

Feminist Social and Political Thought
WSS 360 (4592)

<http://www.albany.edu/faculty/jhobson/wss360/ftfall03.htm>

This syllabus is subject to change.

Fall 2003
T/Th 1:00 - 2:20 p.m.
HUM 132

Instructor: Dr. Janell Hobson
Office: Social Science 344
Office Hours: Mondays, 4:00-5:30 p.m.; Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2:30-4:00 p.m.
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Course Description:

This interdisciplinary course will examine feminist social and political thought in antiracist, global perspective. We will address a variety of issues, including violence, cultural politics, history, religion, literature, environmental justice, and arts. Using course materials as springboards for major projects, students will be expected to address these concerns and to formulate an approach to the expansion of feminism and women's studies as diverse, global arenas dedicated to issues of social justice.

Required Texts (available for purchase at Mary Jane Books and Stuyvesant Plaza Book House):
Haddad, Yvonne Yazbeck, John L. Esposito, and Karen Armstrong, eds. *Daughters of Abraham* (hereafter abbreviated as DA).

Morrison, Toni. *Paradise* (hereafter abbreviated as TM).

Narayan, Uma. *Dislocating Cultures* (hereafter abbreviated as DC).

Thompson, Becky. *A Promise and a Way of Life: White Antiracist Activism*. (hereafter abbreviated as PW).

Trinh, T. Minh-ha. *Woman, Native, Other: Writing Postcoloniality and Feminism* (hereafter abbreviated as WO).

Additional readings are on e-reserve and can be accessed through the password **femtheory**.

Course Requirements:

Class Participation (20 points)

This course will be formatted around lectures and discussions. Hence, your regular attendance and active participation—both in the classroom and on our webct discussion board—are required for the success of this class. You are allowed 3 unexcused absences; however, if you go over this number, you stand to lose 1 point for each additional absence. If you cannot avoid an absence due to illness or emergencies, please notify me in advance so that you may be excused.

Critical Response (30 points)

Weekly responses to reading assignments must be posted on our webct discussion board. Your paragraph-length response must be 6-8 sentences, must articulate the main argument(s) in

reading(s), and must reflect on whether or not you find that they were well supported by the author(s). Only your top 10 responses will count toward your final grade.

Annotated Bibliography (10 points)

You will be expected to consult secondary sources and to present them in an annotated bibliography, which should list **10** sources in either MLA or APA format: each source accompanied by a 2-3 sentence summary, which articulates main points of the source (much like your critical response). Of these 10 sources, you are limited to using only one website, only 2 course texts, and only one film/video as sources. You will not receive credit for this assignment if the other sources do not include scholarly journal articles, reviews, books or anthology chapter. This assignment is due **Thursday, October 30**.

Article/Web Page /Hypertext (40 points)

Integrating the work that you have done on feminist theory and activism for annotated bibliography, you will then explore a feminist issue further in a written work, which you will contribute to a web anthology, designed as a website by our class. This written work could be an article, historical profile, or review essay. This written work must later be presented through an interactive, hypertext web page. Of the top 10 papers in this class, only those receiving an A- or higher, will be published on our website. Your **100-word article abstract** is due **Tuesday, November 18**. Your **article** is due **Tuesday, November 25**, and the **completed web page** is due **Friday, December 12, by 12 noon**. (in my mailbox on a disk or CD.)

Grading Policy:

Your final grade is based on accumulative points.

A = 100-93	A- = 92-90	B+ = 89-86
B = 85-83	B- = 82-80	C+ = 79-76
C = 75-73	C- = 72-70	D = 69-65
E = Below 65		

Late assignments will result in 5 points deducted from your grade for each day late; no extensions will be granted with the exception of emergencies.

Course Schedule:

Sept. 2 Course overview & introduction.

Unit I – At the Intersections

Sept. 4 Online essay: “Mapping the margins: intersectionality, identity politics, and violence against women of color.”
MADRE & InCite! websites.

Sept. 9 Screening: “Señorita extraviada.”

- Sept. 11 E-reserve: “‘Lupe’s song’: on the origins of Mexican-woman-hating in the United States” & “Latin women in the global information network.”
- Sept. 16 PW: Parts I & II – chapters 1-4; Time Line.
- Sept. 18 PW: chapters 5-7.
- Sept. 23 PW: Part III; Epilogue.
- Sept. 25 Workshop on feminist research & resources (digital workshop 1, New Library).

Unit II – Toward Feminist Ethics

- Sept. 30 Screening: “The Myth of the clash of civilizations.”
- Oct. 2 DA: chapters 1, 5-6.
- Oct. 7 DA: chapters 2-4.
- Oct. 9 Online essay: “What became of God the Mother?”
- Oct. 14 TM: “Ruby” – “Seneca.”
- Oct. 16 TM: “Divine.”
- Oct. 21 TM: “Patricia” – “Save-Marie.”
- Oct. 23 E-reserve: “Ecofeminism through an anticolonial framework.”
IEN & Ecofem websites.
- Oct. 28 Screening: “Antonia’s Line.”
- Oct. 30 Screening continued.
due: Annotated Bibliography.

Unit III – Feminist Legacies: Common Themes, Different Contexts

- Nov. 4 DC: chapters 1, 3.
- Nov. 6 DC: chapter 4.
- Nov. 11 WO: chapters 1-2.

- Nov. 13 WO: chapters 3-4.
- Nov. 18 Web Design: *Introduction to Dreamweaver* (digital workshop 1)
due: Article Abstract
- Nov. 20 Web Design: *Advanced Dreamweaver* (digital workshop 1)
- Nov. 25 Screening: “The Language you cry in.”
due: Article
- Nov. 27 Thanksgiving holiday – no class.
- Dec. 2 E-reserve: “In search of our mothers’ gardens.”
- Dec. 4 Slide show: feminist art.
- Dec. 9 Web Design Workshop: *Hypertext Web Page* (digital workshop 2).
(must be completed by Dec. 12, 12 noon.)