

GOV 1029 Feminist Political Thought

Tuesday, Thursday 12-1.15
Fall Semester 2018

Professor Katrina Forrester

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 2-3

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Course Description:

What is feminism? What is patriarchy? What and who is a woman? How does gender relate to sexuality, and to class and race? Should housework be waged, should sex be for sale, and should feminists trust the state? This course is an introduction to feminist political thought since the mid-twentieth century. It introduces students to classic texts of late twentieth-century feminism, explores the key arguments that have preoccupied radical, socialist, liberal, Black, postcolonial and queer feminists, examines how these arguments have changed over time, and asks how debates about equality, work, and identity matter today.

We will proceed chronologically, reading texts mostly written during feminism's so-called 'second wave', by a range of influential thinkers including Simone de Beauvoir, Shulamith Firestone, bell hooks and Catharine MacKinnon. We will examine how feminists theorized patriarchy, capitalism, labor, property and the state; the relationship of claims of sex, gender, race, and class; the development of contemporary ideas about sexuality, identity, and gender; and how and whether these ideas change how fundamental problems in political theory are understood.

Course Requirements:

Participation (25%) includes (a) active participation in discussion (15%); and (b) weekly responses: each week you will send 2-3 brief questions/ comments about the reading to your TF by 5pm the day before section (10%)

Paper 1 (25%) 5-6 pages due **October 18 4pm**. Questions for the first paper will be circulated.

Paper 2 (50%) 10-12 pages due **December 10 4pm**

Papers for this class can either take the form of a political theory/ political philosophy paper that defends a feminist position or set of ideas by developing a sustained argument or they can explore a debate, thinker or set of ideas and thinkers historically. You can work from the texts and arguments we have studied or chose your own.

Requirements for Graduate Students: 1 x 25-30 pages due **December 10**

We will be spending one lecture in the Schlesinger Library to get to know the resources on offer there for studying feminism. **Attendance at this session will be required.** You will be encouraged to include in your final paper unpublished sources from the archive. **But you will not be required to use sources from the library in your paper.**

Late Policy: Papers turned in late without prior discussion with the TF will be marked down ½ grade per day.

Laptop Policy: Please do not use laptops or phones during lectures. If you do need to use your computer, please contact me.

Readings

The following book is available for purchase at the COOP.

Simone De Beauvoir, *The Second Sex* (1949)

All other reading will be available online on the course website or on library reserve

The following books are also recommended, and available for purchase at the COOP.

bell hooks, *Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center* (1984) (Routledge, 2015)

Shulamith Firestone, *The Dialectic of Sex: The Case for Feminist Revolution* (Mac, 1970)

Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique* (Norton, 1963)

Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity* (Routledge, 1990)

Collaboration Policy Statement

Discussion and the exchange of ideas are essential to scholarly work. For assignments in this course, you are encouraged to consult with your classmates on the choice of paper topics and to share sources. You may find it useful to discuss your chosen topic with your peers, particularly if you are working on the same topic. However, you should ensure that any written work you submit for evaluation is the result of your own research and writing and that it reflects your own approach to the topic. You must also adhere to standard citation practices and properly cite any books, articles, websites, lectures, etc. that have helped you with your work. If you received any help with your writing (feedback on drafts, etc), you must also acknowledge this assistance

Weekly Syllabus

1. Introduction I (Sept 4)

2. Introduction II (Sept 6)

bell hooks, 'Feminism: A Movement to End Sexist Oppression' in *Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center* (1984) (Routledge, 2015), 18-33

Lorna Finlayson, 'Feminist theory, feminist practice' and 'Outposts in your head: ideology, patriarchy and critique' in *An Introduction to Feminism* (Cambridge, 2016), 4-24

3. The Second Sex (Sept 11)

Simone De Beauvoir, *The Second Sex* (1949)

'Introduction', 3-17

'Destiny', 44-8, 50-61, 62-68

'Myths', 159-187

'Childhood', 283-313

Women's Situation and Character', 661-664,

'Independent Woman' and conclusion, 721-766

Recommended: either 'The Girl' or 'Sexual Initiation'; and either 'The Woman in Love' or 'The Mystic'

4. Feminine Mystique (Sept 13) Guest lecture by Dr Maggie Doherty

Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique* (1963)

'The Problem that Has No Name', 'The Sexual Sell', 'A New Life Plan for Women'

5. Revolution (Sept 18)

Juliet Mitchell, 'The Longest Revolution', *New Left Review* (1966), 11-37

Juliet Mitchell, 'Psychoanalysis and the Family' in *Women's Estate* (1971), 159-172

6. Liberation (Sept 20)

The Chicago Women's Liberation Union, 'How to Start Your Own Consciousness-Raising Group' (1971)

Online: <http://www.uic.edu/orgs/cwluherstory/CWLUArchive/crcwlu.html>

Shulamith Fireston, 'Women Rap About Sex'

Anne Koedt, 'The Myth of the Vaginal Orgasm',

Carol Hanisch and Elizabeth Sunderland, 'Women of the World Unite! We Have Nothing to Lose but our Men!'

Shulamith Firestone, 'Abortion Rally Speech',

in *Notes from the First Year* (New York Radical Women, 1968), 11, 12-16, 24-25)

Carol Hanisch, 'The Personal is Political'.
Ellen Willis, 'Women and the Left' and 'Sequel',
in *Notes from the Second Year: Major Writings of the Radical Feminists* (New York
Radical Women, 1970), 55-58, 76-78.

Frances Beale, 'Double Jeopardy: To Be Black and Female' (1969)

7. Utopia and Patriarchy (Sept 25)

Shulamith Firestone, *The Dialectic of Sex: The Case for Feminist Revolution* (1970), ch 6:
'Love', ch 10: 'Alternatives', 113-130, 202-216

Zillah Eisenstein, 'Developing a Theory of Capitalist Patriarchy and Socialism Feminism', in
Zillah Eisenstein ed., *Capitalist Patriarchy and the Case for Socialist Feminism* (Monthly
Review, 1979), 5-40

8. Sisterhood or Solidarity (Sept 27)

bell hooks, 'Sisterhood: Political Solidarity Among Women' in *Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center* (1984) (Routledge, 2015), 43-67

Audre Lorde, 'Age, Race, Class and Sex: Women Redefining Difference,' and 'The Master's
Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House' in *Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches*
(Crossing Press, 1984), 25-28, 114-123

Combahee River Collective, 'A Black Feminist Statement', in Cherrie Moraga and Gloria
Anzaldua (eds) *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings By Radical Women of Color* (Kitchen
Table, 1983 [1981]), 210-218

9. Work I (Oct 2)

Silvia Federici, 'Wages Against Housework' (1974), and 'Why Sexuality is Work' (1975) in
Revolution at Point Zero: Housework, Reproduction and Feminist Struggle (PM Press, 2012), 1-
8, 23-27

10. Work II (Oct 4)

bell hooks, 'Rethinking the Nature of Work', in *Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center* (1984)
(Routledge, 2015), 96-107

Angela Davis, 'The Approaching Obsolescence of Housework: A Working Class Perspective',
Women, Race and Class (Knopf, 1981), 222-244

11. Pornography and the Sex Wars (Oct 9)

Catharine MacKinnon, 'Only Words,' in Drucilla Cornell, ed., *Feminism & Pornography*,
(Oxford, 2000): 94-120

Ellen Willis, 'Lust Horizons: Is the Women's Movement Pro-Sex?' (1981) in *No More Nice Girls*
(Wesleyan, 1992), 3-14

Laura Kipnis, '(Male) Desire and (Female) Disgust: Reading *Hustler*,' in L. Grossberg, C. Nelson, and P. Treichler (eds.), *Cultural Studies*, Routledge, 1992), 373-91

Angela Carter, 'Polemical Preface: Pornography in the Service of Women,' in Drucilla Cornell (ed), *Feminism & Pornography*, (Oxford, 2000): 527-539

Content Note: this week's readings contain graphic descriptions of pornography

12. SESSION IN SCHLESINGER LIBRARY (Oct 11)

13: The State (Oct 16)

Catharine MacKinnon, 'Feminism, Marxism, Method and the State: Toward Feminist Jurisprudence,' *Signs* v. 8 (1983): 635-658.

Francis Fox Piven, 'Ideology and the State: Women, Power and the Welfare State', in Linda Gordon, *Women, the State and Welfare* (University of Wisconsin Press, 1990), 250-264

Wendy Brown, 'Finding the Man in the State', *Feminist Studies* 18. 1 (1992), 7-34 or in *States of Injury*

FIRST PAPER DUE October 18 4pm

14. The Public and the Private (Oct 18)

Carole Pateman, 'Feminist Critiques of the Public/Private Dichotomy', in S I Benn and J F Gauss (eds), *Public and Private in Social Life* (Croom Helm, 1983), 281-303

Susan Moller Okin, 'Gender, the Public and the Private,' in *Political Theory Today*, ed. David Held (Oxford: Blackwell, Polity Press, 1991), pp.67-90.

15. Ownership and Slavery (Oct 23)

Carole Pateman, 'Wives, Slaves and Wage-Slaves' and 'Feminism and the Marriage Contract' in *The Sexual Contract* (Stanford, 1988), 116-153

Angela Y Davis, 'Reflections on the Black Woman's Role in the Community of Slaves', *Black Scholar* (1971): 81-100

16. The Body (Oct 25)

Debra Satz, 'Markets in Women's Reproductive Labor' and 'Markets in Women's Sexual Labor' in *Why Some Things Should Not Be for Sale* (2010), 115-155 (online via Hollis)

Anne Phillips, 'It's My Body and I'll Do What I like With It: Bodies as Objects and Property', *Political Theory* (2011): 724-748

17 Gender & Sexuality (Oct 30)

Michel Foucault, 'We 'Other Victorians'', *The History of Sexuality vol 1* (1978) 1-49, 135-159

Recommended: Gayle Rubin, 'The Traffic in Women: Notes on the 'Political Economy' of Sex', (1975), 157-210

18. Gender & Sexuality II (Nov 1)

Adrienne Rich, 'Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence', *Signs* (1980), 631-660

Gayle Rubin, 'Thinking Sex' (1984): 1-34

19. Gender & Sexuality III (Nov 6)

Judith Butler, 'Subjects of Sex/Gender/Desire', *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*, (New York: Routledge, 1990), 1-34, 181-190

Recommended: Hortense Spillers, 'Mama's Baby, Papa's Maybe: An American Grammar Book. *Diacritics*, Vol. 17, No. 2, *Culture and Countermemory: The 'American' Connection*. (Summer, 1987), 64-81.

20. Postcolonial Feminisms (Nov 8)

Chandra Mohanty, 'Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses,' *boundary 2* (1984): 333-358

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, 'Can the Subaltern Speak? (1988)

21. A Cyborg Manifesto (Nov 13) Guest lecture by Dr Moira Weigel

Donna Haraway, 'A Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology and Socialist Feminism in the Late Twentieth Century' (1984)

22: Intersectionality (Nov 15)

Kimberlé Crenshaw, 'Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color', *Stanford Law Review* 1241 (1991)

Jennifer C Nash, 'Re-thinking Intersectionality' *Feminist Review* (2008)

David McNally, 'Intersections and Dialectics' in *Social Reproduction Theory* (2017)

23. Identities, Recognition, and Redistribution (Nov 20)

Susan Bickford, 'Anti-Anti-Identity Politics: Feminism, Democracy and the Complexities of Citizenship', *Hypatia* (1997) 111-131

Nancy Fraser, 'From Redistribution to Recognition? Dilemmas of Justice in a 'Post-Socialist' Age', *New Left Review* (1995), 68-93

24. THANKSGIVING BREAK (Nov 22)

25. Queer Politics (Nov 27)

Cathy Cohen, 'Punks, Bulldaggers, and Welfare Queens: The Radical Potential of Queer Politics?', in Patrick Johnson and Mae G. Henderson (eds), *Black Queer Studies: A Critical Anthology* (Duke, 2005), 437-465

Lisa Duggan, 'Queering the State', *Social Text* (1994)

Recommended: Janet Halley, *Split Decisions: How and Why to take a Break from Feminism*, 41-58, 119-132, [available online through Hollis]

26. Transgender studies and feminism (Nov 29)

Susan Stryker, 'Transgender Studies: Queer Theory's Evil Twin' *LQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 10.2 (2004) 212-215

Susan Stryker, '(De)Subjugated Knowledges: An Introduction to Transgender Studies' (2013)

Cressida Heyes, 'Feminist Solidarity after Queer Theory: The Case of Transgender' *Signs* (2003); 1093-1120

Recommended: Gayle Rubin, 'Of Catamites and Kings: Reflections on Butch, Gender and Boundaries', 471-481

Juliet Jacques, 'On the 'Dispute' between Radical Feminists and Trans People', *The New Statesmen* (2014)

27. Feminism 2008/2018 (Dec 4)

Susan Watkins, 'Which Feminisms?' *New Left Review* (2018)

Nancy Fraser, 'Contradictions of Capital and Care', *New Left Review* 100 (July/Aug 2016), 99-117

SECOND PAPER DUE December 10 4pm