Instructor contact information:
Offices: PSY 239 (main), Bldg 4, Rm.145 (Brevard campus)
Office hours: TBD
E-mail: Shelley.Park@ucf.edu
Phone: 407-823-2273

Course description:

This course focuses on the theoretical underpinnings of recent and contemporary movements for women’s liberation and how both the notion of “woman” and the notion of “liberation” has changed in recent decades. The theoretical perspectives to be examined (some more carefully than others) include: liberal feminism, radical feminism, care feminism, Marxist feminism, multicultural feminism, global and postcolonial feminism, third wave and postmodern feminism, ecofeminism, crip theory, and queer theory.

Course objectives:

In this course you will gain the conceptual and theoretical tools to:

- Understand and analyze your own and others’ gendered experiences in contemporary culture
- Explain how there are many feminisms and not just a single feminism
- Identify and assess a variety of feminist theoretical positions
- Appreciate the interconnections of philosophical theories and political practices
- Think critically about the nature and transformative intersections of gender, race, religion, class, nation, ability, and other variables.

Required texts:

Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique* (any edition)
Marilyn Frye, *The Politics of Reality*
Bell hooks, *Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center*
Saba Mahmood: *The Politics of Piety: The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject*
Alison Kafer, *Feminist, Queer, Crip*
Course requirements:

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance (ongoing)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation (ongoing)</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading quizzes (weekly)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homework (weekly)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam OR Final essay OR Final Creative Project</td>
<td>35%</td>
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**Attendance**: I believe the best learning happens within the context of a learning community in which each student is an active participant. Since you cannot participate—even as a listener—if you are not present, I will take attendance. Attendance is worth 15 points. You are permitted 2 unexcused absences during the term. For each further unexcused absence, you will lose 1 point. Please note that I also expect you to be present for the full class period, both for your own learning and in order not to disrupt the class. You will lose half a point, if you arrive late or leave early.

**Participation**: I want you to be an active learner and organize class sessions to facilitate this. Participation points are worth 10 points and will include participation in small group learning exercises, full group discussion and preparedness to answer questions or facilitate discussions when called upon to do so.

**Reading quizzes**: Reading quizzes will be given during class (typically at the start of class, so arrive on time) on the days noted on the course schedule. There will be 10 quizzes during the term worth 2 points each. They will consist of 4-5 T/F, MC or fill in the blank questions on the readings assigned for that day. Note: I also reserve the right to give pop quizzes if needed on days not noted on the calendar.

**Homework**: There will be 10 formal homework assignments during the term on the days noted on the course schedule. These will be worth 2 points each. Homework will typically take the form of asking you to bring illustrations or applications or reflections on concepts or themes from that day’s reading that you will share in class.

**Final**: The remaining 35% of your grade will reflect your performance on an assignment you will choose from those listed below, due on Dec 5th during the final exam period scheduled for this class. I offer a brief description of each option here; a more detailed set of instructions will be forthcoming at a later date.

**Option 1-Final Exam**: Demonstrate your knowledge of selected key concepts, course texts, and alternative feminist perspectives in answering objective questions, short answer and essay questions.

**Option 2-Final Essay**: An 8-10 page essay (excluding title page and bibliography) that utilizes concepts and themes from our readings to analyze a cultural artifact, the results of an interview, a social experiment, or your own life history. A more detailed description of specific essay topics and expectations for each will be made available in a timely manner.
**Option 3-Final Creative Project:** A demonstration of your knowledge of concepts and themes from the course through a non-written medium (or non-standard written form), e.g. comic book, rap song, board game, activist project, etc. If you choose this option, you must submit to me by midterm a written prospectus describing the project you envision and how it will demonstrate your knowledge of feminist theories. More detailed instructions for this prospectus will be made available in a timely manner.

**Grading Policies:**
I use a plus/minus scale for grading as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade Description</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93% or better</td>
<td>A (Exceptional, Outstanding, Wow!)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92%</td>
<td>C (Satisfactory, Meets expectations)</td>
<td>73-76%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89%</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B (Very good, exceeds expectations)</td>
<td>83-86%</td>
<td>D (Below satisfactory, fails to meet basic expectations)</td>
<td>63-66%</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82%</td>
<td>F (Fail)</td>
<td>60-62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79%</td>
<td>F (Fail)</td>
<td>Less than 60%</td>
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**Attendance Policy:** See course requirements above.

**Academic Integrity:** There is a zero tolerance policy for cheating and plagiarism. Cheating occurs when someone else does your work for you or gives you test answers, etc. Plagiarism occurs when you quote or paraphrase someone else's words or borrow their ideas and fail to cite your source. It is a form of cheating because this failure (whether intentional or unintentional) represents someone else's work as your own. It is an infraction of the student code of conduct and will result in a referral to the Office of Student conduct and an automatic "F" on that assignment. If you have questions regarding when or how to cite something, please consult the MLA style guide, the University Writing Center, or your professor.

**Disability accommodations:** If you need accommodations, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (SDS) who will inform me how to best provide individualized accommodations consistent with your documented disability. To be eligible for disability related accommodations, students must have a disability as defined by applicable federal and state laws and documented by an appropriate health care provider or professional.

**Late Submissions:** Late submissions will not be given full credit unless you have an excuse recognized by UCF policy, e.g. hospitalization, death or life-threatening illness of a family member, being called to active military duty. Please note that a broken computer, or the inability to retrieve, produce, or submit assignments from a computer will not be accepted as a valid excuse for submitting an assignment late. Back up your work and avoid procrastination in order to meet deadlines.
**Extra-credit**: Do not ask for extra-credit. Do your best throughout the class and you will not need it. If I decide a substantial portion of the class would benefit from an additional opportunity, it will be offered to everyone. I will not select you out for special treatment. Don't ask.

**Course Schedule**

Available at the course website