

U.S. and Third World Feminisms

This course explores the variety of feminisms developed by women of color and non-western women to critique the racism and ethnocentrism of white-dominated systems and practices, including feminism. Its overall concern is with the intersection of gender, race, sexuality and social class, an analytical feminist perspective developed by women of color. We begin by examining the dominant approaches to feminist theory that emerged in the United States and Europe, such as liberal, Marxist, radical feminism, and standpoint feminism. We will then focus on the critiques of these traditions developed by U. S. women of color and third world feminists. We will also examine debates regarding the politics of sexuality, the role of men in feminism, feminist reconceptualizations of politics, veiling and Arab feminism, etc. This course carries both the Cultural Diversity in the United States and Writing flags. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from your written work and from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one U.S. cultural group that has experienced persistent marginalization.

Course Requirements: This course is a discussion seminar. Students are expected to attend class, complete the readings prior to class, and actively participate in class discussion. The emphasis of this course is on critical thinking and analytical writing. Students are expected to read thoroughly and carefully, as the quality of discussion depends on the extent of your preparation and participation.

Completion of all assignments is required. Students who fail to complete ANY of the following assignments will fail the course. Students will write two short (5 pages) papers based on class readings and one revised final paper (7 pages), and do one in-class presentation on a day's readings. The final paper will be a revised, expanded version of the short paper on which the student received the lowest grade. Papers should be sent via email, by **5:00pm**, on the due dates listed in the course schedule. Late papers will **NOT** be accepted.

I strongly encourage you to use the Undergraduate Writing Center (UWC), FAC 211, 471-6222, <http://www.uwc.utexas.edu/>. The UWC offers free, individualized, expert help with writing for any UT undergraduate, by appointment or on a drop-in basis.

Final grades (using a plus/minus scale) will be assessed based on class participation (20%), short papers (25% each for a total of 50%), and final paper (30%). There will be no grading curve. Class participation grades will be based on participation in class discussions and attendance.

Students who are found guilty of academic dishonesty will fail the course and be recommended for suspension from the university. Plagiarism occurs if you represent as your own work any material that was obtained from another source, regardless of how or where you acquired it. For examples of plagiarism, see http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/scholdis_plagiarism.php

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 471-6259, <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/>.

By UT-Austin policy, you must notify me of a pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Required Texts (available for purchase at the Co-op bookstore):

1. bell hooks, *Feminism is for Everybody* (South End Press, 2000).
2. Nawal El Saadawi, *Woman at Point Zero* (Zed Books, 2008).
3. Caryl Phillips, *Cambridge* (Vintage, 1993).
4. Angela Y. Davis, *Women, Race, and Class* (Vintage, 1983).

In addition, a course reader is available at Abel's Copies (715-D W. 23rd St). Readings marked with an asterisk are in the reader.

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

Weeks 1-2. Defining Key Terms: Feminism, Gender, and Race

Aug. 29: Introduction

Sept. 3: bell hooks, *Feminism is for Everybody*, p. vii-12; & Judith Lorber, "The Social Construction of Gender," in *Race, Class, and Gender in the U. S.* (Worth Publishers, 1983), p. 33-45.*

Sept. 5: bell hooks, *Feminism is for Everybody*, p. 13-24; & Michael Omi & Howard Winant, *Racial Formation in the United States* (Routledge, 1994), p. 13-22.*

Week 3. Liberal and Marxist Feminism

Sept. 10: John Stuart Mill, "The Subjection of Women," *On Liberty and Other Essays* (Oxford, 1998), p. 471-472, 502-556.*

Sept. 12: Frederick Engels, "The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State," *The Marx-Engels Reader* (W. W. Norton &

Co., 1978), p. 734-751.*

Week 4. Standpoint and Radical Feminism

Sept. 17: Carol Gilligan, "In a Different Voice," and Nancy Hartsock, "The Feminist Standpoint," Feminisms (Oxford Univ. Press, 1998), p. 146-160.*

Sept. 19: Andrea Dworkin, "Pornography," and Catharine Mackinnon, "Towards a Feminist Theory of the State," Feminisms, p. 325-327, 351-358.*

Week 5. The Women's Movement in the United States

Sept. 24-26: Angela Y. Davis, chapters, 2, 3, 4, and 7 in Women, Race, and Class (Vintage, 1983), p. 30-86, 110-126.

Film to be shown in class, *Iron Jawed Angels* (HBO, 2004).

Week 6. Black Feminism

Oct. 1: The Combahee River Collective, "A Black Feminist Statement," Home Girls: A Black Feminist Anthology (Kitchen Table/Women of Color, 1983), p. 272-278; & bell hooks, Feminism is for Everybody, p. 55-60.*

Oct. 3: Angela Y. Davis, chapters, 1, 8, 9, and 12 in Women, Race, and Class, p. 3-29, 127-148, 202-221.

Week 7. Racialized Patriarchy

Oct. 8: Caryl Phillips, Cambridge, Part I.

Oct. 10: Caryl Phillips, Cambridge, Part II.

Essay # 1 Due Oct. 11 by 5pm

Week 8. Latina Feminism

Oct. 15: Cherríe Moraga, Loving in the War Years (South End Press, 2000), p. 97-108, 120-131.*

Oct. 17: Gloria Anzaldúa, "La Conciencia de la Mestiza: Towards a New Consciousness," Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza (Spinsters/Aunt Lute Book Co., 1987), p. 77-98.*

Week 9. Feminist Politics

Oct. 22-24: Joan Tronto, "Care as a Political Concept," and Jane Mansbridge, "Reconstructing Democracy," Revisioning the Political: Feminist Reconstructions of Traditional Concepts in Western Political Theory (Westview Press, 1996), p. 117-156.*

Week 10. Race, Gender, and Sexuality

Oct. 29: Angela Y. Davis, chapter 11: "Rape, Racism and the Myth of the Black Rapist," in Women, Race, and Class, p. 172-201.

Oct. 31: Film to be shown in class, *Tongues Untied*, by Marlon Riggs (1989).

Week 11. The Politics of Sexuality

Nov. 5: bell hooks, Feminism is for Everybody, p. 25-36, 61-66, 85-92, & bell hooks, "Seduced by Violence no More," in Outlaw Culture (Routledge, 1994), p. 109-113.* Film to be shown in class, *Sexy, Inc.* (2007).

Nov. 7: Audre Lorde, "Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power," in Sister Outsider, p. 53-59.*

Week 12. Men and Feminism

Nov. 12: bell hooks, Feminism is for Everybody, p. 67-84; & Cooper Thompson, "A New Vision of Masculinity," in Race, Class, and Gender in the United States, p. 475-481.*

Nov. 14: Patrick D. Hopkins, "How Feminism Made a Man Out of Me: The Proper Subject of Feminism and the Problem of Men," in Men Doing Feminism (Routledge, 1998), p. 33-56.*

Essay # 2 Due Nov. 15 by 5pm

Weeks 13-14. Arab Feminism

Nov. 19: Nawal El Saadawi, Woman at Point Zero, p. i-54. Film to be shown in class, *Beyond Borders: Arab Feminists Talk About Their Lives* (2000).

Nov. 21: Nawal El Saadawi, Woman at Point Zero, p. 54-108.

Nov. 26: Lama Abu Odeh, "Post-Colonial Feminism and the Veil: Thinking the Difference," Feminist Review 43 (1993): p. 26-37; "Women have Emerged as Key Players in the Arab Spring," The Guardian (April 22, 2011); & Isobel Coleman, "Is the Arab Spring Bad for Women?" Foreign Policy (Dec. 20, 2011).*

Nov. 28: THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Week 15. Feminist Horizons

Dec. 3: Yasmin Alibhai Brown, "Today's Young Women Have Betrayed Feminism," The Independent (June 17, 2013); & "The Five Main Issues Facing Modern Feminism," New Statesman (May 20, 2013).*

Dec. 5: bell hooks, Feminism is for Everybody, p. 44-54, 100-104, 110-118.

Final Paper Due Dec. 10 by 5pm