

Feminist Theory
PHM 3123
Spring 2017
TR 10:30-11:45 am
ENG1 224

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University of Central Florida

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Office hours: TR 12:30-1:20 pm or by appointment



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/Learning Outcomes:

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 Textbook:

Feminist Theory: A Reader

Edition: 4

Wendy Kolmar, DREW UNIVERSITY

Frances Bartkowski, RUTGERS UNIV NEWARK

ISBN: 9780073512358

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Supplemental Materials:

Other material will be made available to the students via handout or through the Webcourse page.

Course Policies:

Attendance: Regular attendance is mandatory for success in this class. Absences will be excused for serious illness, accident, or misfortune only if appropriate documentation is provided. If you have such incidence and need assistance from the university, contact the UCF Cares Student Development and Enrollment Services at <http://cares.sdes.ucf.edu/>. I will accept documentation from UCF Cares on your behalf, if necessary. If you plan to miss class in order to observe a religious holiday, your absence will be excused only if you notify the instructor three weeks in advance of the holiday.

Grade Dissemination: Graded tests and materials in this course will be returned individually only by request. You can access your scores at any time using "myUCF Grades" in the portal. Please note that scores returned mid-semester are unofficial grades. If you need help accessing myUCF Grades, see the online tutorial: <https://myucfgrades.ucf.edu/help/>.

Classroom Conduct Policy: UCF's creed includes *integrity*. That means that students are expected to conduct themselves appropriately while in an instructional classroom setting, and to avoid conduct that is disruptive to other students or that interferes with the full participation of other students in the class. Disrespectful, irrelevant, offensive, hostile, and flippant speech and gestures are considered unprofessional, violate the UCF's commitment to diversity and inclusivity, and will not be tolerated. In determining whether behavior is appropriate, the instructor shall be the final authority. The instructor may dismiss a student for the duration of the scheduled class period in the event that a student violates the required classroom conduct as set forth in the UCF Golden Rule Handbook. Continuous violations may result in a report to the UCF's Office of Student Conduct.

Communication: Use the "3 before me" policy regarding communication. If you have a question regarding the course, seek out three sources before contacting me, such as another student, the Webcourse site, course announcements, and syllabus. Mostly likely, your question is already addressed and answered. When you do contact me, make sure to include which three sources you sought out prior to communicating with me via email.

In-person contact: If you have questions related to the course, then see me before or after our scheduled class meetings, or during my office hours. We can attempt to schedule another time if you are unable to meet during those.

Email Etiquette: The subject line of all emails should include either the course number (PHI 2010) and section number. You cannot expect a timely response (or any response) if you do not have this information in the subject line. All emails should include formal, professional salutations (ex.: "Hello Dr. Liebig"). Please sign your full name at the end of your email. You can expect a response within 24 hours or less. It is highly unlikely that I will respond on the same day to emails received after 9:30 p.m. Like you, I have a full range of responsibilities that keep me away from email for a time. Do not email me before the 24 hour window to demand a response sooner—not only is that rude, it is illogical. All email content should be written in appropriate, professional candor. You cannot expect me to respond to emails that are unprofessional or rude in tone. It is the responsibility of the student to check their email regularly for any course announcements or communication.

Superfluous Emails: You cannot expect me to respond to superfluous emails. These include emails informing me of unexcused absences and any emails asking questions that are easily answerable by checking this course syllabus, course policies, the schedule, Webcourse announcements, etc.

Webcourses: I utilize the Webcourses site in order to post announcements, schedule changes, etc. **It is the student's responsibility to frequently access the Webcourse page for this class and check to see if there are any announcements.**

*****Students are responsible for frequently checking their UCF email to receive any notifications of announcements, etc. for this course.**

Emergency Plan: In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for UCF to suspend normal operations. During this time, UCF may opt to continue delivery of instruction through methods that include but are not limited to: Webcourses, Canvas, Skype, and email messaging and/or an alternate schedule. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor the Webcourse site for each class for course

specific communication, and the main UCF, College, and department websites, emails, and Alert messages for important general information.

Academic Integrity: UCF faculty supports the UCF Creed. Integrity - practicing and defending academic and personal honesty - is the first tenet of the UCF Creed. This is in part a reflection of the second tenet, Scholarship: I will cherish and honor learning as a fundamental purpose of membership in the UCF community. Course assignments and tests are designed to have educational value; the process of preparing for and completing these exercises will help improve your skills and knowledge. Material presented to satisfy course requirements is therefore expected to be the result of your own original scholarly efforts. Plagiarism and cheating contradict these core values and will not be tolerated. If a student cheats or plagiarizes the **minimum penalty will be an F for the assignment and an official report to the UCF's Office of Student Conduct**. The instructor will work in collaboration with the university's Office of Student Conduct to determine if additional penalties need to be considered, **which can include a failing grade in the course, suspension, or expulsion from the university**. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the University's Rules of Conduct (see www.osc.sdes.ucf.edu).

Plagiarism: Many incidents of plagiarism result from students' lack of understanding about what constitutes plagiarism. It is the duty of the student to familiarize yourself with UCF's policy on plagiarism. All work you submit must be your own scholarly and creative efforts. UCF's Golden Rule defines plagiarism as follows: "whereby another's work is used or appropriated without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own."

Plagiarism-detection service: All written assignments will be submitted via turnitin.com, an automated system which promptly and thoroughly compares each student's assignment with billions of web sites, as well as an enormous database of student papers that grows with each submission. After the assignment is processed, I receive a report from turnitin.com that states if and how another author's work was used in the assignment. After receiving the report, I am able to see exactly what material was used and the source it came from, even if it came from another student's work. I will submit this report to the university's Office of Student Conduct when I make the official report of the academic integrity violation.

Course accessibility: It is my goal that this class be an accessible and welcoming experience for all students, including those with disabilities that may impact learning in this class. A student who is in need of one or more accommodations for a disability must make a request through the Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to discuss reasonable options or adjustments (Ferrell Commons 185; 407-823-2371; sas@ucf.edu). If SAS do not provide any accommodation recommendations but you still feel the need for accommodations, please meet with me to discuss what we can do to work together and ensure your success in the class. You are welcome to talk to me at any point in the semester about course design concerns, but it is always best if we can talk at least one week prior to the need for any modifications.

Equal Access/Equal Opportunity Commitment: The University of Central Florida subscribes to and endorses equal employment and educational opportunity. Its policies and practices will ensure non-discriminatory treatment of all persons without regard to race, color, age, religion, marital status, gender, disability, or national origin.

Incomplete grades: The current university policy concerning incomplete grades will be followed in this course. Incomplete grades are given only in situations where unexpected emergencies prevent a student from completing the course and the remaining work can be completed the next semester. As the instructor for this course, I am the final authority on whether you qualify for an incomplete. Incomplete work must be finished by the end of the subsequent semester or the "I" will automatically be recorded as an "F" on your transcript.

Make-Up Exam Policy: Make-up of a test may be arranged in the case of an absence resulting from documented illness or other emergency. It is the student's responsibility to explain the reason for the

absence, present the documentation of the illness or other emergency, and request a make-up test. There are no make-ups for the final exam.

Late Paper Policy: If a student needs to turn in a paper late for any reason, the student must contact the instructor **24 hours in advance** of when the paper is due. At that time the instructor will discuss with the student the reasons for the tardiness of the paper and will arrange a new deadline. The student must be able to provide evidence of working on the paper and the professor retains the right to not grant a new deadline and require that the paper is turned in on time. If the student fails to turn the paper in by the new deadline, the paper will receive a failing grade. If a student fails to contact the instructor 24 hours in advance and turns a paper in late, the paper will receive a failing grade.

Cell Phone and other Electronic Devices Policy: Per university policy and classroom etiquette, mobile phones, iPods, etc. must be silenced during the entire class time period. Those not heeding this rule will be asked to leave the classroom immediately so as to not disrupt the learning environment. In general, utilizing a device in class is disruptive to the instructor, fellow students, and most specifically you. At any point I am disrupted and I find that others, including yourself, are disruptive, I will ask you to leave the class and you will be penalized for violating this course's policy. Students are required to turn off all cell phones, pagers, tablets, mp3 players, and other electronic devices before entering class. You may not send text messages, surf the internet, or utilize electronic devices in class. The use of technological devices is only permitted during specific assignments through Webcourses or Top Hat in which the instructor will inform you of the proper use. If your cell phone rings and interrupts class, or you are caught texting or utilizing an electronic device, including a laptop computer, for something other than an assigned in-class assignment, **your final total points will be lowered 5 points each time**. If a student violates this policy **more than 2 times, you will receive a 0 for participation** in addition to the subtraction of 5 points off the entire grade for each violation.

Method of Instruction: Instruction is primarily lecture and discussion based. Online discussions, etc. may be held in lieu of on-campus class in emergency cases.

Right to Change Syllabus: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus or assignment schedule (or any other course information) as necessary during the term. The student is responsible for any such changes.

Method of Assessment/Grading Policy:

Class Participation and Attendance: 50 points

Reading Quizzes and Quick Writes: 50 points

Essays: (2 * 50) 100 points

Midterm Exam: 50 points

Final Exam: 50 points

Total points: 300

Final Grade scale:

A = 270-300

B = 240-269

C = 210-239

D = 180-209

F = 179 or less

Class Participation and Attendance: (50 pts.) Evaluation of your participation will be based on how well-prepared you are to discuss the material and documented through in-class activities and discussion. Students are expected to be attentive and contribute constructive comments to class discussion,

complete in-class quick writes, and think-pair-share activities. Further, participation means not only offering your own thoughts to the class, but also respectfully listening and responding to the ideas of others. At the beginning of the semester, each student has 50 points for attendance and participation. You are allowed two unexcused absences without penalty. For any student who misses three or more class meetings, 10 points will be deducted from the total earned points. Those students missing five class meetings will have 20 points deducted from the total; students missing six class meetings will have 30 points deducted. You also lose points for excessive tardiness, violating the electronic use policy (-5 off the total grade), and disruptive behavior (depending on the offense; see course conduct policy). If you miss more than 10 minutes of class by arriving late, leaving early, or stepping out of class, that will count as an absence. Excused absences require documentation and are the usual (documented) kind: University activity, illness, death in family. It is your responsibility to bring documentation to class; I will not request documentation.

Reading Quizzes and Quick Writes: (50 pts.) Students are required to bring an appropriate device in order to complete reading quizzes and quick writes. Pop-quizzes and in-class activities may be assigned daily through Webcourses. The quizzes will consist of questions regarding the readings and any topics discussed in class up to the day the quiz is given. **Students will not be able to make up any quizzes or in-class activities missed due to being absent, whether excused or not—if you are absent, you receive a zero on the quiz or participation activity for that day.** Students will be assigned Quick Writes throughout the semester. Some of these will be assigned and completed in class while others will be completed as homework. The Quick Writes are designed to foster critical reflection of the course material. The due date and time of the Quick Write will be announced in class or posted on Webcourses (if it is for homework). Quick Writes completed during class cannot be made up.

Essays: (50 pts. Each) Students are required to complete two argumentative essays that uses the course material and the key concepts in order to analyze a central question in feminist theory. The purpose of the papers is to help students to engage with the course material and demonstrate the ability to apply the learned concepts and analysis to lived experience. Details of the requirements and assignment will be provided by the instructor during class. Assignments must be typed and meet regular format of New Times Roman text, 12 pt. font, and double spacing. The papers must be submitted via Webcourses through turnitin.com in order to be accepted. I will provide detailed instructions for how to submit the paper prior to the due date.

Midterm and Final Exam: (50 pts. each) The final exam will take place during the final exam week and will be cumulative. Please note the final exam schedule for your section:

Important Dates:

January 23—MLK Jr. Day, no classes
 March 13-18th—Spring Break, no classes
 March 22nd—Last day to withdrawal at 11:59 pm
 April 25th—Study day, no classes
 April 26th-May 2nd—Final Exam Week

Readings and Course Plan:

The following is a schedule of the readings and course plan. The specific reading assignments and page numbers will be announced at the end of class for the following week. Actual assignments may deviate from those presented below. The instructor reserves the right to change, modify, add to, or subtract from the schedule listed below. It is the responsibility of the student to stay informed about the reading assignments.

Jan 10	Syllabus [Available on Webcourses/Canvas]
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Jan 12	Genealogy of Feminist Theory [Lecture]
Jan 17	"Lexicon of the Debates" pp. 51-72
Jan 19	Delmar, "What is Feminism?" pp. 24-33; Frye, "Oppression" [handout]
Jan 24	Bunch, "Not by Degrees: Feminist Theory and Education" pp. 12-15; Lugones and Spelman, "Have We God a Theory for You! Feminist Theory, Cultural Imperialism and Demand for "The Woman's Voice" pp. 17-24
Jan 26	Wollstonecraft, Selections from <i>A Vindication of the Rights of Woman</i> pp. 76-81
Jan 31	Truth, "Ain't I a Woman?" and "Keeping the Thing Going While Things Are Stirring" pp. 91-92
Feb 2	Goldman, "The Traffic in Women" pp. 126-130 and "Woman Suffrage" [handout]
Feb 7	De Beauvoir, "Introduction" pp. 161-168
Feb 9	Friedan, "The Problem That has no Name" pp. 172-177; Millet, "Theory of Sexual Politics" pp. 190-191; Bunch, "Not for Lesbians Only" pp. 220-224
Feb 14	Cixous, "The Laugh of the Medusa" 220-224; Irigaray, "The Sex Which Is Not One" pp. 271-278
Feb 16	Mohanty, "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses" pp. 327-335
Feb 21	Haraway, "A Cynorg Manifesto: Science, Technology, and Socialist-Feminism in the Late Twentieth Century" pp. 344-354
Feb 23	Harding, "The Woman Question in Science to the Science Question in Feminism" pp. 354-363
Feb 28	Tanesini, "The Importance of Standpoint in Feminism" [handout]
Mar 2	Catch-up
Mar 7	Review
Mar 9	Midterm Exam
Mar 14	Spring Break, no class
Mar 16	Spring Break, no class
Mar 21	Anzaldúa, "La Conciencia del la Mestiza: Toward a New Consciousness" pp. 370-376; Alcoff, "Cultural Feminism versus Post-Structuralism: The Identify Crisis in Feminist Theory" pp. 376-387
Mar 23	Shiva, "Development, Ecology and Women" pp. 405-410; King, "The ecology of Feminism and the Feminism of Ecology" pp. 410-415
Mar 28	Butler, from <i>Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity</i> pp. 436-445
Mar 30	Bordo, "The Body and the Reproduction of Femininity" pp. 460-467
Apr 4	Delombard, "Femmenism" pp. 479-484
Apr 6	Crenshaw, "Intersectionality and Identity Politics: Learning from Violence against Women of Color" pp. 484-493
Apr 11	Halberstram, "An Introduction to Female Masculinity" pp. 493-499; Pharr, "Homophobia as a Weapon of Sexism" [handout]
Apr 13	Fausto-Sterling, "Should There Be Only Two Sexes?" pp. 507-514
Apr 18	Serano, "Trans woman Manifesto" pp. 547-551
Apr 20	Review
Apr 25	Study Day, no classes
May 2	Final