

A SURVEY OF FEMINIST THEORY

Political Science 401: Advanced Seminar in Political Theory

University of Washington

Winter 2017

5 Credits

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30-2:20 p.m.

Raitt 109

Course Website: https://catalyst.uw.edu/workspace_preview/jturner3/18535/490835

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Office Hours:

Wednesday 1-3 p.m.

DESCRIPTION

A seminar-based survey of feminist theory. Themes include democracy and the diversity of human differences; the co-construction of sex, gender, sexuality, and race; postcolonial feminism; and pathologies of masculinity. Authors include Audre Lorde, Iris Marion Young, Patricia Hill Collins, Judith Butler, Chandra Talpade Mohanty, María Lugones, Elisabeth Anker, and Gloria Anzaldúa.

TEXTS

The books below are available at the University Book Store.

Audre Lorde, *Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches* (Berkeley: Crossing Point, [1984] 2007)

Iris Marion Young, *Justice and the Politics of Difference* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, [1990] 2011)

Patricia Hill Collins, *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment* (New York: Routledge, [2000] 2009)

Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity* (New York: Routledge, [1990] 2006)

Elisabeth R. Anker, *Orgies of Feeling: Melodrama and the Politics of Freedom* (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2014)

Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*, 4th ed. (San Francisco: Aunt Lute Books, [1987] 2012)

REQUIREMENTS

1. Complete each session's reading prior to seminar. I reserve the right to add readings over the course of the quarter.
2. Participate thoughtfully and regularly; listen carefully to others.

3. Write a 3-4 page paper for one session addressing the question, “How does today’s reading illuminate the meaning of (a) women’s liberation and/or (b) democratic equality?” Post the paper to Canvas at least 15 hours before the start of seminar (i.e., no later than 9:30 p.m. the night before). You will present a 5-minute synopsis of the paper at the start of seminar and the paper and presentation will form the initial basis of class discussion.
4. Write two additional 8-to-10-page papers—one at midterm and one during finals.

Paper 1: Topics distributed Thursday, February 2; paper due Friday, February 17.

Paper 2: Topics distributed Thursday, March 2; paper due Thursday, March 16.

With my approval, you may write a 20-page research paper in lieu of the two 8-to-10-page papers. To do so, you must first submit an application in the form of a 2-page prospectus no later than Monday, January 23. I reserve the right to ask you to revise and resubmit the application, as well as to reject it outright at any point in the process. If the application is accepted, the final paper is due Thursday, March 16.

EVALUATION

Quality of Participation:	25%
Quality of 3-4-Page Paper:	25%
Quality of 8-10-Page Papers or Research Paper:	50%

ADDITIONAL POLICIES

Students needing academic accommodations for a disability should contact Disability Resources for Students, 448 Schmitz Hall, V: (206) 543-8924, TTY: (206) 543-8925, uwdss@uw.edu. If you have a letter from DRS confirming the need for academic accommodations, please present this letter to me so that we can discuss and arrange accommodations.

I refer cases of suspected cheating and plagiarism to the Arts and Sciences Committee on Academic Conduct. University policies and guidelines regarding cheating and plagiarism can be found at <http://depts.washington.edu/grading/issue1/honesty.htm#misconduct>.

CLASS SCHEDULE

* = Canvas

DEMOCRACY AND DIFFERENCE

1. Tuesday, January 3: Audre Lorde, "The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House" (1979), (pp. 110-113 in *Sister Outsider*)
Audre Lorde, "Age, Race, Class, and Sex: Women Redefining Difference" (1980), (pp. 114-123 in *Sister Outsider*).
2. Thursday, January 5: Iris Marion Young, *Justice and the Politics of Difference* (1990), pp. 1-8, 39-65.
3. Tuesday, January 10: Iris Marion Young, *Justice and the Politics of Difference* (1990), pp. 122-191.
4. Thursday, January 12: Iris Marion Young, "Social Difference as a Political Resource," from *Inclusion and Democracy* (2000), pp. 81-120.*

RACE, SEX, AND SEXUALITY

5. Tuesday, January 17: Patricia Hill Collins, *Black Feminist Thought* (2000), pp. 3-48.
6. Thursday, January 19: Patricia Hill Collins, *Black Feminist Thought* (2000), pp. 51-106.
7. Tuesday, January 24: Patricia Hill Collins, *Black Feminist Thought* (2000), pp. 107-132
Audre Lorde, "Poetry is Not a Luxury" (1977), (pp. 36-39 in *Sister Outsider*)
Audre Lorde, "The Transformation of Silence into Language and Action" (1978), (pp. 40-44 in *Sister Outsider*)
Audre Lorde, "Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power" (1978), (pp. 53-59).
8. Thursday, January 26: Patricia Hill Collins, *Black Feminist Thought* (2000), pp. 133-160
Audre Lorde, "Scratching the Surface: Some Notes on Barriers to Women and Loving" (1978) (pp. 45-52).
9. Tuesday, January 31: Patricia Hill Collins, *Black Feminist Thought* (2000), pp. 187-215.
Audre Lorde, "Man Child: A Black Lesbian Feminist's Response" (1979) (72-80).
10. Thursday, February 2: Patricia Hill Collins, *Black Feminist Thought* (2000), pp. 245-290.

SEX/GENDER/PERFORMANCE

11. Tuesday, February 7: Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble* (1990), Prefaces to 1999 edition and 1990 edition (pp. vii-xxxvi of the 1999 edition), and pp. 1-46.
12. Thursday, February 9: Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble* (1990), pp. 175-203.

POSTCOLONIAL FEMINISM

13. Tuesday, February 14: Chandra Talpade Mohanty, "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonialist Discourses" (1988)*
Lila Abu Lughod, "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving? Anthropological Reflections on Cultural Relativism and its Others" (2002)*
Charles Hirschkind and Saba Mahmood, "Feminism, the Taliban, and the Politics of Counter-Insurgency" (2002)*
14. Thursday, February 16: María Lugones, "Heterosexualism and the Colonial/Modern Gender System" (2007)*

PATHOLOGIES OF MASCULINITY

15. Tuesday, February 21: Elisabeth R. Anker, *Orgies of Feeling* (2014), pp. 1-64.
16. Thursday, February 23: Elisabeth R. Anker, *Orgies of Feeling* (2014), pp. 65-148.
17. Tuesday, February 28: Elisabeth R. Anker, *Orgies of Feeling* (2014), pp. 149-202.
18. Thursday, March 2: Elisabeth R. Anker, *Orgies of Feeling* (2014), pp. 203-257.

BORDERLANDS

19. Tuesday, March 7: Gloria Anzaldúa, *Borderlands/La Frontera* (1987), pp. 19-120.
20. Thursday, March 9: Professor Turner in Indianapolis for Conference—No Class.