

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: **Advanced Theory (Feminist Literary Theory)**

Course Number and Section:

ENGLISH

3265G 550

Instructor Name(s): Sarah Blanchette

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

There has been a proliferation of narratives of female empowerment in the 21st century—from Moana (2016) to Barbie (2021)—but, paradoxically, there has also been an increase in political narratives that seek to reinscribe traditional gender stereotypes and biological determinism, most evidently seen in the overturning of Roe v. Wade by the U.S. Supreme Court and anti-trans U.S. state laws. How might we better understand and engage with conflicting literary, social, and political narratives of gender and sexuality through a feminist lens? This course will examine a plurality of feminisms and feminist literary theory, including the major tensions and debates between its distinct branches, such as intersectional, post-colonial, Black, Indigenous, post-structural, disability, queer, psychoanalytic, and Marxist feminisms. Students will be introduced to prominent feminist scholars, such as Judith Butler, Simone de Beauvoir, Patrica Hill Collins, bell hooks, Chandra Mohanty, and Jasbir Puar. Students will develop their rhetorical skills related to argumentation, research, and writing and learn how to apply feminist literary theory to literary and cultural texts.

Learning Outcomes:

- Utilize literary and cultural theory by feminist scholars to deepen understandings and close readings of literary and cultural productions, especially by cis-women, trans-women, gender fluid, and non-binary storytellers
- Recognize and distinguish a wide variety of theoretical fields and perspectives within feminist theory and women's studies
- Apply theoretical concepts from feminist theory to cultural texts, including film
- Practice articulating your close-reading and research of texts with peers and engaging in respectful dialogue about disparate interpretations
- Develop skills of rhetoric, argumentation, and persuasion through discussing contentious subject matter in a respectful and effective manner
- Disseminate knowledge learned in class to a broader lay audience on social media
- Execute a research agenda from start to finish developing transferrable skills for project management

- Develop your critical voice as a researcher and early scholar, who can meaningfully add to ongoing theoretical debates and conversations

Textbooks and Course Materials:

All readings will be provided for no cost through the Course Readings service, OWL Brightspace, or the library

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation		10
Film Critique	Feb. 13	15
Instagram Post	March 6	15
Final Research Essay	April 3	30
Final Exam		30

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Thursday, December 12, 2024