

English 3265G: Advanced Theory
Topic: Feminist Literary Theory

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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, Patirica Hill Collins, bell hooks, Gloria Anzaldua, 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.

Please email the course instructor if you have any questions about the course!

