

Feminist Literary Theories

ENG 460.01

Spring, 2014

Instructor: Prof. Cynthia Huff

Office: STV 333 D

Office Hours: 10:15-10:45, 1:30-2, and 3: 15-3:45 T, 1:30- 2 R

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Meeting time: 5:30-8:20 W

Meeting place: STV 409 G

Required Textbooks:

Crabtree, Robbin D., David Alan Sapp, and Adela C. Liona, eds. *Feminist Pedagogy*

Hackett, Elizabeth, and Sally Harlander, eds. *Theorizing Feminisms*

Hall, Kim Q. *Feminist Disability Studies*

Haraway, Donna. *The Haraway Reader*

hooks, bell. *Teaching Critical Thinking*

Salih, Sara, ed., with Judith Butler, *The Judith Butler Reader*

Walters, Margaret, *Feminism: A Very Short Introduction*

Suggested Text:

Gamble, Sarah, ed. *The Routledge Companion to Feminism and Postfeminism*

Course Description:

This course will emphasize pedagogy throughout, thereby allowing students to count it for their pedagogy requirement. Feminist theories have traditionally been inter- and trans-disciplinarily conceived, making them excellent lenses with which to consider our English Studies model, not only in the ways that it articulates boundary crossings among the sub-disciplines, but also in the ways the sub-disciplines intersect with and are informed by transformative pedagogy.

Our explorations into feminist theories will consist of three main parts. The first one will be foundational. Here we will explore key concepts and theorists across the interdisciplinarity of feminisms, the pedagogical implications of feminist theorists, and the historical development of and debates within feminisms. This approach will help historically situate schools of thought and provide a vocabulary with which to discuss and critique feminisms, as well as introduce students to many of the major theorists, including some more recent ones. In the second part we will focus more specifically on pedagogy in both its theoretical and practical articulations, so that we can explore how feminisms have challenged and changed pedagogical practice and which of these strategies work best in an English Studies classroom. Finally, we will talk about some contemporary foundational feminist theorists and consider how they have revisioned earlier feminist thought and expanded and modified feminist enquiry, as well as the ways in which today's feminist theorists theoretically and practically engage with and affect our daily cultural practices in areas such as social justice, disability studies, animal studies, and international issues.

Course Format:

The course will be run as a discussion class, though there will be occasional introductory lectures. Students will write three 2-page responses designed to help clarify pertinent issues in feminist theories. Students will also be required to present one oral report on a theorist or issue of their choice. The oral report may serve as the basis for their 20-page term paper.

Course Objectives:

The objectives for ENG 460 include the following: to increase graduate students' awareness of the multiplicity and applicability of feminist theories; to further graduate students' ability to examine critically and synthesize the theoretical assumptions and arguments of feminist theories as these fit into both the English Studies model, particularly its pedagogical component, and the discourse strategies of theories pertinent to English Studies; to encourage and perfect graduate students' abilities to practice and effectively execute oral and written communication with an eye to preparing students to participate in the wider academic community of scholarship and pedagogical exchange; to present contemporary research in feminist theories within its historical context; and to examine the ways in which sexuality, gender roles, race and class, among other vectors, are simultaneously rhetorically constructed and challenged within literature, theory, and social discourses, as well as globally and across species and ability boundaries.

Course Grades and Assignments:

In-Class Discussion: 10 %
 Responses: 30%
 Oral Report: 25%
 Research Paper 35%

WGS GRADUATE CERTIFICATE:

This course counts for the WGS Graduate Certificate: The graduate certificate in Women's and Gender Studies is an option for students whose interest in women and gender issues leads them toward particular courses and thesis topics in their department/school and to seek further work in interdisciplinary feminist theory and methods. The graduate certificate requires a 12-hour course of study. Students must complete WGS 490 or ENG 460, WGS 400 plus and a graduate-level elective course.

For information on the certificate please visit: <http://wgs.illinoisstate.edu/academics/graduate/>

Attending class, reading all of the assigned texts, coming to class prepared to discuss the assigned material, and turning in assignments on time is expected. Unless there are highly unusual circumstances, I assume you will not miss class.

Schedule:

Date	Readings	Assignments
Jan. 15	Course Introduction, Walters	
Jan. 22	Hackett & Haslanger, 2-92	
Jan. 29	Hackett & Haslanger, 94-173	
Feb. 5	Hackett & Haslanger, 338-456	
Feb. 12	Hackett & Haslanger, 458-564	First Response Due
Feb. 19	Crabtree, Sapp, & Licon	
Feb. 26	hooks	
Mar. 5	Salih, 1-179	
Mar. 19	Salih, 183-277	Second Response Due
Mar. 26	Salih, 278-356	
April 2	Haraway, 1-197	
April 9	Haraway, 198- 344	
April 16	Hall, 1-189	Third Response Due
April 23	Work on research papers	
April 30	Hall, 193-309	
May 5		Research paper due no later than 1:00 p. m. on Monday, May 5, at my office, STV 333 D.