

WMST 201
SUNY Geneseo
Fall 2013
TTH 1:00-2:15

Feminism in Philosophy and Literature

Instructor: Heidi Savage
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This is an introduction to various historical and contemporary feminist philosophies and to issues of special importance to feminist philosophers. The course will introduce students to both philosophical analyses of feminism, various feminist political movements, and to some of the accompanying literary work. The course will also involve studying feminist perspectives and literature on the topics of personal identity, as well as feminist perspectives on the nature of morality.

Students will be asked (1) to attend classes, and to participate in those classes (2) to read substantial selections from the assigned authors, (3) to write two tests over the semester one take home that is due on **Oct 10th** and the second occurring during the scheduled exam period (4) to write two critical analyses due on **Oct 24th** and **Dec 9th**.

Both of your critical analyses must be submitted to mycourses in order to receive a grade. You are highly encouraged to work collaboratively with me on your written work. If you would like to submit drafts, please do so 10 days before the official deadline. Drafts will be considered only one time by the instructor for each assignment.

Each test will count for 20% of your final grade, as will each critical analysis. The rest of your grade will be determined by your participation in the class the form of which you will choose at the beginning of the semester. This will include choosing one form of participation from each of the two following categories:

Classroom participation (you must email the instructor the day after you complete your participation in order to receive a grade)

Leading one class discussion

Providing summary notes and questions for one class (requires instructor's permission)

Individual participation

Participating in an online discussion at least once

Attending office hours for an in-depth discussion at least once (requires instructor's permission)

Missed exams will be excused only if there is a good reason presented to the instructor within a reasonable period of time and arrangements to take the missed test are made within a week of the official testing date. Written assignments without a good reason for being late will be penalized

1/3 of a letter grade per day late. Whether you have a good reason for missing any of your deadlines will be assessed on a case by case basis.

Additionally, any students receiving an A-range grade may have their work distributed to their fellow classmates in an anonymous form. If you do not wish this, please get in touch with me via email to ensure your work is not distributed to the other students in the class.

While you will not be expected to have read all of the novels until the end of the semester, you will be expected to have oriented yourself to the basic themes, plot-lines, and major characters of each novel according to the class schedule.

You should familiarize yourself with Savage's personal website as soon as possible and check it regularly for announcements about the course, for supplemental readings, and for information about assignments.

Texts

Academic works

Schneir, *Feminism: The Essential Historical Writings*, Vintage.

Nicholson, *The Second-Wave: A Reader in Feminist Theory*, Routledge

Card, *Feminist Ethics*, University Press of Kansas.

Literary Works

Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper" (available online)

Dorfman, *Death and the Maiden*

Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale*

Bronte, *Wuthering Heights*

Leslie Marmon Silko "Yellow Woman" (available online)

Cunningham, *The Hours*

Walker, *The Color Purple*

Allison, *Bastard Out of Carolina*

Eugenides, *Middlesex*

Class Topics*

Aug 27th-Sept 3rd

Overview of Philosophical Analysis and Feminist Philosophy

Philosophical Analysis and Concepts

Political Philosophy

Ethics

Liberal Feminism

Libertarian Feminism

Marxist-Socialist Feminism

Radical Feminism

Lesbian Feminism

Psychoanalytic and Cultural Feminism

Standpoint Feminism

Postmodernism and Queer Theory

Frye "Oppression" (online)

Writing and argument workshops

Sept 5th-10th

Civil rights, Marriage, Education

Wollstonecraft (from Schneir)

Cady Stanton (from Schneir)

Nussbaum (online)

Sept 12th-17th

Marriage and the Dangers of Privileged Domesticity in Fiction

Gilman "The Yellow Wallpaper" (online)

Bronte

Cunningham

Sept 19th

Workshop: formulating a thesis and writing argumentatively

Sept 24th-Oct 1st

Femininity, Sexuality, Reproductive rights

Beauvoir (from Nicholson)

Rubin (from Nicholson)

MacKinnon (from Nicholson)

Oct 3rd

Objectification and Its Dangers in Fiction

Atwood *HMT*

Oct 8th-Oct 17th

Race, Class, Culture

Firestone (from Nicholson)

Woolf (from Schneir)

Hill Collins (from Nicholson)

Oct 22nd-24th

Racial Identities in Fiction

Leslie Marmon Silko (online)

Walker

Oct 29th

Class Identities in Fiction

Allison

Oct 31st-Nov 7th

Feminist Theorizing, Prospects, Intersectionality

Lugones (from Card FE)

Pierce (from Card FE)

Jaggar (from Card FE)

Nov 12th

Intersectional Identities in Fiction

Eugenides

Nov 14th-19th

Trauma, Identity, and Moral Character

Brison (available online)

McFall (from Card FE)

Nov 21st

Writing workshop

Nov 26th

Final paper thesis presentations

December 3rd

Trauma and Redress in Fiction

Dorfman

December 5th

Review class