

ICS Calendar Title: Feminist Social Thought
ICS Course Code: ICS1630/2630 S10
Instructor: Dr. Shannon Hoff
Term and Year: Tuesdays, 1:30-4:30 pm, Spring 2010
Last Updated: January 8, 2010

Feminist Social Thought

Course Description:

We will begin the course by discussing in what sense the situation of women is a philosophical issue, and then we will study three ethical/political models that have developed out of feminist reflections on the situation of women. First we will explore the work of Simone de Beauvoir and her conception of the apprenticeship of freedom. Then we will look at contemporary writers dealing with care ethics (initially developed by Carol Gilligan). We will conclude by discussing contemporary feminist analysis and criticism of law. Our goal will be to explore the ways in which analysis of the situation of women is productive for social and political philosophy - that is, for accurate analysis of social reality and for its effective transformation in the direction of a more just future.

Course Requirements:

Class Participation 20%

Each course member is required to do the readings and participate in discussion.

Reading Responses S/U

Each course participant will write a response to the first four readings. The responses must be single-spaced and fit on one page. The points in the reading that you choose to explore or challenge must be adequately explained. Satisfactory completion of this assignment is essential to passing this course, although no grade will be given.

Presentation 20-30%

Each course participant will give one or two presentations in the "Care" and "Law" sections of the course. Each presentation must be eight to ten pages double-spaced, and submitted and presented to me a week prior to the class in which it is to be presented. It is recommended that the final paper be a development of the presentation.

Research Paper 50-60%

A 100-500 word abstract of the paper is due on March 30. The final draft is due on May 6. You are encouraged to meet with me to discuss papers and submit early drafts for feedback.

Course Materials

(available at the Bob Miller Book Room, 180 Bloor St. West)

Simone de Beauvoir, *Ethics of Ambiguity* [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BJ1063 .B383 1976] and *The Second Sex* [St. Michael's College Library: HQ1208 .B3513 1997]

Seyla Benhabib, Judith Butler, Drucilla Cornell and Nancy Fraser, *Feminist Contentions* [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: HQ1190 .S78 1995]

Judith Butler, "Performing Acts and Gender Constitution," in *Theatre Journal* 40 (Dec. 1988): 519-531 [ICS Library Reserve Shelf]

Helene Cixous, "The Laugh of the Medusa," in *Signs* 1 (1976): 875-893 [ICS Library Reserve Shelf]

Drucilla Cornell, *At the Heart of Freedom* [Victoria University, Emmanuel College Library: HQ1206 .C647 1998]

Luce Irigaray, *This Sex Which Is Not One* [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: HQ1206 .I713]

Eva Feder Kittay, *Love's Labor: Essays on Women, Equality, and Dependency* [New College Library: HQ1154 .K59 1998]

Nel Noddings, *Caring: a Feminine Approach to Ethics and Moral Education* [New College Library: HQ1221 .N6]

Satyajit Ray, *The Home and the World* (film)

Recommended Readings

M. Jacqui Alexander and Chandra Mohanty, eds. *Feminist Genealogies, Colonial Legacies, Democratic Futures* [Robarts Library: HQ1870.9 .F45 1997X]

Gloria Anzaldua, *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza* [Robarts Library: PS3551 .N95 B6 1999]

Gloria Anzaldua and Cherie Moraga, eds., *This Bridge Called My Back* [OISE Library: 810.809287 B851 1983]

Seyla Benhabib, *Another Cosmopolitanism* [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: JZ1308 .B48 2006]; *Situating the Self* [ICS

Library Reserve Shelf: BJ1012 .B45 1992]; *The Rights of Others* [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: JF799 .B44 2004]
 Marya Bower and Ruth Groenhout, eds. *Philosophy, Feminism, and Faith* [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BL458 .P48 2003]
 Wendy Brown, *Edgework* [Robarts Library: JA71 .B758 2005X]; *Manhood and Politics* [New College Library: JA81 .B768 1988]; *Regulating Aversion*[Robarts Library: HM1271 .B76 2006X]; *States of Injury* [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: JA74 .B724 1995X]
 Judith Butler, *Bodies that Matter* [St. Michael's College Library: HQ1190 .B88 1993]; *Gender Trouble* [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: HQ1154 .B88 1999]; *The Psychic Life of Power* [Robarts Library: BD438.5 .B88 1997]; *Undoing Gender* [New College Library: HQ1075 .B89 2004]
 Judith Butler and Joan W. Scott, eds., *Feminists Theorize the Political* [Robarts Library, Short Term Loans (Course Reserves): HQ1190 .F48 1992]
 Judith Butler and Gayatri Spivak, *Who Sings the Nation-State? Language, Politics, Belonging* [St. Michael's College Library: JC311 .B984 2007]
 Anne Carr and Mary Stewart Van Leeuwen, eds. *Religion, Feminism and the Family* [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BV4526.2 .R45]
 Patricia Hill Collins, *Black Feminist Thought* [Robarts Library: HQ1426 .C633 2009]
 Drucilla Cornell, *Beyond Accommodation* [Robarts Library: HQ1190 .C67 1999X]; *Defending Ideals* [Robarts Library: JA71 .C598 2004X]; *Just Cause*[Robarts Library: JC571 .J87 2000X]; *The Imaginary Domain* [Robarts Library: K644 .C67 1995X]; *The Philosophy of the Limit* [Robarts Library: B809.6 .C67 1992]; *Transformations* [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: HQ1190 .C69 1993]
 Penelope Deutscher, *Yielding Gender: Feminism, Deconstruction, and the History of Philosophy* [Robarts Library: HQ1190 .D49 1997X]
 Nancy Fraser, *Justice Interruptus* [Robarts Library, Short Term Loan (Course Reserves): JC578 .F73 1997X]; *Unruly Practices* [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: HM24 .F732 1989]
 Carol Gilligan, *In a Different Voice* [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: HQ1206 .G58 1982]
 Donna Haraway, *A Cyborg Manifesto* [<http://www.stanford.edu/dept/HPS/Haraway/CyborgManifesto.html>]
 Virginia Held, *Feminist Morality* [New College Library: HQ1221 .H44 1993]; *An Ethics of Care* [Robarts Library: BJ1475 .H45 2006X]
 Virginia Held, ed., *Justice and Care: Essential Readings in Feminist Ethics* [Robarts Library: BJ1395 .J87 1995X]
 bell hooks, *Feminist theory: From Margin to Center* [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: HQ1426 .H675 2000]
 Luce Irigaray, *An Ethics of Sexual Difference* [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: HQ32 .I7513]; *Democracy Begins Between Two* [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: HQ1236 .I7413 2001]; *I Love to You* [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: B824.18 .I7513 1996]; *Speculum of the Other Woman* [Regis College Library: BF692 .I7413 1985]
 Alison Jaggar, *Feminist Politics and Human Nature* [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: HQ1206 .J33 1983]
 Eva Feder Kittay and Diana T. Meyers, *Women and Moral Theory* [Robarts Library: BJ19 .W65 1987]
 Julia Kristeva, *Desire in Language* [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: PN98 .S46 K7413]; *Powers of Horror* [New College Library: PQ2607 .E834 Z73413], *Revolution in Poetic Language* [New College Library: PN54 .K75 1984]; *Tales of Love* [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BF575 .L8 K7413 1987]
 Maria Lugones, *Pilgrimages/Peregrinajes: Theorizing Coalition Against Multiple Oppressions* [OISE Library (WERC): 305.42 P638]
 Catherine MacKinnon, *Feminism Unmodified* [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: KF478 .M25 1987]; *Toward a Feminist Theory of the State* [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: K644 .M33]
 Diana Tietjens Meyers, ed. *Feminist Social Thought* [Robarts Library: HQ1190 .F454 1997X]
 Chandra Talpade Mohanty, *Feminism Without Borders* [Robarts Library, Short Term Loan (Course Reserves): HQ1870.9 .M64 2003]
 Toni Morrison, ed. *Race-ing Justice, Engendering Power* [Robarts Library: KF8745 .T48 R33 1992]
 Uma Narayan, *Dislocating Cultures: Identities, Traditions, and Third World Feminism* [New College Library, Short Term Loan (Course Reserves): HQ1870.9 .N37 1997]
 Martha Nussbaum and Jonathan Glover, eds., *Women, Culture, and Development* [New College Library: HQ1240 .W6377 1995]
 Carole Pateman, *The Sexual Contract* [St. Michael's College Library: HQ1206 .P35 1988]
 Sara Ruddick, *Maternal Thinking* [Robarts Library: B105 .P4 R83 1990]
 Mary Stewart Van Leeuwen et. al., *After Eden: Facing the Challenge of Gender Reconciliation* [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: HQ1075 .A47 c.1]
 Chris Weedon, *Feminist Practice and Poststructuralist Theory* [Robarts Library: HQ1154 .W42 1987]
 Janet Wesselius, "Gender Identity Without Gender Prescriptions"
 [<http://www.bu.edu/wcp/Papers/Gend/GendWess.htm>]; "Woman" in the Plural: Negotiating Sameness and Difference in Feminist Theory" IN *Towards an ethics of community: negotiations of difference in a pluralist society* [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: BD394 .T68 2000]
 Iris Marion Young, *Justice and the Politics of Difference* [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: JC578 .Y68 1990]; *Throwing*

Like a Girl and Other Essays in Feminist Philosophy and Social Theory [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: HQ1206 .Y68 1990]

Course Schedule

January 5 Introduction

I. Apprenticeship

January 12 Simone de Beauvoir, *Ethics of Ambiguity* Chapter 2 (especially pp. 35-42)
Recommended: *Ethics of Ambiguity*, Chapter 1 (Due: Reading Response)

January 19 Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, Introduction, Chapters 12-13
(Due: Reading Response)

January 26 Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, Chapter 25, Conclusion
(Due: Reading Response)

February 2 Satyajit Ray, *The Home and the World* (film)

February 9 Simone de Beauvoir, *Ethics of Ambiguity*, Chapter 3
(Due: Reading Response)

February 16 Reading Break

II. Care

February 23 Nel Noddings, *Caring*, Introduction, pp. 30-65

March 2 Nel Noddings, *Caring*, pp. 79-103, 171-182

March 9 Eva Kittay, *Love's Labor*, pp. 1-19, 23-29, 49-73

III. Law

March 16 Helene Cixous, "The Laugh of the Medusa"
Luce Irigaray, "This Sex Which Is not One" in *This Sex Which Is Not One*

March 23 Judith Butler, "Performative Acts and Gender Constitution"
Judith Butler, "Contingent Foundations" in *Feminist Contentions*

March 30 Wendy Brown, "Suffering the Paradoxes of Rights" in *Left Legalism/Left Critique* [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: KF380 .L44 2002]
Wendy Brown, *States of Injury*, Chapter 5 (Due: Final Paper Abstract)

April 6 Drucilla Cornell, *At the Heart of Freedom*, Chapter 7
Drucilla Cornell, "What is Ethical Feminism?" in *Feminist Contentions* [ICS Library Reserve Shelf: HQ1190 .S78 1995]

May 6 Final Paper Due