

# **SEXUALITY, GENDER and POWER: FEMINIST THOUGHT and POLITICS**

<b>Semester No 4</b>	<b>Code; LA-222</b>	<b>Credit Hours 3-0</b>
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## **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

1. To examine the modernism/ postmodernism debate as it particularly relates to feminism
2. To comprehend the intersectionality of race, gender, sexuality and class and how feminists can and do talk about "women"
3. To examine the relevance of feminist theory to policy issues, and which theoretical approaches are the most appropriate or have the most powerful potential.

## **COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

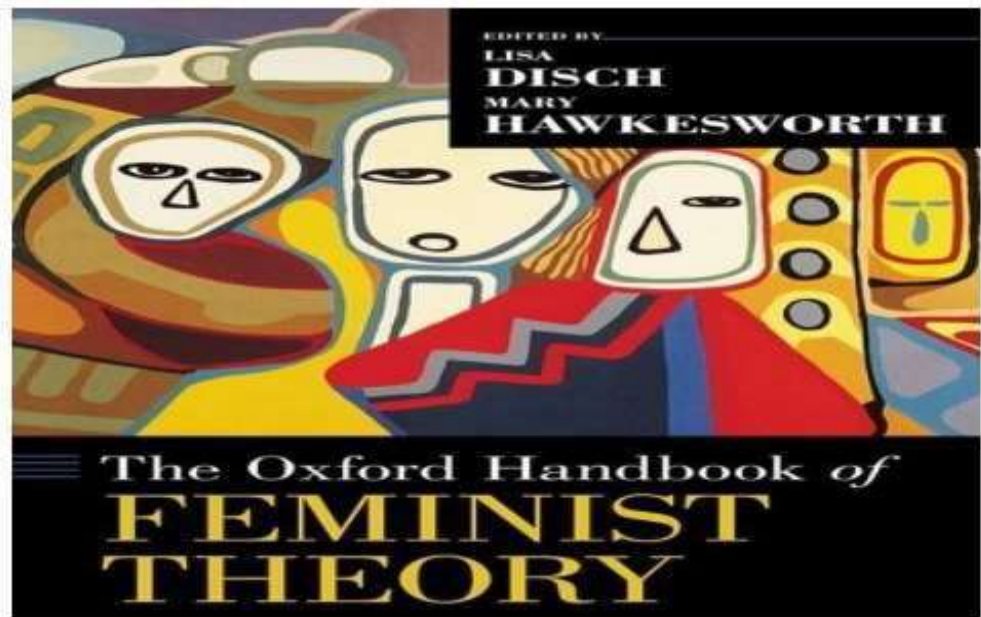
On successful completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Provide students with a critical introduction to the major concepts and debates encountered in socio-political thinking relating to gender and sexuality.
2. Help students to increase their ability to develop and express their viewpoints, both orally and in writing.
3. Build students' capacity to undertake independent research in the field of gender and sexuality studies.

## **PRESCRIBED TEXT:**

1. The Oxford Handbook of Feminist Theory, edited by Lisa Disch and Mary Hawkesworth (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018) [NU online resource].

Myra Marx Ferree, Varieties of feminism: German gender politics in global perspective (Stanford University Press, 2012)



**PREREQUISITE:**

**NIL**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course is an interdisciplinary survey of historical and contemporary feminist theories in both the United States and international contexts. While attention is given to key historical moments in feminist thought, the course stresses theoretical trends and debates in feminism today. Course themes will include: feminist epistemology and standpoint theory, epistemic privilege and epistemologies of ignorance; postcolonial critiques of western feminism, and contemporary efforts to define a transnational and anti-racist feminism, gender identity and the very viability of the category; the concept of freedom, liberation, and of women's agency in feminist narratives of liberation, theoretical implications for defining productive labor for women that is not exclusively the labor of childbirth, and the subsequent care of children and family; the ongoing search for new paradigms of embodiment and interdependency (such as feminist disability.)


**ASSESSMENT SYSTEM:**

<b>Quizzes</b>	10%
<b>Assignments</b>	10%
<b>Mid Term</b>	20%
<b>Final Term Project/ Paper</b>	20%
<b>ESE</b>	40%



**Weekly breakdown of course contents is as follows:**



<b>WEEK</b>	<b>TOPICS</b>	<b>QUIZZES</b>	<b>ASSIGNMENTS</b>
1	<p>✚ Orientation lecture—overview of structure and assessment</p> <p>✚ <b>P Key Concepts for Studying Gender, Power and Politics</b></p> <p>The idea this week is to sample some of the large array of approaches to defining gender in the context of multiple inequalities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rogers Brubaker, "Difference and Inequality," ch.1 in <i>Grounds for Difference</i> (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2015).</li> <li>• Judith Butler, "Subjects of Sex/Gender/Desire," <i>Gender Trouble</i> (Routledge, 1990), pp.1-34.</li> <li>• Raewyn Connell, "Rethinking gender from the South,"</li> <li>• <i>Feminist Studies</i> 40, no. 3 (2014): 518-539.</li> <li>• Combahee River Collective, "A Black Feminist Statement" (originally published in 1977), in Keeanga- Yamahatta Taylor, editor, <i>How We Get</i></li> </ul>		01

	<p>Free: Black Feminism and the Combahee River Collective (Chicago: Haymarket Books, 2017).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kimberle Crenshaw, "Demarginalizing the intersection of race and sex: a black feminist critique of antidiscrimination doctrine, feminist theory, and antiracist politics," University of Chicago Legal Forum (1989):139-67.</li> <li>• Anne Fausto-Sterling, Sex/Gender: Biology in a Social World (New York: Routledge, 2012), excerpt.</li> <li>• Donna J. Haraway, "'Gender' for a Marxist dictionary: the sexual politics of a word," in Simians, Cyborgs and Women (New York: Routledge, 1991).</li> <li>• Toril Moi, "What is a Woman? Sex, Gender, and the Body in Feminist Theory," pp.3-120(concentrate on pp.45-83, skim the rest) in What is a Woman? And Other Essays (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999).</li> <li>• Gayle Rubin, "The Traffic in Women: Notes on the 'Political Economy' of Sex," pp.157-210 in Toward an Anthropology of Women, edited by Rayna Reiter (New York: Monthly Review, 1975).</li> </ul>		
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2-4	<p><b>Introduction, part 2: Gender, Power, Politics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Linda Zerilli, "Politics," pp.632-50 in The Oxford Handbook of Feminist Theory, edited by Lisa Disch and Mary Hawkesworth (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018) [NU online resource].</li> <li>• Shatema Threadcraft, "North American necro politics and gender: On# blacklivesmatter and black femicide," South Atlantic Quarterly 116, no. 3 (2017): 553-579.</li> <li>• Ann Orloff, "Remaking Power and Politics," Social Science History (2012) 36(1): 1-21.</li> <li>• Saidiya Hartman, "The belly of the world: A note on Black women's labors." Souls 18, no. 1 (2016): 166-173.</li> <li>• Nancy Fraser, "Mapping the Feminist Imagination: From Redistribution to Recognition to Representation," Constellations 12(2005):295-307.</li> </ul>	01	
5-6	<p><b>Recommended:</b>  Center for Women and Politics, Rutgers University:  <a href="http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/current-numbers">http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/current-numbers</a>  Center for Women's Global Leadership, Rutgers University <a href="http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/">http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/</a>  International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance  (International IDEA), Stockholm, Sweden  <a href="https://www.idea.int/publications/catalogue/politicalgender-equalityandglobal-state-democracy-indices">https://www.idea.int/publications/catalogue/politicalgender-equalityandglobal-state-democracy-indices</a></p> <p>Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development  (OECD)  <a href="http://www.oecd.org/gender/">http://www.oecd.org/gender/</a> United Nations Women (UNWomen)  <a href="http://www.unwomen.org">http://www.unwomen.org</a></p> <p> <b>Gender and States in Global Context</b></p> <p>States, Empires, Settler Colonialism, Capitalism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Julia Adams and Steve Pincus, "Imperial States in the Age of Discovery," pp. 333-348 in The Many Hands of the State: Theorizing Political Authority</li> </ul>	01	01

	<p>and Social Control, edited by Kimberly Morgan and Ann Shola Orloff (Cambridge University Press, 2017).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paisley Currah, "The State," <i>Transgender Studies Quarterly</i> 1(1-2) (2014): 197–200. doi:</li> <li>• <a href="https://doi.org.turing.library.northwestern.edu/10.1215/23289252.2400010">https://doi.org.turing.library.northwestern.edu/10.1215/23289252.2400010</a></li> <li>• Evelyn Nakano Glenn, "Settler colonialism as structure: A framework for comparative studies of US race and gender formation," <i>Sociology of Race and Ethnicity</i> 1, no. 1 (2015): 52-72.</li> <li>• María Lugones, "Heterosexualism and the Colonial/Modern Gender System," <i>Hypatia</i> 22 (2007): 186-209.</li> <li>• Jennifer L. Morgan, <i>Laboring women: Reproduction and Gender in New World Slavery</i> (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2011), chapter 1 (pp.12-49).</li> <li>• Kimberly Morgan and Ann Shola Orloff, editors, "Introduction," <i>The Many Hands of the State: Theorizing Political Authority and Social Control</i> (Cambridge University Press, 2017).</li> <li>• Carole Pateman, "Sexual contract," <i>The Wiley Blackwell encyclopedia of gender and sexuality studies</i> (2016) (3pp.) <a href="https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/9781118663219.wbegss468">https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/9781118663219.wbegss468</a></li> </ul> <p>Mrinalini Sinha, 2000. "Mapping the imperial social formation: a modest proposal for feminist history." <i>Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society</i> 25(4): 1077-1082.</p>		
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7 -	<p> <b>Gender Justice and States</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mala Htun and Laurel Weldon, States and Gender Justice: State Action on Women's</li> <li>• Rights around the World (Cambridge University Press, 2018).</li> </ul> <p>Forum on States and Gender Justice: State Action on Women's Rights around the World in Social Politics, 26/4(2019):501-534, articles by Shirin Rai, Sumi Madhok, Mary Daly, Philip Ayoub, Georgina Waylen.</p>	01	01
8	<p> <b>Gendered social movements and political participation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Myra Marx Ferree, Varieties of feminism: German gender politics in global perspective (Stanford University Press, 2012), introduction.</li> <li>• Nancy Fraser, "Feminism, Capitalism and the Cunning of History," New Left Review 56(2009):97-117.</li> <li>• María Lugones, "Toward a decolonial feminism," Hypatia 25, no. 4 (2010): 742-759.</li> <li>• David Paternotte and Roman Kuhar, "The anti-gender movement in comparative</li> </ul>		
	<p>perspective," pp. 253-276 in Anti-gender campaigns in Europe: Mobilizing against equality, edited by Roman Kuhar and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Paternotte (Rowman and Littlefield, 2017). Raka Ray, "Women's movements and political fields: A comparison of two Indian cities." Social Problems 45, no. 1 (1998): 2136.</li> <li>• Laurel Westbrook, Unlivable lives: Violence and identity in transgender activism (University of California Press, 2020), excerpt.</li> </ul>		
9	<b>Mid Term</b>		

10	<p> <b>Political Agency, Political Subjects: citizenship, interests, ideology, identification</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Virginia Woolf, <i>A Room of One's Own</i> (Hogarth Press, 1929).</li> <li>• Saba Mahmood, <i>The Politics of Piety: The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject</i> (Princeton University Press, 2004), excerpt.</li> <li>• Rogers Brubaker and Frederick Cooper, "Beyond 'identity'," <i>Theory and society</i> 29/1(2000):1-47.</li> <li>• Bettcher, Talia Mae. "Trapped in the Wrong Theory: Rethinking Trans Oppression and Resistance." <i>Signs</i> 39, no. 2 (2014): 383–406.  <a href="https://doi.org/10.1086/673088">https://doi.org/10.1086/673088</a></li> </ul>		
11- 12	<p> <b>Sexuality, Love and Social Theory</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Materialist Feminism, the Self and Global Late Modernity: Some Consequences for Intimacy and Sexuality <i>Stevi Jackson</i></li> <li>• Nation, State and Queers: Ethnosexual Identities in the Interface Between Social and Personal in Contemporary Croatia <i>Katja Kahlina</i></li> <li>• What Kind of Power is 'Love Power'? <i>Anna G. Jónasdóttir</i></li> <li>• Sexuality: The Contradictions of Love and Work <i>Valerie Bryson</i></li> </ul>	01	01
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theorising Sexuality and Power in Caribbean Gender Relations <i>Violet Eudine Barriteau</i></li> <li>• Love Impossible: Troubling Tales of Eroticized Difference in Buenos Aires <i>Maria Törnqvist</i></li> </ul>		



13- 14	<p> <b>Power and Politics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contract Theory and Global Change: The Intersections of Gender, Race and Class <i>Carole Pateman and Charles W. Mills</i></li> <li>The Politics of Prostitution Revisited: Trends in Policy and Research <i>Joyce Outshoorn</i> .</li> <li>Men, Masculinities and Power in Contemporary China: Reflections on the Phenomenon of Bao Ernai <i>Xingkui Zhang</i></li> <li>Sexual Politics and Globalization: Triangulation of Relationships Among Taishang Bosses, Bosses' Wives and Chinese Women <i>Bih-Er Chou</i></li> <li>Notes on Femmeinist Agency <i>Ulrika Dahl</i></li> <li>'Why Are You Doing This to Me?' Identity, Power and Sexual Violence in War <i>Cynthia Cockburn</i></li> </ul>	01	
15- 16	<p><b>Contemporary Approaches to Interest, Solidarity and Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global/Transnational Gender/Sexual Scenarios <i>Jeff Hearn</i></li> <li>The Curious Resurrection of First Wave Feminism in the U.S. Elections: An Intersectional Critique of the Rhetoric of Solidarity and Betrayal <i>Kimberlé Crenshaw</i></li> <li>How is Global Gender Solidarity Possible? <i>Ann Ferguson</i></li> <li>Submission of Final Term Project</li> </ul>		01
17	<b>Revision</b>		
18	<b>END SEMESTER EXAMINATION</b>		