A- Excellent; student is working to the maximum of their potential; demonstrates original, critical thinking, superior writing and research skills.

B- Good; student demonstrates potential; original ideas and sound writing and research skills.

C- Adequate; student demonstrates an understanding of the course material but could improve originality or critical skills; writing and research skills are mediocre.

D- Inadequate; insufficient thought, care or time have been given to the assignment; poor comprehension of material, writing and research; does not meet minimum requirements of the

assignment.

F- Failing; unacceptable work; does not demonstrate an understanding of course material, is incomplete; critical thinking, writing and research skills need immediate and urgent attention for improvement AND/OR the assignment has been plagiarized.

Other

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