

Feminist Theory 116A  
UCSD Fall 2002  
Monday & Wednesday, 5:00-6:20pm  
Center Hall, Rm. 214

Karen Shelby, Instructor  
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Office Hours: Tues. 10:30am-11:30am  
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**Scope of the Course:** In this course we will explore some of the issues with which feminist theorists have been wrestling, both historically and in a more contemporary moment. There is no unitary feminist theory. As we will see, there are marked differences among the approaches that feminists have taken in their pursuit of social change, and with the goal of establishing a more just social order. As we work through the course, we will explore the strengths and weaknesses of the approaches we encounter. We will also see recurrent themes of subjectivity, belonging, becoming and participating in and contesting one's communities.

**Expectations:** You are expected to have read the assigned material for each class *before* you come to class that afternoon. This will facilitate your participation in class discussions, establishing a conversation that will help us all work through material that can be very complex, challenging, and that will demand careful, thoughtful attention. I will provide study questions for each day's assigned reading.

**Course Materials:** The articles listed are copied in a course reader which can be purchased from University Readers. Their representatives will make the reader available for purchase in class during the first two weeks of the course.

**Your Grade:** Grades will be based on reading quizzes (15%), a paper (30%), a midterm exam (25%), and a cumulative final exam (30%). In order to pass this course, a passing grade must be achieved on all written portions of the coursework (quizzes taken together).

**Schedule of Courses:**

Monday 9/30 – Introduction

- “Seneca Falls Declaration,” a.k.a. “Declaration of Sentiments”

Wednesday 10/2 – Liberal Feminism and its Critics

- Sojourner Truth “Ain’t I A Woman?” (*The Oxford Book of Women’s Writing in the U.S.* p.441-442)
- Mary Wollstonecraft, “A Vindication of the Rights of Woman” (selections: p.3-7, 185-192)
- Kathy Rudy, “Liberal Theory and Feminist Politics” (*Women & Politics*, v.20(2) 1999: 33-57)

Monday 10/7 – Marxist and Socialist Feminism I

- Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels, “Communist Manifesto” & “Origins of Family, Private Property and the State” (selections -- *Marx Engels Reader*, p.487-489 & 734-744)
- Seyla Benhabib and Drucilla Cornell, “Introduction: Beyond the Politics of Gender” (selection, *Feminism as Critique*, p.1-5)
- Heidi Hartmann, “The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism: Towards a More Progressive Union” (*Women and Revolution*, ed. Sargent, p.1-41)

Wednesday 10/9 – Marxist and Socialist Feminism II

- Iris Young, “Beyond the Unhappy Marriage” (*Women and Revolution*, ed. Sargent, p.43-69)
- “Combahee River Collective Statement” (B. Smith, ed. *Home Girls: A Black Feminist Anthology* p.264-274 [2000], p.272-282 [1983])
- Nancy Hartsock, “The Feminist Standpoint: Developing the Ground for a Specifically Feminist Historical Materialism” (*Feminism and Methodology*, p.157-180)

### Monday 10/14 – Feminism and the State I

- Kum-Kum Bhavnani and Margaret Coulson, “Transforming Socialist Feminism: The Challenge of Racism” (*Feminist Review* #23, p.81-92)
- Wendy Brown, “Finding the Man in the State” (*Feminist Studies* 18, #1, 1992 p.8-34)

### Wednesday 10/16 – Feminism and the State II

- Kathleen Jones, “Citizenship in a Woman-Friendly Polity” (*Signs* 15, #4, 1990: p.781-812)
- Lisa Duggan, “Queering the State” (in *Sex Wars: Sexual Dissent and Political Culture*, p.179-193; cf. *Social Text* 39, Summer 1994, p.1-14)

### Monday 10/21 – Feminism and Race I

- Patricia Hill Collins, “The Social Construction of Black Feminist Thought” (*Signs* 14:4, 1989, p.745-773)
- Kimberle Crenshaw, “Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory, and Antiracist Politics” in Weisberg, ed., *Feminist Legal Theory: Foundations*, p.383-395)

### Wednesday 10/23 – Feminism and Race II

- Gloria Anzaldua, ch. 7 of *Borderlands: La Frontera* (p.77-91, notes p.97-98)
- Patricia Williams, “Hate Radio: Why we need to tune in to Limbaugh and Stern,” (*Ms.* March/April 1994, p.25-29)
- Ien Ang, “I’m a feminist but... ‘Other’ women and postnational feminism” (excerpted in *Feminism and Race*, ed. Kum-Kum Bhavnani, p.394-409)

### Monday 10/28 – Post-Colonial Feminisms

- Trinh T. Minh-Ha “Not you/like you: postcolonial women and the interlocking questions of identity and difference” (*Inscriptions* 3/4: 71-77)
- Aihwa Ong, “Colonialism and Modernity” (*Inscriptions* 3/4: 79-93)

### Wednesday 10/30 – **Midterm Exam**

### Monday 11/4 – Psychoanalytic Feminism and its Critics

- Freud, “On Femininity” (Lecture XXXIII, *The Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud*, trans. James Strachey, vol.XXII, p.112-135)
- Hortense Spillers, “Mama’s Baby, Papa’s Maybe” (*diacritics* 17, #2, Summer 1987, p.65-81)
- Rosi Braidotti, “The Politics of Ontological Difference” (*Between Feminism and Psychoanalysis*, p.89-105, ed. T. Brennan)

### Wednesday 11/6 – Troubling Femininity

- Simone de Beauvoir, “Introduction” to *The Second Sex* (p.xix-xxxvi)
- Monique Wittig, “One is Not Born a Woman” (*The Straight Mind and Other Essays* p.9-20)
- Judith Butler, “Variations on Sex and Gender: Beauvoir, Wittig, and Foucault” (*Feminism as Critique*, ed Benhabib & Cornell, p.128-142)

### Monday 11/11 – **No Class – Veteran’s Day Holiday** [a great opportunity to get ahead on your reading!]

### Wednesday 11/13 – Troubling Masculinity

- *Tough Guise* [in-class film – read ahead!]

Monday 11/18 – Troubling Femininity II

- Judith Butler, *Gender Trouble*, p.1-34 and 136-149
- Linda Zerilli, “Doing Without Knowing: Feminism’s Politics of the Ordinary” (*Political Theory*, 1998, p.435-458)

Wednesday 11/20 – Knowledge and Feminist Politics

- Mary Hawkesworth, “Knowers, Knowing, Known” (*Signs* 1989, v.14, #3, p.533-557)
- Kirstie McClure, “The Issue of Foundations: Scientized Politics, Politicized Science, and Feminist Critical Practice” (*Feminists Theorize the Political*, p.341-368)

Monday 11/25 – Feminism in Postmodernity

- Jane Flax, “The End of Innocence” (*Feminists Theorize the Political*, p.445-463)
- Judith Butler “Contingent Foundations: Feminism and the Question of ‘Postmodernism’” (*Praxis International*, v.11, #2, July 1991, p.150-165)
- bell hooks, “Postmodern Blackness” (*Yearning: Race, Gender and Cultural Politics*, 1990 p.23-31)

Wednesday 11/27 – **Paper Due by Noon in the Main Office of Political Science, 3rd Floor, SSB**

Monday 12/2 – Activism and Engagement I

- Chela Sandoval, “U.S. Third World Feminism: The Theory and Method of Oppositional Consciousness in the Postmodern World” (*Genders* #10, U of Texas P, 1991, p.1-23)
- Chantal Mouffe, “Feminism, Citizenship and Radical Democratic Politics” (*Feminists Theorize the Political*, p.369-384)

Wednesday 12/4 – Activism and Engagement II

- Holloway Sparks, “Dissident Citizenship: Democratic Theory, Political Courage, and Activist Women” *Hypatia*, vol. 12, #4 (Fall 1997): 74-110
- Milan Women’s Bookstore Collective “Introduction” (*Sexual Difference* p.25-34)

**Monday 12/9 – 7p.m.-10p.m. – Cumulative Final Exam according to the University’s final exam schedule, subject to change.**