

**The Ohio State University  
Freshman Seminar Program  
Proposal Sheet**

**Course Information.**

1. Attach a sample syllabus that includes the following. Sample syllabi can be found at <http://freshmanseminars.osu.edu>.
  - a) The course goals,
  - b) A brief description of the content,
  - c) The distribution of meeting times,
  - d) A weekly topical outline,
  - e) A listing of assignments,
  - f) Grade assessment information (including whether the course will be graded by letter grades or Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory),
  - g) The required textbooks and/or reading list, and
  - h) The academic misconduct and disability services statements (sample statements can be found at <http://artsandsciences.osu.edu/currofc/resources.cfm>).
  
2. Attach a brief biographical paragraph that includes the current research interests, teaching awards and honors, and undergraduate courses taught by the participating instructor(s). The paragraph will be included in materials for first-year students.

Christine Keating, Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Proposer's Name(s) and Academic Unit(s)

*Christine Keating*

Signature(s) of Proposer(s)

keating.60@osu.edu

E-mail Address(es) of Proposer(s)

614-688-3827

Contact Phone Number

3/1/11

Date of Submission

*Chris Byrd*

Signature(s) of Head(s) of Academic Unit(s)

Please indicate how many quarters you would like to offer the seminar and which quarters:  X  AU  WI  SP

**This request form and the attachments should be mailed to the Director, Chinwe Okpalaoka, 154G Denney Hall, 164 W. 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, or e-mailed to [okpalaoka.2@osu.edu](mailto:okpalaoka.2@osu.edu). For additional information, please call 292-4661.**

**Marriage, Sexuality, and the State**  
**Arts & Science 138, Freshman Seminar**  
**Autumn Quarter, 1 Credit**  
**T, 3:30-4:18**

Professor: Christine Keating  
Office: 286H University Hall  
Phone: 688-3827

Department: Women's Studies  
email: keating.60@osu.edu  
Office Hours: Thursday: 2-4

**Course description and goals**

This course will focus on the topic of marriage. The goal of the course is to introduce students to various approaches to feminist scholarship as we explore questions that include the following: What are feminist critiques of marriage? How have feminists from various disciplines (history, political science, philosophy) analyzed the relationship of marriage to issues central to democracy such as obligation, consent, citizenship, equality, and justice? Are there feminist models of marriage and, if so, how might they be fostered? Throughout the course, we will examine the interplay of gender, race, class, and nationality in relation to these questions.

**Texts:**

Nancy Cott, *Public Vows: A History of Marriage and the Nation*

Mary Lyndon Shanley, *Just Marriage*

Additional course readings will be available on Carmen. To access these readings, open your web browser and go to this address: [carmen.osu.edu](http://carmen.osu.edu). To log in, use the same username and password you use to check your OSU email. Once you've successfully logged in, you will see our course listed. To enter it, click on its name.

**Course Requirements:**

*Class participation:* Attendance is mandatory. Students will have short readings to prepare for each class. All students must complete the assigned readings and should come to class prepared with questions and comments. The course will involve regular in-class exercises as well as small and large group discussions. You are encouraged to take an active role in classroom discussions by bringing relevant questions, concerns and experiences to the classroom. (25%)

*Reflections papers:* Each student will write two brief 2-3 page reflection papers on the readings. In these reflection papers, analyze the author's critique, vision, and suggested strategies for change. Do you agree with the author? If so, why? If not, why not? (50%).

*Final Essay and presentation:* In a final 2-3 page essay, describe your own vision for the institution of marriage? How might your vision be achieved or fostered? (25%)

### **Grading**

Final grades will be either Satisfactory (S) or Unsatisfactory (U), with an S grade earning at least 75% of the possible points. Overall grades will be based on the quality of your written assignments and the constructive nature of your class participation. The essays will be graded according to (a) the clarity of your argument, (b) your use of evidence to support your argument, (c) the relevance and insight of your question(s), and (d) the accuracy of grammar, syntax and spelling. All assignments are due at the beginning of class. A late paper will be penalized by half a grade for every day that the paper is overdue.

### **Accommodation of students with disabilities**

Students who have verification from Disability Services are responsible for contacting the professor as soon as possible. The Office for Disability Services (150 Pomerone Hall; 292-3307; 292-0901) verifies the need for accommodations and assists in the development of accommodation strategies.

### **Plagiarism policy**

As defined by University Rule 3335-31-02, plagiarism is “the representation of another’s works or ideas as one’s own: it includes the unacknowledged word for word use and/or paraphrasing of another person’s work, and/or the inappropriate unacknowledged use of another person’s ideas.” Plagiarism is one of the most serious offenses that can be committed in an academic community; as such, it is the obligation of this department and its instructors to report **all** cases of suspected plagiarism to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. After the report is filed, a hearing takes place and if the student is found guilty, the possible punishment ranges from failing the class to suspension or expulsion from the university. Although the existence of the Internet makes it relatively easy to plagiarize, it also makes it even easier for instructors to find evidence of plagiarism. It is obvious to most teachers when a student turns in work that is not his or her own and plagiarism search engines make documenting the offense very simple. Always cite your sources. Always ask questions before you turn in an assignment if you are uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism. Always see your TA or professor if you are having difficulty with an assignment. To preserve the integrity of OSU as an institution of higher learning, to maintain your own integrity, and to avoid jeopardizing your future, do not plagiarize!

### **Questions or concerns**

Please feel free to email me or to speak with me if you have questions about the material, or if you have personal concerns that will affect your class performance. I am happy to arrange appointments with students to discuss issues at greater length.

## Course Schedule

- WEEK 1 Introduction to course and to each other
- WEEK 2 Readings:  
• Nancy Cott, *A History of Marriage and the Nation*, 1-55.
- WEEK 3 Readings:  
• Nancy Cott, *A History of Marriage and the Nation*, 132-179.
- WEEK 4 Readings:  
• Nancy Cott, *A History of Marriage and the Nation*, 180-230.
- WEEK 5 Readings:  
• Mary Lyndon Shanley, *Just Marriage*, 3-32.  
**First essay due**
- WEEK 6 Readings:  
• Mary Lyndon Shanley, *Just Marriage*, 33-74.
- WEEK 7 Readings:  
• Mary Lyndon Shanley, *Just Marriage*, 75- 116.
- WEEK 8 Readings:  
• Barnard Center for Research on Women, *Towards a Vision of Sexual and Economic Justice* (Carmen)  
**Second essay due**
- WEEK 9 Readings:  
• Selections from Drucilla Cornell, *At the Heart of Freedom*, (Carmen)
- WEEK 10 Course Conclusions: Student presentations  
**Final essay due**

Christine Keating  
Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Christine Keating is an Associate Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the Ohio State University. Her research interests are in the areas of gender and democracy, feminist political theory, popular education, and transnational feminisms. She teaches undergraduate courses such as "Gender and Democracy," "Sexuality and the State," "Women in Global Perspective," and "Women, Government, and Public Policy." In recognition of teaching excellence, Keating received a Huckabay Teaching Award from the Center for Instructional Design and Research at the University of Washington and the Doman Award for Excellence in Teaching from the University of Washington's Women's Studies Department. At Ohio State, she has been nominated for the 2010-11 Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching.