

University of Waterloo
PSCI-370
Women and Politics
Fall 2012

Tuesday and Thursday 1pm-2:20pm, MC 4040

Instructor: Dr. Anna Drake
Email Address: amdrake@uwaterloo.ca
Office Location: HH 317
Office Hours: Tuesday 2:30-4:30 and by appointment

This course examines gender and politics with a particular emphasis on questions of power, equality, oppression, representation, and autonomy. What does it mean to be a feminist? Are there any “rules” and what does this mean for those who disagree with particular goals? We will examine the ways that gender is informed by—and challenges—key political ideas (such as the public-private distinction, contract, rights, and justice). We will look at the various ways that women (and men) mobilize to pursue women’s rights, examine major legal, political, social, and economic developments, and pay particular attention to challenges that arise. The category “women” will be problematized as we examine questions of identity and look at the pursuit of gender equality alongside other forms of equality (race, class, sexuality, etc). This intersectional approach will guide much of the course’s analysis. We will highlight conceptual and practical problems by looking at contemporary issues and policy questions (slutwalk, gender and the media, abortion, protest, etc).

Grade distribution:

Critical Analysis	20%
Final exam	30%
Introduction	10%
Essay	40%

Format

This is a lecture course that will also contain elements of class discussion. Students are expected to come to lectures having completed the assigned readings and ought to be prepared to engage with the issues.

Readings

All materials are available on reserve at the library. Most of these are e-readings; where the required materials are hard copies they are available at Dana Porter.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Critical Analysis

Students are required to write a short (4 page, double-spaced) critical analysis of ONE of the readings found in weeks 5-12.* You should clearly state and develop your own perspective on the reading and show a careful engagement with the text (use the article for textual support). Papers should be analytical, not descriptive.

Due: Thursday October 4th (in class)

*Students who wish to write on one of the articles from weeks 1-4 may do so, but these assignments must be submitted in the class for which the reading is assigned.

Essay

Students are required to write a 10-12 page (double-spaced; standard font and margins) research essay. You are free to write on an issue of your choice, but students MUST ground their paper in one of the course's themes and the essay MUST be sufficiently analytical. Papers will (in addition to content, organization, and style) be graded for engagement with the central issues of the course and of the texts, and for original thought.

Due: Monday December 3rd (in the PSCI dropbox)

Proposal

You must submit a short (one page) essay proposal. In the proposal you should set out the problem that you plan to address, include a brief overview of how you plan to structure the paper, and identify your main sources. Proposals will not be graded for content, but you MUST hand one in and have it approved before you submit your introduction and final paper. Failure to do so may result in a paper grade of "0".

Due Thursday October 25th (in class) *students who would like feedback earlier on can submit before this date

Introduction:

Students must submit the introduction to their essay. This should be a polished piece of writing and should conform to the requirements (we will discuss this in class). In order to complete this assignment well you are advised to have written a draft of your essay.

Due: Thursday November 15th (in class)*students who would like feedback earlier on can submit before this date

Final Exam:

A 2 hour final exam will be scheduled during the exam period. The details of this will be discussed in class.

Late penalties:

The critical analysis, research essay, and introduction are subject to a 5% per day late penalty. This INCLUDES weekend days.

Policy on extensions:

Extensions will be granted for documented medical or compassionate reasons only. Please speak with me as soon as a problem arises.

Extensions will not be granted for a heavy workload or for computer problems. It is strongly recommended that students use a program such as dropbox to continually back up their files.

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm>.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, <http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm>.

Academic Integrity website (Arts):

http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo): <http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/>

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction

Tuesday September 11th

Introduction

Thursday September 13th

Iris Marion Young. 1997. "Gender as Seriality: Thinking about Women as a Social Collective." *Intersecting Voices: Dilemmas of Gender, Political Philosophy, and Policy*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. 12-37.

I: INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

Week 2: Equality

Tuesday September 18th

Janine Brodie. 2008. "Putting Gender Back In: Women and Social Policy Reform in Canada." In *Gendering the Nation-State: Canadian and Comparative Perspectives*, Yasmeen Abu-Laban, ed. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press. 165-184.

Thursday September 20th

Carole Pateman. 1988. "Contracting In." *The Sexual Contract* Stanford: Stanford University Press. 1-18.

Week 3: Political Representation

Tuesday September 25th

Elizabeth Cady Stanton. 2003. "Address at Seneca Falls." *Ripples of Hope: Great American Civil Rights Speeches*. New York: Basic Civitas Books. 36-42.

Sojourner Truth. 2003. "Ar'n't I a Woman?" *Ripples of Hope: Great American Civil Rights Speeches*. New York: Basic Civitas Books. 43-44.

Susan B. Anthony. 2003. "Suffrage and the Working Woman." *Ripples of Hope: Great American Civil Rights Speeches*. New York: Basic Civitas Books. 98-102.

Thursday September 27th

Linda Trimble. 2008. "Assembling Women, Gendering Assemblies." In *Gendering the Nation-State: Canadian and Comparative Perspectives*, Yasmeen Abu-Laban, ed. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press. 79-96.

Week 4: Representation and the Media

Tuesday October 2nd

Rosalind Gill. 2006. "Gender and the Media." *Gender and the Media*. Malden, MA: Polity. 7-41.

Sarah Warn. 2006. "Biracial Visibility and the L Word." In *Reading the L Word: Outing Contemporary Television*, Kim Akass and Janet McCabe, eds. New York: I.B. Tauris. 189-197.

Thursday October 4th

Heather Latimer. 2009. "Popular Culture and Reproductive Politics: *Juno*, *Knocked Up* and the enduring legacy of *The Handmaid's Tale*." *Feminist Theory* 10 (2): 211-226.

Week 5: Intersectionality and Essentialism

Tuesday October 9th

Kimberle Crenshaw. 1991. "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color." *Stanford Law Review* 43 (6): 1241-1299.

Thursday October 11th

Audre Lorde. 1984. "Learning from the 60s" (134-144) and "The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House" (110-113.) *Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches*. Trumansburg, NY: Crossing Press.

Week 6: Feminism and Multiculturalism

Tuesday October 16th

Leti Volpp. 2001. "Feminism versus Multiculturalism." *Columbia Law Review* 101 (5): 1181-1218.

Thursday October 18th

Maria Pia Lara. 2006. "Globalizing Women's Rights: Overcoming the Apartheid." In *Sexual Justice/Cultural Justice*, Barbara Arneil et. al, eds. New York: Routledge. 169-189.

II: POWER

Week 7: Feminism and Autonomy

Tuesday October 23rd

Sonya Charles. 2010. "How Should Feminist Autonomy Theorists Respond to the Problem of Internalized Oppression?" *Social Theory and Practice* 36 (3): 409-428.

Thursday October 25th

Mary Gaitskill. 1989. "Secretary." *Bad Behavior* New York: Vintage Books. 131-147.

Recommended: Steven Shainberg. 2002. "Secretary." [movie]

Week 8: Oppression

Tuesday October 30th

Marilyn Frye. 1983. "Oppression." *The Politics of Reality: Essays in Feminist Theory*. New York: The Crossing Press. 1-16.

Thursday November 1st

bell hooks. 2000. "Feminism: A Movement to end Sexist Oppression." *Feminist Theory: From Margin to Center*. Cambridge, MA: South End Press. 18-33.

Week 9: Oppression

Tuesday November 6th

Chandra Mohanty. 2003. "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses" *Feminism Without Borders*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. 17-42.

Thursday November 8th

Chandra Mohanty. 2003. "Cartographies of Struggle: Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism." *Feminism Without Borders*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. 43-84.

III: RESISTANCE AND REFORM

Week 10: Gender, Rights, and Justice

Tuesday November 13th

Sherene Razack. 1991. "LEAF Cases: Feminist Methods in the Courtroom." *Canadian Feminism and the Law: The Women's Legal Education and Action Fund and the Pursuit of Equality*. Toronto: Second Story Press. 73-97.

Thursday November 15th

Monique Deveaux. 2006. "Women's Rights as Human Rights." *Gender and Justice in Multicultural Liberal States*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 54-88.

Week 11: Mobilization and Protest

Tuesday November 20th

Betty Friedan. 1963. "The Problem That Has No Name." *The Feminine Mystique*. New York: W. W. Norton & Co. 15-32.

Thursday November 22nd

Tasha N. Dubriwny. 2005. "Consciousness-Raising as Collective Rhetoric: The Articulation of Experience in the Redstockings' Abortion Speak-Out of 1969." *Quarterly Journal of Speech* 91 (4): 395-422.

Week 12: Protest and Action

Tuesday November 27th

Tracy Ann Essoglou. 1995. "Louder Than Words: A WAC Chronicle." In *But is it Art? The Spirit of Art as Activism*, Nina Felshin, ed. Seattle: Bay Press. 333-372.

Thursday November 29th

Anaheed Alani. 2012. "Smells Like Teen Spirit." *Bust* August/September. 38-45.