

## WOMEN'S STUDIES 550: HISTORY OF WESTERN FEMINIST THOUGHT

Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:30-1:18

Instructor: Lakesia D. Johnson

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:00 -3:00PM or by appointment

### REQUIRED TEXTS:

Alma García, *Chicana Feminist Thought: The Basic Historical Writings* (CFT)

Beverly Guy-Sheftall, *Words of Fire: An Anthology of African-American Feminist Thought* (WF)

Miriam Schneir, *Feminism: The Essential Historical Writings* (FHW)

Miriam Schneir, *Feminism in Our Time: The Essential Writings, WWII to the Present* (FIT)

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Response Paper 1	10%
Response Paper 2	10%
Response Paper 3	10%
Class Presentation & Presentation Summary	20%
Final Examination	25%
Attendance and Class Participation	25%

#### Attendance and Participation: 25%

This class is based on the educational premise that knowledge is constructed through an interactive process rather than absorbed passively. Therefore, the format for the course will be a combination of lecture and discussion, with an emphasis on dialogue and sharing perspectives.

**Attendance is crucial to your academic performance. You are expected to be an active and informed participant in all class discussions.** I expect that you will have read the assigned texts by the dates indicated on the syllabus and that all participation will be thoughtful and respectful. If you miss class, you are responsible for getting notes from a classmate, including any altered assignments or announcements that were made. **Missing more than two classes will have an effect on your participation grade. Your grade will also be affected by a lack of participation and/or failure to attend the entire class period.**

#### Class Presentation: 20%

Each student is required to give a brief class presentation on an assigned feminist theorist. **Your presentation should be 10 minutes and should address the following aspects** of the theorist's life and work:

- Major ideological perspectives that influence their approach to women's rights
- Major achievements
- Impact on feminist thought and/or activism

On the day of your presentation, you must submit a **2-3 page typed presentation summary (double spaced, 12pt Times New Roman font, 1 inch margins)** that addresses the above aspects of the presentation and a **bibliography that includes 4 books or journal articles**

consulted for the presentation. Points will be deducted for summaries that are poorly written and/or do not meet the requirements of the assignment. **Please do not use online sources. Sign-up for presentation topics will begin during the first week of classes.** Due to scheduling complexities, there can be **no make-up presentations.** You must give your presentation on the date that you have selected. **No power point presentations please. All students are expected to attend class presentations.** Information from these presentations will be covered on the final exam.

#### Response Papers: 30%

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The response papers will give you an opportunity to reflect upon and respond to theorists presented in the texts. For each paper, you will select one article from the assigned course readings for each section of the course. Your paper should be a thoughtful response/analysis of **ONE major argument** presented by the theorist. It **SHOULD NOT** be a summary of the article. It is important that you **evaluate and engage** with the argument raised by the author.

Please check your paper carefully for spelling and grammatical errors. Points will be deducted for papers that are poorly written. Response papers should be **one (1) page, typed and double spaced, in 12pt Times New Roman font with one inch margins.** Response papers are **due AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS** on the day that we discuss the article that you select.

**RESPONSE 1 – Select an article from Section 1 of the course – COMPLETE BY 4/13**

**RESPONSE 2 – Select an article from Section 2 of the course – COMPLETE BY 5/4**

**RESPONSE 3 – Select an article from Section 3 or 4 of the course – COMPLETE BY 5/30**

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Please note that response papers are due AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS ON THE DAY THAT WE DISCUSS YOUR SELECTED ARTICLE. I will NOT accept late response papers or papers via email. In addition, please do not leave papers in my mailbox.**

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**Plagiarism:** 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 (your TA and/or professor can help with this).
- 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!**

Final Examination: 25%

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The final is a **closed-book comprehensive examination (multiple choice, fill-in the blank and short essays)**. You are responsible for **all materials covered in the texts, films, handouts, presentations and classroom discussions**. The examination will be on **6/1/05 during our normally scheduled class period**. There will be **no early examinations**.

### **RESOURCES:**

Me: Please feel free to contact me regarding papers, concerns or any other questions that you have about the course. I encourage you to use my office hours. Email is the best way to contact me.

The OSU Writing Center: The writing center is an excellent resource for writers at any level or at any stage in the writing process. I encourage you to take advantage of the free individualized counseling provided by the center. For more information contact the OSU Writing Center at 688-4291.

Accommodation of Students with Disabilities: Students who wish to have an accommodation for disability are responsible for contacting the professor and TA as soon as possible. The Office for Disability Services (150 Pomerene Hall; 292-3307; 292-0901 TDD) verifies the need for accommodations and assists in the development of accommodation strategies.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

### **Subject to Change at the Discretion of the Instructor**

**3/28**

Course Introduction (Nuts and Bolts)

**3/30**

Introductions to FHW, FIT, WF, CFT

### **SECTION: 1 The Quest for Women's Rights: Defining a Sociopolitical Agenda**

**4/4**

Abigail Adams, "Remember the Ladies" (FHW 2-4)

Mary Wollstonecraft, "A Vindication of the Rights of Women"(FHW 5-16)

Sarah M. Grimké, "Letters on the Equality of the Sexes and the Condition of Woman" (FHW 35-48)

Margaret Fuller, "Women in the Nineteenth Century"(FHW 62-71)

4/6

Sojourner Truth, "Woman's Rights" & "When Woman Gets Her Rights Man Will Be Right" (WF 35-38)

Anna J. Cooper, "The Status of Woman in America"(WF 43-49)

Mary Church Terrell, "The Progress of Colored Women" (WF 63-68)

Ida Wells-Barnett, "Lynch Law in America" (WF 69-76)

4/11

Enriqueta Longeaux y Vázquez, "The Woman of La Raza" (CFT 29-31)

Marta Cotera, "Feminism: The Chicano and Anglo Versions-A Historical Analysis" (CFT 223-231)

Linda La Rue, "The Black Movement and Women's Liberation" (WF 163-173)

Beverly Jones, "Toward a Female Liberation Movement" (FIT 108-124)

4/13

*National Organization for Women Statement of Purpose* (FIT 95-102)

*Red Stockings Manifesto* (FIT 125-129)

*The Combahee River Collective* (WF 231- 240)

*Resolutions from the Chicana Workshop* (CFT 146-147)

*Comisión Femenil Mexicana* (CFT 150)

**LAST CHANCE TO SUBMIT RESPONSE PAPER 1**

## **SECTION 2: The Legal Status of Women: Suffrage, Marriage and Work**

4/18

*Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions, Seneca Falls* (FHW 76-82)

Frederick Douglass, "Editorial from the North Star"(FHW 83-85)

Sojourner Truth, "Keeping the Thing Going While Things Are Stirring" (FHW128-131)

Susan B. Anthony, *The United States of America vs. Susan B. Anthony* and "Woman Wants Bread, Not the Ballot"(FHW 132-142)

4/20

**Film:** Part I - *Iron-Jawed Angels*

4/25

**Film:** Part II - *Iron-Jawed Angels*

Lucy Stone, "Marriage of Lucy Stone Under Protest" and "Disappointment is the Lot of Woman" (FHW 103-109)

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, "Address to the New York State Legislature, 1854 &1860" (FHW 110-121)

*The Married Women's Property Act, New York, 1848 and 1860* (FHW 72-74; 122-124)

4/27

Simone de Beauvoir, "The Second Sex" (FIT 3-20)

Betty Friedan, "The Feminine Mystique" (FIT 48-67)

Bernice Rincón, "La Chicana: Her Role in The Past and Her Search for a New Role in the Future" (CFT 24-28)

5/2

*Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VII* (FIT 71-75)

Pauli Murray and Mary O. Eastwood, "Jane Crow and the Law: Sex Discrimination and Title VII" (FIT 76-86)

5/4

New York City Commission on Human Rights, *Hearings on Women's Rights, 1970*

Eleanor Holmes Norton, Betty Friedan, Bernice Sandler, Patricia Jones, Phyllis Graber, Bella Abzug (FIT 372-398)

**LAST CHANCE TO SUBMIT RESPONSE PAPER 2**

### **SECTION 3: Women's Reproductive Rights and Sexuality**

5/9

Margaret Sanger, "Woman and the New Race" (FIHW 325-334)

Shulamith Firestone, "The Dialectic of Sex: The Case for Feminist Revolution" (FIT 245-256)

Shirley Chisholm, "Facing the Abortion Question" (WF 389-395)

Beverly Padilla, "Chicanas and Abortion" (CFT 120-121)

*Roe v. Wade* (FIT 399-407)

5/11

Kate Millett, "Sexual Politics" (FIT 229-244)

Michele Wallace, "Black Macho and the Myth of the Superwoman" (FIT 295-309)

Andrea Dworkin, "Pornography: Men Possessing Women" (FIT 419-427)

5/16

Adrienne Rich, "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence" (FIT 310-326)

Carla Trujillo, "Chicana Lesbians: Fear & Loathing in the Chicano Community" (CFT 281-287)

June Jordan, "A New Politics of Sexuality" (WF 405-411)

### **SECTION 4: A Room of One's Own: Spirituality, Creativity, Self-Determination and Feminist Visions of the Future**

5/18

Jacquelyn Grant, "Black Theology and the Black Woman" (WF 319-336)

Mary Daly, "After the Death of God the Father: Women's Liberation and the Transformation of Christian Consciousness" (FIT 260-271)

Riane Eisler, "The Chalice and the Blade: Our History, Our Future" (FIT 439-453)

**5/23**

Gertrude Bustill Mossell, "A Lofty Study"(WF 60-61)

Alice Walker, "In the Closet of the Soul" (WF 538-547)

Virginia Woolf, "A Room of One's Own" (FIW 344-355)

Rita Sánchez, "Chicana Writer Breaking Out of the Silence" (CFT 66-68)

**5/25**

Sylvia Gonzales, "The Latina Feminist: Where We've Been, Where We're Going"(CFT 250-253)

Gloria Anzaldúa, "La Conciencia de la Mestiza: Towards a New Consciousness" (CFT 270-274)

Cherríe Moraga, "The Last Generation" (CFT 290-291)

**5/30**

Susan Faludi, "Backlash"(FIT 454-468)

Gloria Steinem, "The Way We Were-And Will Be" (FIT 408-415)

Audre Lorde, "Age, Race, Class and Sex: Women Redefining Difference" (WF 283-291)

**LAST CHANCE TO SUBMIT RESPONSE PAPER 3**

**EVALUATIONS AND REVIEW FOR FINAL**

**6/1**

**FINAL EXAMINATION IN CLASS**