Feminisms: History, Theory, and Practice
WMGS 105b, Fall 2014
M, W, TH. 11:00 AM–11:50 AM
Mandel Ctr for Humanities G10

Professor: Anahi Russo Garrido
Office: Rabb Graduate Center, 108
Office Hours: M: 12:15-1:45pm W: 9:45am-10:45am or by appointment.
Phone: 781-736-3047
Email: arussoga@brandeis.edu

Course description
This course examines some of the key areas of inquiry that have developed in contemporary feminist theory and practice. Through a diverse set of course readings, we will reflect on feminist histories and question the notions of being, knowing, desiring and moving. The course draws on the contributions of liberal feminism, radical feminism, postcolonial and decolonial feminisms, queer theory and transnational feminisms. Our inquiry also questions how feminisms have transformed diverse bodies of knowledge and action. Ultimately, the course urges us to reflect on the ways in which feminist theories and practices may illuminate some of the pressing issues of our time such as neocolonialism, environmental degradation, war, poverty and violence. Readings cannot cover all debates and issues that have engaged feminist theorists, but students will gain a more complex understanding of important areas of inquiry and debates that have developed in feminist theory and practices since the 1950s in the United States, and beyond. Students will also enhance their capacity to clearly articulate their own analysis, orally and in writing, of in-class materials and make use of these same skills to analyze contemporary phenomena. Finally students will also gain the opportunity to reflect on their own learning as active learners, peer-educators and engaged agents in this world.

Course Requirements

Prerequisites: This course has no prerequisites.

Disabilities:
“If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.”

Academic Integrity:
“You are expected to be familiar with and to follow the University’s policies on academic integrity (see http://www.brandeis.edu/studentlife/sdc/ai ). Faculty may refer any suspected instances of alleged dishonesty to the Office of Student Development and Conduct. Instances of academic dishonesty may result in sanctions including but not limited to, failing grades being issued, educational programs, and other consequences.”

Course Materials:
Most readings will be posted on Latte. Some hyperlinks are included in the syllabus. Many journal articles are preceded by ** on the syllabus. Students will be responsible to find these articles on the Brandeis Libraries Website.

Participation Policy
Sustained, astute and critically engaged class participation is crucial for a successful and productive classroom atmosphere. Your participation largely depends upon completing the
reading assignments. Therefore you must come to class having done all assigned readings. We must create together an atmosphere where we can all express our opinions and learn from each other. Success depends on all of us. You must attend all class sessions. Your participation grade will be affected after three absences. For additional information, please refer to the participation policy chart distributed in class.

**Modes of Evaluation:**
You must complete all readings throughout the course and come prepared to class for discussion. Written work will include **2 short papers** and one **art project.** **Surprise quizzes** or special assignments will regularly take place, only the 5 best marks count towards your grade. Quizzes are unannounced and designed to encourage a more attentive reading. Students will also give a 10 min. final **presentation** with a **bibliographic handout.** More instructions will be given in class prior to assignments. Instructions are also available on our class portal. Grades will be determined according to the following:

- 2 papers, 5-8 pages (due 10/08 and 12/04) 20%
- 1 Ten min. presentation (1st Week of December) 20%
- 1 Art project and presentation (due 09/22) 20%
- Quizzes and special assignments 10%
- Attendance and participation 10%

*Note: Graduate student assignments are subject to change and will be determined individually.*

**Course Schedule**

**Feminisms and Social Transformation**

08/28: **Introduction** - Davis, Angela: How Does Change Happen?
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pc6RHtEbiOA

09/01 Labor Day- No class

09/03: **Thinking Feminisms**
-hooks, bell. “Feminism: A movement to end Sexist Oppression”

09/04 **Global Perspectives**
- In class presentation of the film “Global Feminisms: Comparative Case Studies of Women’s Activism and Scholarship”- US Feminisms

09/08 - **Oppression and privilege**

09/10 **What Counts as Feminist Activism?**
- **Martin, Deborah G, Hanson, Susan and Danielle Fontaine.** 2007. “What Counts as Activism?: The Role of Individuals in Creating Change” In *WSQ* Vol. 35: 3-4.
09/11 Changing the World with Art
http://www.guerrillagirls.com/interview/index.shtml
- In-class Clip: Ondas: Guerrilla Girls and Interview with El Parlante Amarillo

09/15 A new generation?
- Weinberger, Hannah. 2012. “Where are all the millennial feminists”
Activity: - Feminist Blog show and tell


09/18 Feminist practices and theories

09/22 Art Presentations

Being?
09/24 Situational beings
-De Beauvoir, Simone. “The Second Sex” (excerpt)

09/25 Intersectionality

09/29 Rosh Hashanah- No class
10/01 Borderlands
Anzaldúa, Gloria. Borderlands/La Frontera. Aunte Luthe Books. (excerpt)

10/02 Assemblages
Puar, Jasbir. 2007. “Queer Times, Terrorist Assemblages »

10/06 Performing Gender

10/08 Agency and the Feminist Subject
-In-class presentation of the film ‘The Women of Tahrir Square’
http://www.ndtv.com/video/player/documentary-24x7/the-women-of-tahrir-square/190873
-First paper due

10/09 Sukkot- No class

10/13 Transfeminism
- Ruttenberg, Danya. 2001. “Transgender Theory Hits the Mikveh” In Yentl's Revenge: The Next Wave of Jewish Feminism

Knowing?
(excerpt)

10/16 Shmini Atzeret- No class

10/20-Haraway, Donna “Situated Knowledges: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspective”


-Cantú, Norma. 2014. “Living la Vida Santa: My Chicana Spirituality and Activist Scholarship”


Desiring?
10/29 -Gayle Rubin, “Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality”


11/06 - McLintock, Anne. Imperial Leather: Race, Gender and Sexuality in the Colonial Context.
-Gilman, Sanders. “The Hottentot and the Prostitute: Towards an Iconography of Female Sexuality”

**Moving?**


**Final Presentations begin**

12/03 **Final Presentations**
12/04 **Final Presentations**
12/08- **Last paper due**

*Note: The reading schedule is subject to minor changes. Any modification will be announced in class prior to the reading.*