

FEMINIST SOCIAL & POLITICAL THEORY

POL 363-800 / FALL 2018 / TR 2:20-3:40 / 111 MAHAR HALL / DR. CRAIG WARKENTIN

What's this course about?

POL 363 offers a broad survey of contemporary feminist thought, exploring a wide variety of feminist understandings and their attendant prescriptions for sociopolitical change.

What can I learn from this class?

If you complete assignments and actively participate, by the end of the semester you should be able to

- recognize what feminists regard as the key issues, actors, and dynamics involved in contemporary social relations;
- discuss the main theories and approaches that feminists use to make sense of the world and promote change;
- forward workable prescriptions for effecting constructive sociopolitical changes based on feminist principles; and
- articulate a distinctively personal understanding of contemporary feminism, with attendant policy positions.

Of course, these goals can only be accomplished if we work together to create a classroom environment conducive to learning. With that in mind, be sure to familiarize yourself with SUNY Oswego's [Non-Discrimination Policy](#).

What books do I need?

- *Feminist Thought: A More Comprehensive Introduction*, 5th ed., by Rosemarie Tong and Tina Fernandes Botts (Westview Press, 2018; ISBN 9780813349954)
- *Reading Feminist Theory: From Modernity to Postmodernity*, by Susan Archer Mann and Ashly Suzanne Patterson (Oxford University Press, 2016; ISBN 9780199364985)
- *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 9th ed., by Kate L. Turabian (University of Chicago Press, 2018; ISBN 9780226430577)

Physical copies are recommended, but eBooks are okay if you respect my electronics policy (below). Copies of both main texts are on reserve Penfield Library. (Turabian's book is also available in the library, but isn't on reserve.)

What are some good feminist websites?

Although not required, you might want to visit some feminist websites during the semester. Many such sites focus on particular (sets of) issues or identities, so the best one(s) for you will probably depend on what you're interested in and who you are. My personal favorites are [Bitch](#), [Feministing](#), and [Jezebel](#). (These and a few others are linked on the [support page](#) of the class website.)

What's your policy on phones, etc.?

Unless otherwise instructed, you should keep your phone, laptop, and other electronic devices silenced and stowed out of reach at all times, whether or not class is in session and whether or not I'm physically present in the room. Excepted from this policy are tablet devices, which are allowed during class if they're used solely to access course materials and don't cause a distraction. If we need to use devices in class, as may happen occasionally, I'll let you know in advance so you can prepare accordingly.

If you choose not to respect this policy, I reserve the right to: (1) dismiss you from the classroom for all or part of the period; (2) invalidate any extra credit you've accrued; and/or (3) reduce your course participation grade.

What other scary stuff should I know?

- We might watch some videos or engage in discussions that expose you to unsettling topics, disturbing images, coarse language, or other mature content. If this poses a problem for you, let me know by September 4th (after which I'll assume it's not an issue).
- I expect you to familiarize yourself with this course syllabus, pay attention during class, and conduct yourself accordingly. You'll be held responsible for the syllabus contents and whatever occurs in class (whether or not you attend).
- I reserve the right to modify the syllabus, but I'll consult you before making changes that could affect your grade and announce any notable revisions in class.

What's your attendance policy?

I expect you to attend regularly and actively participate. If you miss a class session, you should make any necessary arrangements. (In the event of inclement weather, prioritize your personal safety over class attendance.)

Of course, I'll let you know (via email) if I cancel class. In such cases, unless otherwise instructed, stay on schedule with readings and deadlines. We'll catch up and make adjustments, if needed, when we return.

How will my grade be calculated?

Your course grade will be determined by the number of points you accrue during the semester:

470-500 = A 400-419 = B- 335-349 = D+

450-469 = A- 385-399 = C+ 320-334 = D

435-449 = B+ 370-384 = C 300-319 = D-

420-434 = B 350-369 = C- 000-299 = E

Graded assignments and point values are as follows:

- Participation (100 points) – Attendance rate and classroom contributions
 - Assists (100 points) – Brief oral presentations on some selected dates
 - Papers (200 points) – Personal responses to certain assigned readings
 - Manifesto (100 points) – A statement of your personal(ized) feminism
- Requirements and expectations for each assignment will be discussed in class and posted on the course website.

Can I get comments on a rough draft?

Yes, but only in a face-to-face meeting (and not via email). I'll be glad to read, discuss, or provide feedback on any assignment at any stage, before or after you submit it. Just make sure to allow enough time for a meeting, and possible redrafting, before the assignment due date.

Do you accept late assignments?

I reserve the right to give you a zero on any late or missed assignment. Submissions that don't meet stated requirements and expectations are subject to a score reduction or other penalty, to be levied at my discretion.

What happens if I cheat or plagiarize?

As a SUNY Oswego student, you must fully adhere to the [College Policy on Intellectual Integrity](#), according to which you're personally responsible "to assist in protecting the integrity of the degrees which this College grants by (1) not participating, either directly or indirectly, in intellectual dishonesty in any form, (2) actively discouraging intellectual dishonesty by others, and (3) reporting to the course instructor in a timely manner any known incidents of intellectual dishonesty."

Submission of your first graded assignment in this class serves as your formal acknowledgement that you fully understand the College Policy on Intellectual Integrity, including relevant definitions, consequences, and procedures. If you engage in proscribed behavior, I reserve the right to take any punitive action allowed by the university. (Incidents will be addressed on a case-by-case basis, but you should expect to receive a failing grade for the course.)

What if I have questions or need help?

I'll assume you're doing as well as you'd like to in this class unless you tell me otherwise. If you need some extra help, just let me know and I'll do my best to assist you; I'll be glad to discuss with you any course-related questions or concerns you might have. You're always welcome to stop by during office hours, catch me after class, schedule an appointment, or send me an email.

If you have a disabling condition that could interfere with your ability to successfully complete this class, please contact [Accessibility Resource Services](#) (155 Marano Campus Center, 315.312.3358, oar@oswego.edu).

What (and where) are your office hours?

Hours: 1-2 p.m. on Tue/Thu, 1:30-3 p.m. on Wed, and by appointment

Office: 437 Mahar Hall

Phone: 315.312.4080

Email: craig.warkentin@oswego.edu

Website: warkentin.xyz/ft

How should I prepare for class?

Complete assigned readings (below) before coming to class on the indicated dates. Always bring your textbook (or some other copy of the reading) and be prepared to discuss the subject material.

TUE, AUG 28

Turabian: Ch. 7, Drafting Your Report (75–85); Ch. 11, Revising Sentences (113–123); Ch. 15, General Introduction to Citation Practices (139–148); Ch. 18, Author-Date Style: The Basic Form (223–235)

THU, AUG 30

T&B: Introduction (1–10)

M&P: Doing Feminist Theory (1–6)

TUE, SEP 4

M&P: 1. Woman, Feminists, and Feminism (Kramarae & Treichler, 7–8); 2. Theory as Liberatory Practice (HOOKS, 8–14); 3. The Woman Question in Science to the Science Question in Feminism (Harding, 14–21); 4. Not By Degrees: Feminist Theory and Education (Bunch, 21–23); 5. Have We Got a Theory for You! Feminist Theory, Cultural Imperialism and the Demand for “the Woman’s Voice” (LUGONES & SPELMAN, 23–32); 6. The End of Innocence (Flax, 32–36); 7. The Project of Feminist Epistemology: Perspectives from a Nonwestern Feminist (Narayan, 36–40)

THU, SEP 6

T&B: Liberal Feminism (11–38)

M&P: Liberal Feminism (42–50)

TUE, SEP 11

No Class Meeting (Rosh Hashanah)

THU, SEP 13

M&P: 9. Introduction to *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* (WOLLSTONECRAFT, 52–54); 11. Declaration of Sentiments (STANTON, 58–60); 12. Enfranchisement of Women (TAYLOR, 60–62); 13. From *The Subjugation of Women* (MILL, 63–65); 14. And the Truth Shall Make You Free (Woodhull, 65–67); 15. Speech after Arrest for Illegal Voting (ANTHONY, 67–69); 18. On Municipal Housekeeping (Addams, 72–73); 19. Shakespeare’s Sister (Woolf, 74–75); 20. A Room of One’s Own (Woolf, 76–77); 21. Sex and Temperament (Mead, 78–80); 22. The Problem That Has No Name (FRIEDAN, 80–82); 23. 1966 Statement of Purpose (NOW, 83–85)

TUE, SEP 18

T&B: Radical Feminism (39–72)

M&P: Radical Feminism (88–95)

THU, SEP 20

M&P: 26. From “The Bitch Manifesto” (FREEMAN, 97–99); 27. Redstockings Manifesto (REDSTOCKINGS, 100–101); 28. Revolutionary Demands (FIRESTONE, 101–103); 29. The Woman Identified Woman (Radicalesbians, 103–106); 30. Lesbians in Revolt (Bunch 106–109); 31. Theory and Practice: Pornography and Rape (MORGAN, 109–111); 35. Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence (RICH, 117–123); 36. If Men Could Menstruate (Steinem, 123–125); 37. Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality (RUBIN, 125–133); 38. Model Antipornography Civil Rights Ordinance (DWORKIN & MACKINNON, 133–134); 113. The Metaethics of Radical Feminism (DALY, 441–446)

TUE, SEP 25

T&B: Marxist and Socialist Feminisms (73–104)

M&P: Marxist, Socialist, and Anarchist Feminisms (141–151)

THU, SEP 27

M&P: 41. From *The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State* (ENGELS, 152–155); 43. From Women and Economics (Gilman, 157–159); 45. The Traffic in Women (Goldman, 162–165); 49. Now We Can Begin (Eastman, 169–171); 53. The Political Economy of Women’s Liberation (BENSTON, 181–184); 55. The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism: Towards a More Progressive Union (HARTMANN, 187–193); 56. Throwing Like a Girl: A Phenomenology of Feminine Body Comportment, Motility, and Spatiality (YOUNG, 194–200); 58. A Feminist Sociology (Smith, 204–209)

TUE, OCT 2

T&B: Women-of-Color Feminism(s) in the United States (105–132)

M&P: Intersectionality Theories (218–228)

THU, OCT 4

M&P: 61. Ain’t I a Woman? (TRUTH, 229); 62. From *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (JACOBS, 229–231); 64. Woman Versus the Indian (COOPER, 235–237); 65. Lynch Law in America (WELLS-BARNETT, 237–240); 66. Sweat (HURSTON, 240–245); 68. A Black Feminist Statement (COMBAHEE RIVER COLLECTIVE, 247–252); 69. Invisibility Is an Unnatural Disaster: Reflections of an Asian American Woman (YAMADA, 253–256); 71. Womanist (WALKER, 257); 72. The Master’s Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master’s House (LORDE, 258–259)

TUE, OCT 9

M&P: 73. From *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza* (ANZALDÚA, 260–263); 74. Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory, and Antiracist Politics (CRENSHAW, 264–273); 75. From *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness and the Politics of Empowerment* (COLLINS, 273–276); 76. U.S. Third World Feminism: The Theory and Method of Differential Oppositional Consciousness (SANDOVAL, 277–284); 77. Outcast Mothers and Surrogates: Racism and Reproductive Politics in the Nineties (DAVIS, 284–288); 79. Integrating Disability, Transforming Feminist Theory (GARLAND-THOMSON, 294–298)

THU, OCT 11

M&P: Bridging the Local and the Global: Feminist Discourses on Colonialism Imperialism, and Globalization (395–396); Feminism and Imperialism in Early Modernity (397–404); 101. Indian Citizenship (Gage, 408–409); 104. On Educated Suffrage (STANTON, 412–414); 105. Petition for the Women of Hawaii (ANTHONY & STANTON, 414–415); 106. A Menace to Liberty (Goldman, 415–418) 107. Militarism as a Province of Accumulation (Luxemburg, 418–419); 108. Resolutions Adopted (International Congress of Women, 420); 109. From *American Indian Stories* (Zitkala-Sa, 421–422); 110. From *An Indian Girl’s Story Told By Herself to Gilbert L. Wilson* (Waheenee, 422–423); 111. From *Three Guineas* (Woolf, 425–426)

TUE, OCT 16

T&B: Women-of-Color Feminism(s) on the World Stage: Global, Postcolonial, and Transnational Feminisms (133–151)

M&P: Feminism and Imperialism in Late Modernity (427–435)

THU, OCT 18

M&P: 112. The Adverse Impact of Development on Women (Tinker, 436–441); 114. Life on the Global Assembly Line (EHRENREICH & Fuentes, 446–450); 116. Introduction: Planetary Feminism: The Politics of the 21st Century (MORGAN, 452–454); 119. Women in the International Division of Labour (MIES, 459–463); 121. The Global Trade in Filipina Workers (Chang, 467–471); 124. Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses (MOHANTY, 493–499); 128. Beijing Declaration (Fourth World Conference on Women, 512–514)

TUE, OCT 23

T&B: Psychoanalytic Feminism (155–182)

M&P: 54. Gender Personality and the Reproduction of Mothering (CHODOROW, 184–186)

THU, OCT 25

T&B: Care-Focused Feminism (183–204)

M&P: 24. From *In a Different Voice* (GILLIGAN, 86–87)

TUE, OCT 30

T&B: Ecofeminism (205–230)

THU, NOV 1

M&P: 32. Use (GRIFFIN, 112–113); 33. Why Women Need the Goddess: Phenomenological, Psychological, and Political Reflections (CHRIST, 113–115); 57. Feminism and the Revolt of Nature (KING, 200–203); 78. Ecofeminism Through an Anticolonial Framework (SMITH, 288–293); 120. Development, Ecology and Women (SHIVA, 463–466); 130. Erotophobia and the Colonization of Queer(s)/Nature (GAARD, 521–524)

TUE, NOV 6

T&B: Existentialism, Poststructural, and Postmodern Feminisms (231–260)

M&P: Feminist Thought after Taking the Postmodern Turn (299–300); Postmodernism [and] Poststructuralism (300–304)

THU, NOV 8

M&P: 52. The Married Woman (DE BEAUVOIR, 177–181); 59. Foucault on Power: A Theory for Women? (Hartsock, 210–212); 80. Method (FOUCAULT, 309–311); 81. Foucault, Femininity, and the Modernization of Patriarchal Power (BARTKY, 312–316); 82. Imitation and Gender Insubordination (BUTLER, 317–321); 83. The Body and the Reproduction of Femininity (Bordo, 321–327)

TUE, NOV 13

T&B: Feminist Queer Theory (270–274)

M&P: Queer and Transgender Theories (305–308); 39. From Here to Queer: Radical Feminism, Postmodernism, and the Lesbian Menace (or Why Can't a Woman Be More Like a Fag?) (WALTERS, 135–140); 84. On Men, Women, and the Rest of Us (Bornstein, 327–330); 85. An Introduction to Female Masculinity: Masculinity without Men (HALBERSTAM, 331–335)

THU, NOV 15

M&P: 86. Should There Be Only Two Sexes? (Fausto-Sterling, 336–340); 87. A Certain Kind of Freedom: Power and the Truth of Bodies (Wilchins, 341–345); 88. Queer Temporality and Postmodern Geographies (HALBERSTAM, 345–349); 89. Trans Woman Manifesto (Serano, 349–352)

TUE, NOV 20

No Reading Assignment

THU, NOV 22

No Class Meeting (Thanksgiving Recess)

TUE, NOV 27

T&B: Third-Wave Feminism (261–270, 274–275)

M&P: Third-Wave Feminisms (353–361); 60. The Cyborg Manifesto and Fractured Identities (Haraway, 212–217); 90. *Bikini Kill* Zine Cover (362); 91. Being Real: An Introduction (WALKER, 363–365); 92. Klaus Barbie, and Other Dolls I'd Like to See Gilman, 366); 93. A Day without Feminism (BAUMGARDNER & RICHARDS, 367–369)

THU, NOV 29

M&P: 94. Unpacking the Mother/Daughter Baggage: Reassessing Second- and Third-Wave Tensions (Bailey, 370–376); 95. Introduction (REHMAN & HERNÁNDEZ, 376–380); 96. From *Women without Class* (Bettie, 380–384); 97. 'It's All about the Benjamins': Economic Determinants of Third Wave Feminism in the United States (HEYWOOD & DRAKE, 384–388); 98. Solitary Sisterhood: Individualism Meets Collectivity in Feminism's Third Wave (Henry, 389–393)

TUE, DEC 4

M&P: Feminism and Imperialism in Postmodernity (481–490); 123. From *Orientalism* (Said, 491–493); 125. Can the Subaltern Speak? (Spivak, 500–504); 126. Infinite Layers/Third World (Minh-ha, 505–506); 127. Postmodernism and Transnational Feminist Practices (Grewal & Kaplan, 506–511)

THU, DEC 6

M&P: 129. Identities, Traditions, and Third-World Feminism (Narayan, 515–521); 131. After the Metanarratives of Liberation (Shohat, 524–527); 132. Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving? Anthropological Reflections on Cultural Relativism and Its Others (Abu-Lughod, 528–532); 133. From Tragedy and Injustice to Rights and Empowerment: Accountability in the Economic Realm (Symington, 533–539); 134. Towards Transnational Feminism (Gupta, 539–541); 135. Fireweed (Brannon, 542–544)