

WMST 4010: Feminist Theory Fall 2007
Instructor: Dr. Cecilia Herles

Meets M, W, F 1:25-2:15 p.m. in Benson, Room 103.

Office hours: By appointment

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WIP Teaching Assistant: Daleah Goodwin (email address: dgoodwin@uga.edu)

Office hours: Tuesday 1:00-3:00 p.m. in LeConte Hall Room 120.

Course description:

This course will explore issues and debates within feminist theories. Using discussion, lecture, small group work, and writing, students will examine the following questions: What is theory? How does feminist theory intersect with the everyday lives of women? What are the possibilities and limitations of various theories?

This class is part of the WIP (Writing Intensive Program). Working on both low stakes and high stakes writing assignments, students in this class will write in a variety of ways to actively engage in learning. Writing is a process. Students in this class will be given feedback and opportunities to revise written assignments throughout the semester.

Required Texts:

Kolmar & Bartkowski. *Feminist Theory: A Reader*. Second edition. (2005) NY: McGraw-Hill.

Tong, Rosemarie. *Feminist Thought: A More Comprehensive Introduction*. Second edition (1998) Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

Woolf. *A Room of One's Own*. (1981). NY. Harvest/HBJ Book. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.

Course policies:

This syllabus may be subject to revisions.

Those students requiring special accommodations for learning should share these concerns with me as soon as possible, and no later than the third week of classes.

Attendance is required. You are allowed three unexcused absences. Each additional absence will lower your participation grade 10 points. Informing the instructor or TA that you will not be in class does not excuse your absence. If you need an absence to be excused, you must give the instructor your excuse document the next class after your absence (e.g. a health professional signed document).

Please be punctual to class. You must also be on time with your scheduled appointments outside of class with Dr. Herles and Ms. Goodwin. Failure to do so will

lower your participation grade. No assignments will be accepted after the due date and time. Extensions on assignments do not exist in this course.

All academic work must meet the standards in "A Culture of Honesty." Students should follow the University's Academic Honesty Policy explained at http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/culture_honesty.htm

All cases of academic dishonesty will be dealt with as outlined by the University. Sources should be properly acknowledged in any formal writing.

Class behavior:

(My apologies to those of you who are aware of this)

A mature and appropriate participation in class is expected from students. Disruptive or otherwise disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. Students may be asked to leave the room at the instructor's discretion. This policy is not meant to stifle honest academic discussion. Unacceptable behavior includes (but is not limited to): reading newspapers or concentrating on non-course related material, engaging in side-conversations, cell phone ringing, etc.

Assignments and Grading:

Class participation (20%)

Active participation in this course is essential. You should be ready for every class by preparing readings before class. This is a discussion-based class, and you should be prepared to comment on the day's readings in a meaningful way. Class sessions will be largely devoted to discussion based on assigned readings. The best way to learn theory is to discuss theory.

Participation will be evaluated on a daily basis and the final participation grade will be based on an A-F plus/minus grading scale. Students will be evaluated on class discussion as well as occasional low stakes writing assignments related to the readings. Examples of low stakes writing assignments include general questions and short answers about readings, journal entries, brief summaries and critiques of readings.

In accordance with the University policy, the students will be graded according to this plus/minus scale:

100-94= A	89-86= B+	82-80 =B-	75-73 =C	69-60= D
90-93=A-	85-83= B	79-76 =C+	72-70 =C-	59 and below= F

The students who will be evaluated most highly:

- 1) Demonstrate that they have read and thought about the material assigned for the class.
- 2) Demonstrate that they listen to their peers and build upon their ideas.
- 3) Develop questions or topics for discussion.
- 4) Demonstrate that they can articulate and illustrate the concepts discussed in the articles.

Class presentation (10%)

Each student will be required to lead the discussion on a discussion day. You must sign up for a discussion day, and you will not receive credit for this assignment if you fail to lead the discussion on the assigned date. Depending on the class size, you may be required to work with another student. Be prepared to give a 10-15 minute presentation of the material and to facilitate the discussion for the day.

The students who will be evaluated most highly:

- 1) Demonstrate a solid understanding of the material to be discussed.
- 2) Demonstrate that they can explain the main concepts to the class.
- 3) Develop questions or topics for discussion.

Short papers (Total 30%)

(A "before and after" writing assignment)

This writing assignment will be submitted in two parts. No duplicate work will be accepted.

First, each student will be required to write a short paper on the questions: What is feminist theory and is it necessary? Why or why not?

In this first writing assignment, you will be encouraged to be creative and assert a thesis of your own in 3-5 typed double-spaced pages. This will be graded as Pass or Fail. **You will be required to present the papers in class. You need to bring a first draft to class on Monday, September 17th. You will discuss them in class that week. This first writing assignment will be due on Friday, September 21st. I must receive a printed copy of your assignment in the beginning of class on September 21st. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

In the second paper, you will include your first paper draft, and then add a critical examination of your first paper. No duplicate work will be accepted. In this second paper, you should address possible flaws and/or benefits of your first paper. This second paper, (including the first paper) should be 6-10 pages. **This second writing assignment will be due on October 24th. I must receive a printed copy of your assignment in the beginning of class on October 24th. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

The second paper will be evaluated on an A-F plus/minus grading scale. The students who will be evaluated most highly:

- 1) Demonstrate that they can clearly and effectively articulate a sound argument.
- 2) Demonstrate that they can critically analyze an argument.

Final Paper: 40%

Each student will be required to submit an original 10-12 page paper. This paper must examine an original topic that differs from the short paper. No duplicate work will be accepted. This final paper should be written according to an official writing style (Chicago, APA, MLA, etc.) with respect to formatting (page numbers, bibliography, etc.). You are responsible for researching the use of a particular writing style.

You must select your subject by October 1st, and the instructor must approve it by the midpoint of the semester (October 9th).

This is not a research paper. You will be required to focus on critically analyzing a theory.

This final paper can be written in different ways:

- 1) A critical analysis of a theoretical work in which you can consider: What are the strengths? What are the weaknesses? How might you revise it?
- 2) A critical comparison/contrast of two theories.
- 3) The application of a theory to another context (a discipline, film, etc.) in a critical way.
- 4) An original theory.
- 5) A critical discussion of a form of feminism, such as liberal feminism, ecofeminism, etc.

- 6) An original dialogue that you create involving at least two different theorists. In this dialogue, you must consider how these theorists might critically assess each other's work.

This paper will be evaluated on an A-F plus/minus grading scale. Papers will be graded according to the following criteria:

- 1) Demonstration of a solid understanding of the material by clearly and accurately articulating the arguments. It is important to give a charitable reading of the theory, even if you disagree with its arguments.
- 2) Demonstration of critical thinking. You should be actively engaging in critical analysis by evaluating the arguments in terms of strengths and weaknesses. The best papers will consider possible counter objections to your opinions.
- 3) Demonstration of originality and creativity. Be careful to avoid simply summarizing theories.

This paper must be submitted in three phases. No late submissions will be accepted.

- 1) **The paper topic proposal is due on October 1st. I must receive a printed copy by the beginning of class on October 1st. NO EXCEPTIONS.** This portion is worth 10% of the final paper grade.
- 2) **The first draft is due on November 12th. I must receive a printed copy by the beginning of class on November 12th. NO EXCEPTIONS.** This must be a complete paper. This portion is worth 30% of the final paper grade.
- 3) **You will present your final papers on the last day of class on December 5th. The final draft is due by the beginning of class on December 5th.** The final draft must include page numbers, a bibliography, etc. following an appropriate style format. When you hand in your final draft, you must include your graded first draft. You should print out an extra copy of your paper for your own safekeeping. **I must receive a printed copy by the beginning of class on December 5th. NO EXCEPTIONS.** This portion is worth 60% of your final paper grade.

Week One	What is Feminist Theory?
Friday, 8/17	Introductions
Week Two	Reading Feminist Theory
Monday, 8/20	Read Kolmar, p. 2-16 (Intro, Treichler & Kramarae, Walker, Bunch, Lorde)
Wednesday, 8/22	Read Kolmar, p. 17-27 (Lugones & Spelman)
Friday, 8/24	Read Kolmar, p. 36-41 (hooks) Small groups
Week Three	Lexicon of the Debates and Herstory
Monday, 8/27	Read Kolmar, p. 42-60 and Tong on liberal feminism (p. 10-22). Small groups
Wednesday, 8/29	Read Kolmar, p. 62-74 (Wollstonecraft, Grimke, Stanton) D. leader
Friday, 8/31	TA workshop on writing
Week Four	Herstory
Monday, 9/3	No class
Wednesday, 9/5	Read Kolmar, p. 74-85 (Taylor, Truth, Mill) D. leader
Friday, 9/7	Read Kolmar, 91-95, 98-100 (Anthony, Douglass). D. leader
Week Five	Politics, Economics, Slavery
Monday, 9/10	Read Kolmar p. 100-102, 110-114. (Engels, Gilman) and Tong on Marxist and socialist feminism (p. 94-129)

Wednesday, 9/12	Read Kolmar, p. 114-130 (Wells-Barnett, Goldman, Jones, Kollontai) D. leader
Friday, 9/14	Read Kolmar, p. 138-142 (Sanger, Bethune) D. leader
Week Six	
Monday, 9/17	<u>Bring a draft of first writing assignment to class. Small groups</u>
Wednesday, 9/19	<u>Bring draft to class and discuss it with Ms. Goodwin.</u>
Friday, 9/21	<u>First writing assignment is due. Present papers in class.</u>
Week Seven	Literature/Art
Monday, 9/24	Read Woolf, ch.1-2 D leader
Wednesday, 9/26	Read Woolf, Ch. 3-4 D leader
Friday, 9/28	Read Woolf, Ch. 5-6 D leader
Week Eight	Social Sciences and Philosophy
Monday, 10/1	<u>Final Paper topic proposals due.</u> Read Kolmar, p. 154-162 (Horney, Mead) D. leader.
Wednesday, 10/3	Read Beauvoir, Introduction to Second Sex. (handout) D. Leader
Friday, 10/05	Read Tong on existentialist feminism (p. 173-192) Discuss written assignments in class.
Week Nine	
Monday, 10/8	Read Spelman's critique of Beauvoir (hand-out) D leader
Tuesday, 10/9	(midpoint of the semester)
Wednesday, 10/10	Film, TBA
Friday, 10/12	Film, TBA
	(midpoint withdrawal deadline)
Week Ten	"Second Wave"
Monday, 10/15	Read Kolmar, p. 196-203, p.211-213 (Friedan, NOW) and Tong on liberal feminism (p. 22-44) D leader
Wednesday, 10/17	Read Kolmar, p. 218-227 (Millett, Redstockings, Weathers and Firestone) D leader
Friday, 10/19	Read Tong on radical feminism (p. 45-93)
Week Eleven	Sexuality and Purity
Monday, 10/22	Read Kolmar, p. 227-231, p. 239-242, p. 253-256, and p. 347-356 (Koedt, Radical lesbians, Bunch, and Rich) D leader
Wednesday, 10/24	<u>Second writing assignment is due.</u> Small groups, Read Kolmar, p. 203-211 and p. 328-332 (Douglas and Daly)
Friday, 10/26	Fall Break, no class
Week Twelve	Nature
Monday, 10/29	Read Kolmar, p. 243-252 (Ortner) and Susan Griffin (hand out) D leader
Wednesday, 10/31	Read Kolmar, p. 469-475 (King) p. 525-528 (LaDuke) and Warren (hand out) D leader
Friday, 11/2	Read Tong on ecofeminism (p. 246-277)
Week Thirteen	Mothering, Power, and Morality
Monday, 11/5	Read Kolmar, p. 322-328 (Chodorow) and Tong on Psychoanalytic feminism (p. 130-154)
Wednesday, 11/7	Read Frye on oppression (hand out) Small groups
Friday, 11/9	Read Kolmar, p. 368-379 (Gilligan and Mohanty) and Tong (p. 154-172)
Week Fourteen	Who are "We"?
Monday, 11/12	<u>Drafts for final paper due.</u> Read Kolmar, p. 338-343 (Lorde) and p. 420-426 (Anzaldua) D leader
Wednesday, 11/14	Read Kolmar, p. 426-436 (Alcoff) D leader

Friday, 11/16 Read Kolmar, p. 446-464 (Scott and Fuss) Small groups.
Week Fifteen Identity
Monday, 11/19 Read Kolmar, p. 384-394 (Haraway) and p. 496-504 (Butler)
W-F, 11/21-11/23 No class
Week Sixteen Differences
Monday, 11/26 Read Tong on postmodern feminism (p. 193-211) and Kolmar,
p. 504-515(Hill Collins and Davis)
Wednesday, 11/28 Hand back final paper drafts. Discussion about final papers.
Friday, 11/30 Read Kolmar, p. 464-469 (hooks) and p. 542-550 (Narayan)
and Tong on Multicultural and Global Feminism (p. 212-245)
Small groups
Week Seventeen Riot
Monday, 12/3 Read Kolmar, p. 532-533, (Riot Grrrl) and p. 568 (Third Wave
Manifesta) and do evaluations
Wednesday, 12/5 **Presentations of papers. Final papers are due.**