Graduate Seminar in Feminist Theory (Spring 2014)
Political Science 565

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Tuesdays 5:45 – 8:35
Husted 12
Office hours: By Appt.

Course Description
The entry of women into the political sphere produces a challenge to the core concepts of political thought. Feminist political thought thus provides an important vantage point from which to think critically about the nature and limitations of key political concepts such as rights, equality, identity, and agency as well as the nature of politics itself. Feminist politics and theory pose deep challenges to some of the major commitments of modern political thought, particularly to those of liberalism, e.g. freedom as free choice and equality as formal and gender-neutral. But feminism is not as unified as its challenge to liberalism might suggest. It continually faces questions with regard to its boundaries, agendas, and even the subjects of feminism itself – what is a woman? How does the category of gender illuminate or eclipse power relations involving other categories of difference, such as those of culture, race, class, and sexual orientation? Finally, how might feminist critique be understood and enacted in a global order?

This course will explore the variety of feminisms emerging out of women’s struggles for political inclusion (liberal, Marxist and radical feminisms) as well as more recent feminist theoretical challenges to the category of woman, identity politics, and rights-centered political discourse. The final section of the course explores ongoing debates at the intersection of democratic theory, post-colonial studies, and feminist theory as to the critical value and limits of universalism in political critique.

There will be a few short readings required for the first meeting of the class on January, 28, 2014. Please email the instructor or check blackboard to acquire and read them in preparation.

Required Texts
The following books are required for this course and are available at the University Bookstore and Mary Jane Books. Please get these editions/translations, especially of Beauvoir. Other editions of Wollstonecraft and Mill are acceptable if you already own them.

John Stuart Mill, *The Subjection of Women* (Hackett)
Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*: new translation by Borde and Malovany-Chevallier (Vintage)
Sara Evans, *Tidal Wave* (Free Press)
Joan Scott, *Parité* (University of Chicago, 2005) OR Deborah Gould, *Moving Politics* (University of Chicago, 2009) – we will choose one for the final week of course readings

Readings marked with ** in the schedule of readings are on-line through Blackboard. Please bring hard copies of all readings with you to class. I discourage the use of laptops in class because they obstruct discussion and distract others. If you feel that you have exceptional, educational reasons for using such technology in class, please discuss it with me in advance.

Assignments and Evaluation
There will be three requirements for this course:

1) **Research Paper (60%)** of 20-25 pages will be due at the end of the term. The paper should develop themes from course readings and discussions. You should expect to conduct additional research on the specific topic of your choosing. A prospectus for this paper (3-5) pages and a working bibliography will be due four weeks before the final class meeting. You must meet with me, preferably as early as possible, to discuss paper topics and additional related readings. You are encouraged to develop topics that intersect with interests and questions you may bring from other classes or future research plans.

2) **In-class oral presentation (20%)** on assigned reading for the week, lasting 15-20 minutes. The number of presentations for each student will depend on the number of students enrolled in the class. Each presentation should: (1) **briefly** describe the most important and interesting argument(s); (2) connect the argument(s) to each other (if more than one) and to past readings and discussions; (3) raise questions and critical points (positive or negative) about the reading(s).

3) **Class participation (20%)** is essential. Regular attendance and thoughtful contributions to class discussions are vital to the success of the seminar. Seminar discussion should be student-driven. Therefore, any absence will be keenly felt. You must keep up with the reading and come to class with questions and comments. An ‘A’ grade assumes, at minimum, that you have consistently played an active role in shaping seminar discussions.
Weekly Schedule of Readings
This schedule is subject to change.
All changes will be announced by email and/or in class.

Jan. 28  Introduction
        Olympe de Gouges, Declaration of the Rights of Woman and Citizen(ess)**
        Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Declaration of Sentiments (Seneca Fall Convention)**
        Sojourner Truth, “Aren’t I a Woman?”**
        Emma Goldman, “A New Declaration of Independence”**

        Recommended:
        Lori Marso, “Feminism,” Encyclopedia of Political Thought (MS, forthcoming)
        Susan Okin, Women in Western Political Thought
        Carole Pateman, The Disorder of Women
        Carole Pateman, The Sexual Contract
        Linda Zerilli, Signifying Woman: Culture and Chaos in Rousseau, Burke, and Mill
        Nancy Cott, The Grounding of Modern Feminism
        Sara Evans, Born for Liberty: A History of Women in America
        Genevieve Lloyd, The Man of Reason

I. The Universal Subject of Rights

Feb. 4  Mary Wollstonecraft, Vindication of the Rights of Woman

        Recommended:
        Wendy Gunther-Canada, Rebel Writer: Mary Wollstonecraft and Enlightenment Politics
        Elizabeth Wingrove, “Getting Intimate with Wollstonecraft,” Political Theory 33, 3 (June 2005): 344-369
        Jean Jacques Rousseau, Emile
        Jean Jacques Rousseau, The Social Contract and Discourses
        John Locke, Two Treatises of Government

Feb. 11 John Stuart Mill, The Subjection of Women
        Joan Scott, “Rereading the History of Feminism,”**
        Only Paradoxes to Offer: French Feminists and the Rights of Man

        Recommended:
        J. S. Mill, On Liberty

II. Feminism’s Claim to Experience

Feb. 18 Friedrich Engels: The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State **
        Emma Goldman, “Woman Suffrage” **
Emma Goldman, “The Traffic in Women” **

Recommended:
Emma Goldman Papers, UC Berkeley: http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/Goldman/
Kathy Ferguson, Discourses of Danger: Locating Emma Goldman” 
Political Theory 36, 5 (October 2008): 735-61
Kathy Ferguson, Emma Goldman: Political Thinking in the Streets
Don Herzog, “Romantic Anarchism and Pedestrian Liberalism” 
Political Theory 35, 3 (313-333); Response from Marso (Feb 2008)

Feb. 25 Simone de Beauvoir, The Second Sex (selections) **

Recommended:
Toril Moi, “While We Wait: The English Translation of The Second Sex” 
London Review of Books 32, 3 (2010): 3-6. See also responses by 
Constance Borde and Sheila Malovany and others (online version)
Sonia Kruks, “Gender and Subjectivity: Simone de Beauvoir and Contemporary 
Feminism” Signs (Autumn 1992): 89-110
Linda Zerilli, “A Process without a Subject: Simone de Beauvoir and Julia 
Kristeva on Maternity” Signs (Autumn 1992): 111-135
Lori Marso and Patricia Moynagh, eds. Simone de Beauvoir’s Political Thinking

Mar. 4 Shulamith Firestone, The Dialectic of Sex (excerpt) **
Combahee River Collective: A Black Feminist Statement **
Sara Evans, Tidal Wave
Victoria Hesford, Feeling Women’s Liberation (selections)**

Recommended:
Alice Echols, Daring to be Bad: Radical Feminism in America, 1967-1975
Sara Evans, Personal Politics
Audre Lorde, “The Master’s Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master’s House” 
Sister Outsider
Adrienne Rich, “ Compulsory Heterosexuality and the Lesbian Continuum” 

Mar. 11 Gloria Anzaldúa, “La Conciencia de La Mestiza: Towards a New Consciousness” 
Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza **
Cheshire Calhoun, “Constructing Lesbians and Gay Men as Family’s Outlaws” 
Feminism, the Family, and the Politics of the Closet **
Monique Wittig, “One is Not Born a Woman,” The Straight Mind and Other Essays**

Recommended:
Heidi Hartmann, “The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism”
Cherrie Moraga and Gloria Anzaldúa, eds., *This Bridge Called My Back*
Norma Alarcon, “The Theoretical Subjects of *This Bridge Called My Back*”
Minnie Bruce Pratt, “Identity: Skin, Blood, Heart,” *Yours in Struggle*
Patricia Hill Collins, “‘The Social Construction of Black Feminist Thought,”
*Signs* 14, 4 (Summer 1989): 745-773
Melissa V. Perry-Harris, *Sister Citizen*
“Symposium: Choice Feminism” *Perspectives on Politics* 8, 1 (2010)
Articles by Kirkpatrick, Ferguson, Snyder-Hall, Marso and Hirschmann

Mar 18  Classes Suspended

**III. Uprooting the Subject of Feminism**

Mar 25  Monique Wittig, “One is Not Born a Woman,” *The Straight Mind and Other Essays***
Joan Scott, “Experience,” *Feminists Theorize the Political***
Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble*, pp. 171-190 ***
Butler *Undoing Gender*, Introduction, ch. 10***

Recommended:
Sandra Harding, “The Instability of the Analytic Categories of Feminist Theory,”
*Signs* 22, 2 (Winter 1997): 341-365
Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality*, vol. 1: An Introduction
Michel Foucault, *Herculine Barbin Being the Recently Discovered Memoirs of a Nineteenth Century Hermaphrodite*
Judith Butler, *Bodies that Matter: On the Discursive Limits of ‘Sex’*
Donna Haraway, “Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology, and Socialist-Feminism in the Late Twentieth Century,” *Simians, Cyborgs and Women: The Reinvention of Nature*

Apr. 1  Judith Butler, *Undoing Gender*, chs. 2 and 9 ***
Wendy Brown, *States of Injury*, ch. 3 and 5 ***

Recommended:
Clare Hemmings, *Why Stories Matter: The Political Grammar of Feminist Theory*
Linda Zerilli, *Feminism and the Abyss of Freedom*

**IV. The Politics of Universalism**

Apr. 8  Susan Okin, et al. *Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women?* (selections)
Martha Nussbaum, *Sex and Social Justice*, 3-54 ***
Recommended:
Brooke Ackerly, *Universal Human Rights in a World of Difference*
Seyla Benhabib, *The Claim of Culture*, “Introduction: On the Use and Abuse of Culture” and “Multiculturalism and Gendered Citizenship,” 1-23, 82-104 **

Apr. 15  Classes Suspended

Uma Narayan, “Restoring History and Politics to ‘Third World Traditions,” *Dislocating Cultures*, 43-80**

Recommended:
Chandra Mohanty, *Feminism Without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity*, esp. chapter 3: “What’s Home Got to Do with It?” (with Biddy Martin); and chapter 9: “‘Under Western Eyes’ Revisited: Feminist Solidarity through Anticapitalist Struggles”
Leela Gandhi, *Postcolonial Theory*
Anne McClintock, *Imperial Leather: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Colonial Contest*

Apr. 29  TBD: Joan Scott, *Parité OR Deborah Gould, Moving Politics*  
(input from members of the seminar is welcome)

May 6  Paper Presentations and Feedback

Final Papers due Tuesday, May 13