

WS100-001 (Spring 2010)
Class Number 2347
MWF 11:45-12:35
Ignatius Few 131

Instructor: Cyd Cipolla
ccipoll@emory.edu
Office Hours: Weds 2-4pm,
Candler Library 129
(or by appointment)

Introduction to Women's Studies: Nature and Nurture in Feminist Thought

Are women made or are women born? What does it mean to be a woman or a man? How much of our identity is biological and how much is cultural? Questions like this are at the center of many current public debates: the "sex testing" of runner Caster Semenya, the medical treatment of transgender individuals, and even the legal basis for gay marriage. This class is an introduction to interdisciplinary field of Women's Studies through study of various arguments of what makes up woman's "nature" (should it exist.)

Goals and Objectives:

To develop skills in active reading, critical analysis and scholarly writing.

For feminist thought, "active reading" means learning to ask and answer three central questions when engaging any "text" (not necessarily just written ones!): What does the text say? What does the text do? And, last but not least: Who is left out?

To introduce main topics in Women's Studies and the history of Feminist Thought in the US.

These include, but are not limited to: sex, gender and sexuality; race, ethnicity and nationality; oppression and privilege; essentialism and difference; performance, ritual and construction; embodiment and (dis)ability.

Course Policies:

Attendance is mandatory: The class meets three times per week. You may miss up to 3 classes without explanation. Any absence in excess of those 3 will result in a reduction of your final grade. Egregious tardiness will be treated as an absence.

Late work is not accepted. Assignments are due at the start of class on the dates listed below. Late work will automatically receive a zero. If you are missing class on a day an assignment is due, you may email the assignment to me (ccipoll@emory.edu). It must be submitted via email no later than the minute class begins.

Plagiarism is not permitted. Academic dishonesty of any type will not be tolerated. Turning in work that is not your own, or that lacks proper citations, or that is an incorrect "paraphrase," is a violation of Emory's Honor Code. See http://www.college.emory.edu/current/standards/honor_code.html for details about the handling of cases of academic dishonesty. It is **your** responsibility to understand what constitutes plagiarism. The history department has a very concise description here: <http://www.history.emory.edu/undergrad/plagiarism.html>.

Accommodations. Emory University complies with the regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and offers accommodations to students with disabilities. If you need a classroom accommodation, please make an appointment with me to discuss this as soon as possible. All information will be held in the strictest confidence.

Grading:

Course grades will be determined by the following scale:

| | | | | | | | |
|--------|----|-------|----|-------|----|-------|---|
| 100-93 | A | 86-83 | B | 76-76 | C | 66-60 | D |
| 92-90 | A- | 82-80 | B- | 72-70 | C- | 59-0 | F |
| 89-87 | B+ | 79-77 | C+ | 69-67 | D+ | | |

This syllabus is subject to change. I reserve the right to revise the syllabus throughout the semester, according to the needs of the class as a whole.

Assignments:

Reading and Participation: Students are expected to come to class each session having *actively* read the article(s) assigned for that date on the syllabus. Class Participation consists of asking questions when material is unclear during lecture periods and engaging in productive, relevant, critical conversation during discussion periods. (10%)

Writing Assignments: Students will hand in a total of 10 writing assignments, due at the **start** of Friday class. These will usually take the form of SQuIDS (Select a Qotation, Identify and Discuss the Significance). SQuIDS are ~250 words in length. In week nine, students will be asked to develop one of their SQuIDS into a short (750-1200 word) paper. Details of what is expected in both the SQuIDS and the short paper will be covered in class. (30%)

Midterm Exam: There is an in-class midterm on **Monday, March 1st**. (10%)

Final Exam: Your final exam will have two parts: an in-class test on **Monday, April 26th**, (25%) and a take-home short essay (750- 1200 words) due during exam week (25%)

Texts:

Feminist Theory: A Reader, edited by Wendy Kolmar and Frances Bartkowski (2nd OR 3rd edition) – abbreviated *FTR* in the syllabus

All other readings (marked with an asterisk) can be found either through Reserves Direct or eJournals.

Week One: Introduction to Class, Women’s Suffrage

W 1/15: Hello! Discussion of Syllabus

F 1/15: Cady Stanton, Elizabeth. “Declaration of Sentiments” *FTR* 67 (71)

*Rosenberg, Rosalind. "In Search of Woman's Nature, 1850-1920." Feminist Studies 3.1/2 (1975): 141-54.

Week Two: Motherhood and Nurturance: Woman’s Nature in the “1st Wave”

- M 1/18: **NO CLASS, MLK DAY**
W 1/20: Sojourner Truth (Isabella Baumfree) "Ain't I a Woman?" *FTR 75 (79)*
Grimké, Sarah M. "Letters on the Equality of the Sexes" *FTR 65 (69)*
Kollontai, Alexandra. "Working Woman and Mother" *FTR 116 (126)*
F 1/22: **1st SQuIDS Due**

Week Three: Freud and his Discontents

- M 1/25: Rivière, Joan. "Womanliness as Masquerade" *FTR 131 (146)*
W 1/27: Horney, Karen. "The Dread of Woman" *FTR 140 (154)*
F 1/29: **2nd SQuIDS Due**

Week Four: Anthropology and Sex Roles

- M 2/1: Mead, Margaret. "Sex and Temperament" *FTR 143 (157)*
Douglas, Mary. "The System at War with Itself" *FTR 167 (203)*
W 2/3: de Beauvoir, Simone "The Second Sex" *FTR 147 (175)*
Friedan, Betty. "The Problem that Has No Name" *FTR 162 (198)*
F 2/5: **3rd SQuIDS Due**

Week Five: The Personal is Political – Women's Identity in the "2nd Wave"

- M 2/8: NOW "Statement of Purpose" *FTR 175 (211)*
Solanas, Valerie. "SCUM Manifesto" *FTR 178 (*)*
"Redstockings Manifesto" *FTR 182 (220)*
W 2/10: *Carby, Hazel. "White Woman, Listen! Black Feminism and the Boundaries of Sisterhood." *Black British Feminism, 1997.*
Radicalesbians "The Woman-Identified Woman" *FTR 197 (239)*
F 2/12: **4th SQuIDS Due**

Week Six: Nature, Culture, Sex and Gender

- M 2/15: Ortner, Sherry. "Is Female to Male as Nature is to Culture?" *FTR 201 (243)*
W 2/17: Rubin, Gayle. "The Traffic in Women" *FTR 230 (273)*
F 2/19: **5th SQuIDS Due**

Week Seven: Woman as Symbol – Psychoanalysis

- M 2/22: Koedt, Anne. "Myth of the Vaginal Orgasm" *FTR 186 (227)*
W 2/24: Irigaray, Luce "This Sex Which is Not One" *FTR 260 (317)*
F 2/26: **6th SQuIDS Due**

Week Eight: Woman as Symbol – Religion (Midterm)

- M 3/1: **In-Class Midterm**
W 3/3: Pagels, Elaine. "What Became of God the Mother?" *FTR 248 (305)*
F 3/5: Daly, Mary. "The Metapatriarchal Journey" *FTR 271 (328)*

SPRING BREAK

Week Nine: Systems of Difference

M 3/15: Chodorow, Nancy. "The Sexual Sociology of Adult Life" *FTR 264 (322)*

W 3/17: Gilligan, Carol. "Images of Relationship" *FTR 312 (*)*

F 3/19: **Short Paper (750-1200 words) Due in Class**

Week Ten: Sexuality and Identity Formation

M 3/22: *Wittig, Monique. "One Is Not Born a Woman." Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader.
Eds. Abelove, Barale and Halperin. New York:Routledge, 1981.

W 3/24: Rich, Adrienne. "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence" *FTR 290 (347)*

F 3/26: **No Writing Assignment**

Week Eleven: Gender Trouble(d)

M 3/29: Butler, Judith. "Gender Trouble" *FTR 434 (496)*

W 3/31: Halberstam, Judith. "An Introduction to Female Masculinity" *FTR 502 (*)*

F 4/2: **7th SQuIDS Due.**

Week Twelve: Bodies in Production and Reproduction

M 4/5: Davis, Angela. "Outcast Mothers and Surrogates" *FTR 447 (509)*

Bordo, Susan. "The Body and the Reproduction of Femininity" *FTR 459 (*)*

W 4/7: Garland-Thomson, Rosemarie. "Integrating Disability" *FTR 529 (575)*

F 4/9: **8th SQuIDS Due**

Week Thirteen: Biological Myths, Biological Realities

M 4/12: Fausto-Sterling, Anne "Should There Be Only Two Sexes?" *FTR 516 (*)*

W 4/14: *Kirby, Vicky. "Reality Bytes." *Telling Flesh*.

F 4/16: **9th SQuIDS Due**

Week Fourteen: The Uses of Nature

M 4/19: * Halley, Janet. "Sexual Orientation and the Politics of Biology" 46 *Stan. L. Rev.* 503
(1993-1994)

w 4/21: Reading TBD

F 4/23: **Final Exam Review (No Writing Assignment Due)**

M 4/26: In-Class Final Exam