

Spring 1-15-2004

WST 4309-001: Women's Studies

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Women's Studies 4309--001
Course Policy Statement and Syllabus
Spring 2004

Instructor: Linda S. Coleman

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Office Hours: M & W2; F 11

Required Texts

- Kolmar & Bartkowski, *Feminist Theory: A Reader*
- MacNabb et al., *Transforming the Disciplines: A Women's Studies Primer*
- McCann & Kim, *Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives*

Goals

Over the course of the semester, we will read a range of feminist theories, charting their assumptions, goals, and implications for change. In addition, we will focus on how core feminist concerns, from the personal to the social to the political, have been shaped by the theorists and activists we read. Finally, each of you will have an opportunity to study the effects of feminist theory and practice on the discipline or profession you have chosen.

Course requirements

- Careful reading of all assigned materials
- Regular in-class short writes and reports
- Active class participation
- Midterm and final examinations
- A final project (including a class presentation)

Grading

Class participation and short writes/reports (25%); midterm exam (15%); final exam (20%); final project (40%)

Information for Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

Course Syllabus

In order to accommodate the needs of the class, the following schedule of discussion, reading, and writing assignments is tentative. You will be notified of any changes in class.

INTRODUCING THE THEORIES AND ISSUES

Week 1 (1/12-16)

M—Introductions

W—K&B 2-4 and M&K 12-23

F—K&B 11-15, 28-33; M&K 12-23

Week 2 (1/19-23)

M—No Class

W—M&K 26-49

F—M&K 50-77

FIRST WAVE THEORIES AND PRACTICE (AMERICAN AND BRITISH)

Week 3 (1/26-30)

M—K&B 54-55; 56 (starting with Wollstonecraft)-65; 66-75

W—K&B 56; 66-67; 91-95; and 75-80; 102-106; 106-110

F—Finish discussions of the First Wave: reports on Mary Astell, Mary Worley Montagu, Christine de Pisan, Julian of Norwich, Jane Anger, and/or Margaret Fox

TRANSITIONAL AND SECOND WAVE THEORIES AND PRACTICE (AMERICAN AND BRITISH)

Week 4 (2/2-6)

M-- K&B 116-117; 118-119; 123-127; 130-134 (and review deBeauvoir from week 2)

W—"Yellow Wallpaper" at <http://etext.lib.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/GilYell.html>

F— K&B 141-144 [Kennedy] and 155-160 [Foster]; and 162-3; 246-47

Feminist Theories: Questions for Analysis

What are the basic arguments? Central Issues?
Who are the major advocates and with which wave of feminism are they associated?
What are the strengths of the approach?
What kinds of evidence are used to support the position?
What are the implications for personal and social change?
What are the primary criticisms of the position? Who articulates these criticisms?
Other relevant issues?