
CONTEMPORARY FEMINIST THEORY in Fall 2020 (GS2006)

Course Code	GS2006	Professor(s)	Lissa Lincoln
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	G-4th floor
Class Schedule	F: 10:50-12:25 in PL-3 F: 10:50-12:25 in RMOTE-00 T: 16:20-17:55 in PL-3 T: 16:20-17:55 in RMOTE-00	Office Hours	*Contact by email or conference call prioritized this semester *Class will be taught remotely.
Credits	4	Email	llincoln@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2020	Office Tel. Ext.	717

Course Description

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

What is 'feminism'? What does it mean to be a 'feminist' or to have a 'feminist perspective'? What is its relationship to gender and 'masculinity'? How does it respond to so-called 'anti-feminist' charges? Perhaps one of the most straightforward definitions is that provided by Indian feminist scholar Nivedita Menon, who claims that being a feminist is simply "to understand that different identities – located hierarchically as *dominant* or *subordinate* – are produced at different times and in different spaces, but also to be aware of the processes of gendering ... [that is], the ways in which people are produced as 'proper' men and women through rules and regulations of different sorts".

This course will examine these issues through a historically contextualized introduction to contemporary feminist theory. We will probe contemporary debates across a wide range of topics now felt to be of world-wide feminist interest: sexuality, masculinity, reproduction, production, writing, representation, culture, race and politics. The course aims to produce a challenging intellectual climate within which to explore the theorization of these issues across disciplines and cultures, and its relation to practice.

Course Learning Outcomes

To become familiar with a variety of feminist theorists and be able to articulate distinctions and resonances between their bodies of scholarship.

To be able to apply useful feminist tools in their thinking about real world problems and issues, in order to appreciate how elements of race, class, sexuality, ability, and gender interact.

To discover the tools of the digital humanities.

To think deeply about the material, political, economic, and cultural implications for the genesis of feminist theories and their applications in activism.

To explore one area of feminist theory that is of particular interest to them and become the class expert on this theorist/body of knowledge.

To appropriate feminist approaches in order to theorize themselves.

To practice scholarly writing and research.

General Education

GSS PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Students will be able to demonstrate familiarity with the developmental, social, theoretical and historical frameworks that come to define the academic study of gender and sexuality from both a social sciences perspective and a humanities perspective.
2. Students will be able to identify, compare, critique and analyze the historical, social and cultural specificity of different conceptions of gender and sexuality
3. Students will be able to apply their knowledge of gender and society to a globally informed understanding and evaluation of the pressures, politics and debates of representations of gender and sexuality, particularly those bearing upon legal rights and social justice
4. Students will be able to read and critique literature on sex and gender in the social sciences and the humanities.

Course Outline

CLASS SCHEDULE:

NB.Schedule subject to change in order to accommodate specific class needs.

September

Week I – 23rd – 25th

Topic: Introduction to course/Defining key terms

What is feminism?

Readings:

bell hooks, "Theory as a Liberatory Practice"

bell hooks, *Feminism is for everybody* (ch.4)

Marilyn Frye "Oppression"

Week II – 28th – 2nd

Topic: Histories/ Feminist Movements

Readings:

The Combahee River Collective, "A Black Feminist Statement"

Simone de Beauvoir, "The Second Sex"

Adrienne Rich, "Notes toward a politics of location"

Becky Thompson, "Multiracial Feminism..."

“

September 30th – last day to drop/add courses online

October

Week III – 5th – 9th

Topic: Essentialism/Constructionism

Roberta Hamilton “Feminist Theories”

Diana Fuss “The Risk of Essence”

Week IV – 12th – 16th

Topic: Difference/Identity

Readings:

Lugones and Spellman, “Have We Got a Theory for You”

Sharmila Rege, “Dalit Feminist Standpoint”

Talia Mae Bettcher, “Trans Women and the Meaning of Women”

Anne-Fausto Sterling, “Dueling Dualisms”

Week V – 19th – 23rd

Topic: Feminist Perspectives of Power

Readings:

Marilyn Frye, “Some Reflections on Separatism and Power”

bell hooks, “Marginality as Site of Resistance”

Audre Lorde, “Masters Tools”

Week VI – 26th – 30th

Topic: Feminist Epistemologies

Readings:

Nancy Hartsock “The Feminist Standpoint”

Uma Narayan “The Project of Feminist Epistemology...”

October 28th, Mid-semester

November

Week VII – 2nd – 6th

Topic: Intersectionality and its critiques

Readings:

Kimberle Krenshaw “Mapping the Margins”

Jennifer Nash “Re-thinking Intersectionality”

Nivedita Menon “Is Feminism about ‘women’? A Critical view on Intersectionality from India”

Mary John “Intersectionality: Rejection or Critical Dialogue?”

Week VIII – 9th- 13th

November 9 midterm exam

Topic: Transnational Feminism(s)

Readings:

Chandra Mohanty “Under Western Eyes ...”

Amrita Basu “....Mapping transnational feminist movements”

November 11th to 13th, fall break (no classes)

Week IX – 16th- 20th

Topic: Transnational Feminism(s)

Pascha Bueno-Hansen and Sylvanna M. Falconne “Indigenous/Campesina Embodied Knowledge, Human Rights Awards, and Lessons for Transnational Solidarity”

Margaret A. McLaren “Decolonizing Rights: Transnational Feminism and “Women’s Rights as Human Rights”

November 16th, Mid-semester grades due

Week X – 23rd – 27th

Topic: Conclusions and Future Directions

Reading:

Chandra Mohanty "Toward a Decolonial Feminism for the 99 Percent"

Barbara Fultner "The Dynamics of Transnational Feminist Dialogue"

November 27th, last day to withdraw from a course

last day to choose credit/no credit option

Week XI - 30th – 4th

Presentations

December

Week XII – 7th – 11th

Presentations

December 11th, last day of classes,

December 12th - 15th, reading days

December 16th – 22th, Final Exam

January 4nd, all grades due

Textbooks

Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN	Required
FEMINIST THEORY READER: LOCAL AND GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES, 4TH EDITION	MCCANN, CAROLE ET AL.	ROUTLEDGE	9781138930216	No

Attendance Policy

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Covid-19 temporary amendments:

Students studying at The American University of Paris are STILL EXPECTED TO ATTEND ALL scheduled classes. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, students will have the option of attending classes remotely when special circumstances apply. For example when students are placed under quarantine by the French authorities or by their doctor, or when students present symptoms of Covid-19 and are directed, by their doctor or the AUP Health Office, to remain home. It is still the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that their professor might have set in the course syllabus. In particular, Students attending remotely from distant Time Zones should check with their professors about the specific attendance policy for remote learners.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

In all cases of missed course meetings, the responsibility for communication with the professor, and for arranging to make up missed work, rests solely with the student.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an “F” for the course. An instructor may also recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and *especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods*.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY STATEMENT: As an Anglophone university, The American University of Paris is strongly committed to effective English language mastery at the undergraduate level. Most courses require scholarly research and formal written and oral presentations in English, and AUP students are expected to strive to achieve excellence in these domains as part of their course work. To that end, professors include English proficiency among the criteria in student evaluation, often referring students to the university Writing Lab where they may obtain help on specific academic assignments. Proficiency in English is monitored at various points throughout the student's academic career, most notably during the admissions and advising processes, while the student is completing general education requirements, and during the accomplishment of degree program courses and senior theses.

Grading Policy

Other
