HISTORY OF FEMINIST THEORIES

I. Enlightenment Theories: Natural Rights

Required Reading: Lerner, Patriarchy, Appendix, "Definitions"
Rossi, Feminist Papers (hereafter FP) pp. 1-86 (Intro; Adams Correspondence; J.S. Murray; M. Wollstonecraft
Linda Kerber, Women of the Republic, ch. 1, pp. 7-32
B. Taylor, Eve and the New Jerusalem, ch. 1
Thomas Paine, Rights of Man, pp. 40-50; 130-38
Rousseau, Emile, Book VIII ("Education of Girls"
Xerox Reader 1 (hereafter XR) Ellen Moers, "Vindicating Mary Wollstonecraft"

Suggested Reading: Read Vindications in its entirety.
Margaret George, "From Goodwife to Mistress..." in Science and Society, vol. 37 (Summer 1973), 152-77.
(On reserve)

II. Utopian Socialism, Romantic Individualism, Free Love

Required: FP, 86-118 (Frances Wright); 144-182 (Margaret Fuller)
Chevigny, Woman and Myth, 1-11; 18-30; 65-83; 94-115; all of Part IV; 281-303; 313-316; 366-402; 440-442; 483-497.
Taylor, Eve..., ch. 2
XR 2 (Emma Goldman, Woman's Emancipation; Traffic in Women; Marriage and Love)

Suggested: Chevigny, entire.
Ann Douglas, The Feminization of American Culture, ch. 8
III. The Woman's Rights Movement and its Theory - 1

Required:  
FP, 282-306 (A. Grimké, Pastoral Letter)  
XR 3 (S. Grimké, Letters to Catharine Beecher, Letters 12 and 13  
DuBois, Stanton-Anthony, 27-36; 131-138; 146-151; 246-254.

Suggested:  
DuBois, Introductions to all the chapters.

IV. The Woman's Rights Movement and its Theory - 2

Required:  
XR 4, Woman's Rights Documents (Seneca Falls Resolutions; Ohio Convention; Rose, Hunt; Minor vs. Hapersett; Anthony; NOW Resolutions; Houston Resolutions)  
FP, 183-268 (John S. Mill)  
G. Lerner, Majority, ch. 4, "Woman's Rights and American Feminism"

Suggested:  
Wm. Chafe, Women and Equality, (Oxford UP, 1977) 3-11; 43-114

V. The Traditional Marxist Approach to the "Woman Question"

Required:  
F. Engels, Origin of the Family..., Introduction to the 1891 edition; ch. 1, 2, 6, 9  
FP, 473-477, 496-505 (Introduction; Bebel)  
Carroll, Liberating Women's History, 4-25  
K. Sacks, "Engels Revisited..." in Reiter, Toward an Anthropology of Women, 211-234  
Blanche Cook, Crystal Eastman, 41-63

Suggested:  
Alexandra Kollontai, Autobiography of a Sexually Emancipated Woman (1972)  
VI. Marxist Feminist Theory

Required: Juliet Mitchell, *Woman's Estate*, ch. 3, 4, 5, 7, 10
Zillah Eisenstein, *Capitalist Patriarchy*, 41-45; 355-361; 373-387
Heidi Hartmann, "Capitalist Patriarchy and Job Segregation" in *SIGNS*, I, #3, Part 2, (Spring 1976) 137-169
Jaggar, *Feminist Politics*, 307-332
Joan Kelly-Gadol, "The Social Relations of the Sexes" *SIGNS*, I, #4 (Summer 1976), 809-825

Suggested: Eli Karetsky, *Capitalism, The Family and Personal Life*

VII. Woman as "Other"


VIII. Housework as the Cause of Women's Oppression

XR 5 (Mary Inman, Pat Mainardi, M. Dalla Costa; J. Boydston)
Heidi I. Hartmann, "The Family as the Locus of Gender, Class and Political Struggle: The Example of Housework," *SIGNS*, VI, #3, (Spring 1981), 366-394.


IX. Radical Feminist Theory

Required: XR 6 (Radical Feminists; K. Millet; "Redstockings")
Kate Millet, *Sexual Politics*, ch. 2
Shulamith Firestone, *The Dialectic of Sex*, ch. 1, 4, and ch. 10.
Juliet Mitchell, *Woman's Estate*, ch. 5, 7. (continued)
IX. continued


Suggested: Stimpson/Person, entire or selections of your choice.

X. Sexuality and Reproduction as Causes of Women's Oppression

Required: XR 7 (S. Grimké, "Marriage"; Sigmund Freud)
L. Gordon, Woman's Body, Woman's Right, chs. 1-3, 5, 12, 14.
Nancy Chodorow, The Reproduction of Mothering, ch. 2, 4, 9, 10, 12.
Adrienne Rich, Of Woman Born, ch. 3, 6, 7, 10.
Afterword
Lerner, Creation of Patriarchy, ch. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6.

Suggested: Chodorow, (entire)
Rich (entire)

XI. Woman as Force - 1

Required: Ann Lane, Mary Ritter Beard: A Sourcebook, 31-71; 89-94; 108-128; 172-191.
Carroll, Liberating Women's History, articles by B. Carroll, Gordon-Buhle-Dye; and Johannsson
Lerner, Majority, ch. 1-10
XR 8, Kelly, "Doubled Vision"
Virginia Woolf, Three Guineas
Alice Walker, In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens

Suggested: Rosaldo and Lamphere, Woman, Culture and Society
Rayna Rapp, Toward an Anthropology of Women
[These volumes of anthropological essays are rich in methodological suggestions and in evidence of women's civilization-building work.]

XII. Woman as Force - 2 Lesbian Theory

Required: Catharine Stimpson, Where the Meanings Are, ch. 4 ("The Androgyne and the Homosexual")
Ferguson, Zita and Adelson, "Reply to Rich," in SIGNS, VII, #1, (Fall 1981), 158-199. (continued)
XI. History

Selections in Lerner, Female Experience, pp. 448-453.
(Radical Lesbians; A. Koedt)
Blanche Cook, "Women Alone Stir My Imagination,"
SIGNs, IV, #4, 718-739
XR 9 (Charlotte Bunch, "Not for Lesbians Only")
Martha Vicinus, "Sexuality and Power..." Feminist
Studies, VIII, #1, (Spring 1982), pp. 133-157.

Suggested:
Browse in the Lesbian Issue of SIGNs, IX, #4, and use
it as a source for further reading. See especially
J. Kennard, 647-662.
Bettina Aptheker, Tapestries of Life, ch. 3.

XII. Universality and Differences

C. Stimpson, Meanings, ch. 2.
XR 10 (Combahee River Collective; M. Wallace; A.
Walker)
Lerner, Majority, chs. 5-7.
Chafe, pp. 45-78
National Women's Studies Association Journal, vol 1,
#1 (1988), articles by Gwin and Christian, pp. 21-
36.
Audre Lorde, Sister Outsider

Suggested:
Lerner, Black Women in White America, selections of
your choice.
Diane K. Lewis, "A Response to Inequality" in SIGNs,

XIV The Search for Woman's Culture

Required:
C. Smith-Rosenberg, "The Female World of Love and
Ritual..." SIGNs, I, #1, (Fall 1975)
L. Kerber, "Separate Spheres, Female Worlds, Woman's
Place: The Rhetoric of Women's History," Journal
"Politics and Culture in Women's History: A
Symposium," Feminist Studies, VI, #1, (Spring
1980), 26-64.
E. Freedman, "Separation as Strategy...", Feminist
Studies, V, #3, (Fall 1979), 512-29.
E. Minnich, Transforming Knowledge, pp. 23-26, 49-85,
177-191.
XR 11 (E. Minnich) (continued)
XIV., continued


XV. Synthesis

No reading assignment.
History of Feminist Theories

ASSIGNMENTS

In this course we will study in historical sequence the various theories of feminism with special emphasis on those of importance to the historian. There are many ways one might organize such a topic; I have sought to show related approaches to several analytical questions as they developed over time. Some of these questions we will use over and over again in order to understand the various conceptual frameworks we will be discussing: How does the author describe the situation of women? How does the author explain the subordination (or oppression) of women? Are women seen as victims or as agents? What method or what conceptual framework does the author use? What are the remedies proposed for the emancipation of women? How does this theory affect, differ with or revise existing theory?

One of the difficulties students experience in dealing with this seminar is that it requires them to distinguish descriptive observations from theoretical insights. Many feminist theoreticians have themselves had difficulty doing this. The theoretical concepts they have used to deal with the situation of women have been androcentric and have marginalized women or omitted them. To arrive at a more adequate basis for theorizing, feminist thinkers have often resorted to giving an empirical description of women's situation. This is a precondition for theoretical thinking, but it is not in itself theory. We will work on such distinctions and try to distinguish reality and thought, practical application and systems of explanation.

In this class you will each work in two groups, which will be formed during the first class. You will be teamed up with one student to prepare a class presentation, with another to be your "partner". You can use your partner to prepare and discuss class preparation; to discuss and help improve your written assignment. It must be understood that written assignments handed in to me are the work of the author and that the partner's role is to be a critic, who reads your first draft, offers suggestions and discusses the draft with you. After that you must work alone. In this, you are on an honor system, and I trust you will not abuse it.

Assignments should be double-spaced with good margins, so I can write my comments on them. Please hand in two copies of each assignment; I will correct one and return it to you, and keep the other. Number the assignments on the top of the first page; number each page, and have your name next to the number. This keeps me from mixing up papers if they drop, as they sometimes do. Please keep your assignments to the requested length; extra length is definitely NOT appreciated. They are due on time; unexcused lateness will be reflected in the grade. Excused lateness is another matter. The idea is: responsibility; learning how to plan your work; communication.
ASSIGNMENTS

Assignment 1 (A-1)  Given week I, due week 2.
Describe the major concepts of traditional patriarchal theories about women. Keep this in summary form; focus on a limited number of major points. (Write 3-4 pages.)

A-2  Given week 2, due week 4.
Select an author from those we discussed during Week 1. Discuss how she or he answers the analytical question posed above. (4 pages)

A-3  Given week 4, due week 6.
Select an author from those discussed in Units II and III and compare that author with the one you dealt with in A-1. (4 pages)

A-4  Given week 6, due by individual schedule.
This is the assignment you do with the other partner. It consists of you jointly selecting a unit from Units VII - XIV. You will read the suggested readings under that unit and give a 30-minute presentation to the class on what you have read. You will also give us several discussion questions for the entire unit, which you will give to me in advance. Submit your written preparation for the presentation to me. Be innovative in your mode of presentation – it can take any form you like.

A-5  Given week 6, due week 8.
Do a synthesis sheet on the readings for Unit VIII. You will have had a full explanation as to what that is in due time beforehand.

A-6  Given week 8, due week 13.
Do a synthesis sheet on all the units up to and including Unit XII. Use the analytical questions we have used before, but add at least two new ones.
History 901-6
History of Feminist Theories

Most of the books required for this course are available in paperback. The publishers are listed in parentheses. Students do not have to buy these books, but they may want to own one or more of them. All books are on reserve at the State Historical Society or Helen C. White reserve section.

Books suggested for purchase:

Xerox Reader at Kinko's, 608 University Avenue
Linda Gordon, Woman's Body, Woman's Right (NY: Viking, 1976)
Ann Lane, Mary Ritter Beard: A Sourcebook (NY: Schocken Books, 1977)
Adrienne Rich, Of Woman Born: Motherhood as Experience and Institution (NY: Norton, 1976)

Please do not buy any books except those under week 1 until after the first class.

Additional required reading:

Portions of the following books--

Berenice A. Carroll, Liberating Women's History (U of Illinois P, 1976)
Ellen C. DuBois, ed., Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony: Correspondence, Writings, Speeches (NY: Schocken, 1981)
Shulamith Firestone, The Dialectic of Sex (NY: Morrow, 1970)
History of Feminist Theories

Kate Millett, *Sexual Politics* (Garden City NY: Doubleday, 1970)
Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Emile*, Book VIII

Articles in the following journals--

*Signs* 1/1 (Fall 1975)
*Signs* 1/3, Part 2 (Spring 1976)
*Signs* 1/4 (Summer 1976)
*Signs* 4/4
*Signs* 5/4 (Summer 1980)
*Signs*, 6/3 (Spring 1981)
*Signs* 7/1 (Fall 1981)
*Feminist Studies* 5/3 (Fall 1979)
*Feminist Studies* 6/1 (Spring 1980)
*Feminist Studies* 8/1 (Spring 1982)
*Journal of American History*, 75/1 (June 1988)
Suggested Reading:

Books--


Rosaldo and Lamphere, *Woman, Culture and Society* (Stanford, Stanford UP, 1974)

Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*.


Articles in the following journals--

*Science and Society* 37 (Summer 1973)

*Feminist Studies* 3 (Spring/Summer 1976)

*Signs* 1/4 (Summer 1975)

*Signs* 3/2 (Winter 1977)

*Signs* 5/3 (Spring 1980)

*Signs* 9/4