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University of Connecticut
Spring 2008
Wednesday 1:00-3:30 pm

Women's Studies 289W: Senior Seminar
Special Topic: Feminist Generations

This seminar is a capstone course for women's studies majors and minors which will enable you to reflect upon your experiences in your courses, internships, and other engagements you have had during your time as a feminist student at UConn. The course is organized to highlight "generations" - of feminist thought, feminist histories, and feminist movements. As part of the course you will reflect upon your own contributions to these changing "stories." We will read a wide range of literature that cover different "moments" in feminist thought and feminist movements.

Course Assignments and Grading

Response papers and Class Participation: Come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings. In addition to the assigned reading, each week you will write a response paper that includes a summary of the key points you identified from the reading and your own reflections on the book or article. Each paper should also include at least three questions that can be used for class discussion. Response papers are due the day of the class in which the readings are assigned. No late response papers will be accepted (30 points).

Assignment #1 -- Participant Observation of a "Feminist" Event: Identify a self-defined "feminist organization" and participate in one of their events. In addition to observing who attends the event and how they interact, you may also conduct brief interviews with those in attendance to get a sense of the extent of their involvement in the organization, and other feminist activities in which they have been involved over the years. We will discuss the specific kinds of strategies that you may want to employ as you conduct this assignment. You will then write up your observations and any other information you have gathered from this event and analyze it using relevant readings from this course or any other courses you have taken to fulfill your women's studies course requirements. Final Version Due: February 27 (20 points).

Assignment #2 -- Interview With a Feminist of Another "Generation": For the mid-term assignment you will identify a self-identified feminist who is at least 20 years older than yourself and conduct an interview. As a group, we will identify the questions that will become part of the open-ended interview. You will practice the interview schedule on another member of the class before conducting it with your chosen informant. You will then transcribe the interview and write an "oral narrative" that you will submit for your mid-term grade. Final Version Due: April 2 (20 points).

Final Assignment -- Seminar Paper: Drawing together your own experiences, the observations you made during your first assignment, the analysis of the interview, as well as relevant readings, internship experiences, and other activities you have been involved

with as a “feminist,” write a paper that presents your analysis of what it means to be a feminist in the first part of the 21st century. The paper should be at least 15 pages and include a bibliography of the references you use. Final Version Due: April 30 (30 points).

Required Books

- Anzaldúa, Gloria and Analouise Keating eds. 2002 (3rd edition). *This Bridge Called We Call Home: Radical Visions for Transformation*. New York: Routledge.
- Freedman, Estelle B. 2002. *No Turning Back: The History of Feminism and the Future of Women*. NY: Ballantine Books.
- Hernández, Daisy, and Bushra Rehman, eds. 2002. *Colonize This! Young Women of Color on Today's Feminism*. NY: Seal Press.
- Labaton, Vivien, and Dawn Lundy Martin, eds. 2004. *The Fire This Time: Young Activists and the New Feminism*. NY: Anchor Books
- Laduke, Winona. 1999. *All Our Relations: Native struggles for Land and Life*. Cambridge, MA: South End Press.
- Lerner, Gerda. 1993. *The Creation of Feminist Consciousness: From the Middle Ages to Eighteen-seventy*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Mohanty, Chandra. *Feminism Without Borders*. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Scott-Dixon, Krista. 2006. *Trans/Forming Feminisms: Trans Feminist Voices Speak Out*. Toronto: Sumach Press.
- Waller, Marguerite and Sylvia Marcos, eds. 2005. *Dialogue and Difference: Feminisms Challenge Globalization*. London

Course Outline

INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

Week 1: January 23

PART ONE: Origin Stories

Week 2: January 30

Lerner, Gerda. 1993. Pp. 3-20, 65-137, 167-191, 274-283 in *The Creation of Feminist Consciousness: From the Middle Ages to Eighteen-seventy*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Week 3: February 6

Freedman, Estelle B. 2002. Pp. 17-119 in *No Turning Back: The History of Feminism and the Future of Women*. NY: Ballantine Books.

Week 4: February 13

Freedman, Estelle B. 2002. Pp. 203 -302 in *No Turning Back: The History of Feminism and the Future of Women*. NY: Ballantine Books.

PART TWO: Multicultural and Post-Colonial Histories of Feminisms

Week 5: February 20

Gluck, Sherna Berger, with Maylei Blackwell, Sharon Cotrell and Karen Harper. 1998. "Whose Feminism, Whose History? Reflections on Excavating the History of (the) U.S. Women's Movement(s)." Pp. 31-56 in Community Activism and Feminist Politics Organizing Across Race, Class, and Gender, eds. Nancy A. Naples. New York: Routledge.

Gloria Anzaldúa and Analouise Keating eds. 2002 (3rd edition). Pp. 1-27, 357-433, 495-579 This Bridge We Call Home: Radical Visions for Transformation.

Week 6: February 27 Assignment #1 Due.

Laduke, Winona. 1999. All Our Relations: Native Struggles for Land and Life. Cambridge, MA: South End Press.

Week 7: March 5

Mohanty, Chandra. Feminisms Without Border

Week 8: **SPRING RECESS**

Week 9: March 19

Mohanty, Chandra. Feminisms Without Border

Week 10: March 26

Waller Marguerite and Sylvia Marcos. 2005 Dialogue and Difference: Feminisms Challenge Globalization

PART THREE: Feminist Contentions and Contemporary Voices

Week 11: April 2 Assignment #2 Due.

Scott-Dixon, Krista. 2006. Trans/Forming Feminisms: Transfeminist Voices Speak Out

Week 12: April 8

Scott-Dixon, Krista. 2006. Trans/Forming Feminisms: Transfeminist Voices Speak Out

Week 13: April 16

Hernández, Daisy, and Bushra Rehman, eds. 2002. Pp. 17-39, 71-118, 203-229, 257-267, 295-311, 343-356, and 370-381 in Colonize This! Young Women of Color on Today's Feminism. NY: Seal Press

Week 14: April 23

Labaton, Vivien, and Dawn Lundy Martin, eds. 2004. Selections from The Fire This Time: Young Activists and the New Feminism. NY

Week 15: April 30
Presentations of Final Papers