

GRC 323(38375); CL323 (33940), E322 (35415);  
EUS347 (36540), WGS (47640)  
Spring 2011

Lynn Wilkinson  
Germanic Studies

**Simone de Beauvoir and Hannah Arendt:  
Intellectual Women/Women as Intellectuals**

What does it mean to be a woman and an intellectual? This course focuses on major works by two women who helped define the field in the mid-twentieth century, the French writer Simone de Beauvoir and the German-Jewish-American Hannah Arendt.

We will consider their works from a variety of perspectives. To what extent are the preoccupations of these women intellectuals defined by gender? Do they define the relationship or relationships between public and private in ways that differ from many male writers? How do the lives shape the works? What kind of stories do they tell?

We will also consider the different contexts of the two writers, as well as some recent perspectives on the nature and origins of “intellectuals.”

*This course carries the **Writing Flag**. Writing Flag courses are designed to give students experience with writing in an academic discipline. In this class, you can expect to write regularly during the semester, complete substantial writing projects, and receive feedback from your instructor to help you improve your writing. You will also have the opportunity to revise one or more assignments, and to read and discuss your peers' work. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from your written work.*

**ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:** Two three-page papers (20%), one final ten-page paper (50%), and one oral report (10%). Class participation will count 20%.

**ELECTRONICS POLICY:** All electronic devices—including mobile phones, note- and netbooks, ipods, and ipads—must be put away before the start of class.

**STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:** Please let me know by the third day of class at the latest if you have a disability that has been certified by SSD, Services for Students with Disabilities. See HTU [http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/resp\\_fac.php](http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/resp_fac.php) UTH or the SSD website for more information.

**RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:** I will make accommodations for students who wish to observe religious holidays. Please let me know at least one class day in advance if you need such accommodation.

*Late papers will not be accepted unless you have made arrangements with me in advance.*

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Simone de Beauvoir: *The Second Sex*, 2010 ed., trans. Constance Borde and Sheila Malovany-Chevallier; *Philosophical Writings* (excerpts); *The Mandarins*; *The Prime of Life*

Hannah Arendt: *The Human Condition*; *Eichmann in Jerusalem*; *Between Past and Future*; *Men in Dark Times*

**Recommended (on reserve):**

Toril Moi: *Simone de Beauvoir: The Making of an Intellectual Woman*, PQ2603 E362 Z855 1994

Kolmar & Bartokowski: *Feminist Theory: A Reader*

Beauvoir: *A Very Easy Death*, available at the HRC – PQ2603 E362 M613 1966

Beauvoir: *Memoirs of a Dutiful Daughter*, PQ2603 E362 Z523 1974

Beauvoir: *The Force of Circumstance*, PQ2603 E362 Z5243 1977, vols. 1 and 2

Beauvoir: *The Prime of Life*, PQ 2603 E362 Z5153 1976

Beauvoir: *All Said and Done*, PQ2603 E362 Z52513

Beauvoir: *Letters to Sartre* PQ2603 E362 Z49513 1992

Beauvoir: *A Transatlantic Love Affair: Letters to Nelson Algren* PQ2603 E362 Z4828 1993

Hannah Arendt, Karl Jaspers: *Correspondence* JC263 A7413 1992

Arendt: *Between Friends: The Correspondence between Hannah Arendt and Mary McCarthy* JC 263 A69 A3 1995

Elizabeth Young-Bruehl: *Hannah Arendt: For Love of the World* JC 251 A74 Y68

Dierdre Bair: *Simone de Beauvoir: A Biography* PQ 2603 E362 Z59 1990

Margaret A. Simons, ed.: *Feminist Interpretations of Simone de Beauvoir* PQ 2603 E362 Z673 1995

Bonnie Honig, ed.: *Feminist Interpretations of Hannah Arendt* JC 251 A74 F46 1995

**Syllabus**

## Week 1

Jan. 18 Introduction

Jan. 20 Arendt: *Men in Dark Times*, “Walter Benjamin”; Beauvoir: “Sartre”

## Week 2

Beauvoir: *Pyrrhus and Cineas*; “What Is Existentialism?”

Jan. 25 *Pyrrhus and Cineas*, Part 1

Jan. 27 *Pyrrhus and Cineas*, Part 2; “What Is Existentialism?”

## Week 3

Arendt: *The Human Condition* I

Feb. 1 *The Human Condition*:: Prologue, Chapter 1 “The Human Condition”

Feb. 3 Chapters 2-3: “The Public and the Private Realm,” “Labor,”

Week 4

Arendt: *The Human Condition II*

Feb. 8 Chapter 4-5 “Work,” “Action”

Feb. 10” Chapter 6 “The *Vita Activa* and the Modern Age”

Week 5

Beauvoir: *The Second Sex*, Volume I – *Facts and Myths*

Feb. 15 Introduction; Part One, DESTINY, Chapters 1-3

Feb. 17 Part Two, HISTORY, Chapters 1, 5; Part Three, MYTH, Chapters 1 and 3

**FIRST THREE-PAGE PAPER DUE IN CLASS**

Feb. 18 Talk by Constance Borde and Sheila Malovany-Chevallier, translators of the new English-language edition of *The Second Sex*. Time and place TBA

Week 6

Beauvoir: *The Second Sex*, Volume II – *Lived Experience*

Feb. 22 Introduction; Part One, THE FORMATIVE YEARS, esp. Chapters 1 and 2

Feb. 24 Part Two, SITUATION, Chapters 5, 6, 8, 10; Part Four, TOWARD LIBERATION, Chapter 14 and Conclusion

(if you have time: Part Three, JUSTIFICATIONS, Chapter 13)

Week 7

Arendt: *Between Past and Future I*; Beauvoir: “Literature and Metaphysics”

March 1 “The Gap Between Past and Future,” The Crisis in Culture”

March 3 “What Is Authority?” Beauvoir: “Literature and Metaphysics”

Week 8

Simone de Beauvoir: *The Mandarins*

March 8 *The Mandarins*: Chapters 1-4

March 10 *The Mandarins*: Chapters 5-8

S P R I N G B R E A K

Week 9

Beauvoir: *The Mandarins*, “An Eye for an Eye”

March 22 *The Mandarins*, Chapters 9-11

March 24 “An Eye for an Eye”

**SECOND THREE-PAGE PAPER DUE IN CLASS**

Week 10

Arendt: *Eichmann in Jerusalem*

March 29 *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, Chapters 1-5

March 31 *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, Chapters 6-10

Week 11

Arendt: *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, Chapters 11-15 and Epilogue; “Reflections on Little Rock,” *Between Past and Future*: “The Crisis in Education”

April 5 *Eichmann in Jerusalem* 3

April 7 “Reflections on Little Rock,” “The Crisis in Education”

**150-WORD ABSTRACTS FOR FINAL PAPER DUE IN CLASS**

Week 12

Arendt: *Between Past and Future* II: “Truth and Politics”; Beauvoir: *The Prime of Life*

April 12 “Truth and Politics”; *The Prime of Life* 1

April 14 *The Prime of Life* 2

Week 13

Beauvoir: *The Prime of Life* 3; Arendt: *Men in Dark Times*: “Rosa Luxemburg,” “Isak Dinesen”

April 19 *The Prime of Life* 3

April 21 “Rosa Luxemburg,” “Isak Dinesen”

Week 14

Class Presentations

April 26

April 28

Week 15

Class Presentations

May 3 **REWRITES DUE IN CLASS**

May 5 **FINAL PAPERS DUE IN CLASS**

### Writing Assignments

This course carries the **Writing Flag**. Assignments include two three-page papers and one ten-page paper. The three-page papers may be rewritten to replace the first grade. The final date to turn in rewrites is May 3, but I encourage you to rewrite your papers as soon as possible. You may rewrite them more than once, as long as you turn in your new versions by May 3.

The due dates for the first versions of your three-page papers and your final paper are marked on your syllabus. These dates are firm. *I will not accept late papers unless you have made arrangements with me in advance at least two days before the paper is due.* If an illness prevents you from turning in your assignment on time, I will need a signed doctor's statement that this is the case.

**EXTENSION POLICY:** If you have an unusually busy schedule at the time one of the papers is due or an unusual circumstance, such as a wedding out of town, please inform me and we can arrange another deadline.

1. You must ask for the extension by the time class meets **BEFORE** the deadline on the syllabus, i.e. at least one class in advance. You may also ask for an extension any time before the class meeting before the deadline.
2. You must get my permission—and the new deadline—in writing. The best way to do this is by sending me an email message outlining the reasons for your request. Keep a copy of my reply.

Your writing must be your own work. If you **plagiarize**, I will report you to Student Judicial Services and you will fail the entire class. Simple rule of thumb: "If you use words or ideas that are not your own you must cite your sources. Otherwise you will be guilty of plagiarism." If you have any questions as to what constitutes plagiarism, please see the page on the Student Judicial website:

[http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis\\_plagiarism.php](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis_plagiarism.php)

All of your papers should be typed or keyboarded. Please double space.

---

**Writing Center:** I strongly encourage you to use the Undergraduate Writing Center, FAC 211, 471-6222: <http://uwc.utexas.edu/> The Undergraduate Writing Center offers free, individualized, expert help with writing for any UT undergraduate, by appointment or on a drop-in basis. Any undergraduate enrolled in a course at UT can visit the UWC for assistance with any writing project. They work with students from every department on campus, for both academic and non-academic writing. Whether you are writing a lab report, a resume, a term paper, a statement for an application, or your own poetry, UWC consultants will be happy to work with you. Their services are not just for writing with

“problems.” Getting feedback from an informed audience is a normal part of a successful writing project. Consultants help students develop strategies to improve their writing. The assistance they provide is intended to foster independence. Each student determines how to use the consultant’s advice. The consultants are trained to help you work on your writing in ways that preserve the integrity of your work.

---

### **Class Presentations/Oral Reports**

The final writing assignment for the course is a ten-page paper on a topic of your choosing. A title and abstract of your paper are due on April. During **weeks 14 and 15**, you will give a talk of **no more than ten minutes** on the subject of your final paper. Some questions to consider:

- Why you chose this topic
- Why it is significant
- How you went about developing your ideas
- What kind of research you did
- What you learned
- Future topics you might explore

Please note that if you plan to read your talk, you should estimate that it takes about two minutes to read one double-spaced page (12-point font, normal margins).