COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Through the organizing notion of Object, we will study the intertwining of democracy and capitalism, with a brief historical overview of both but looking primarily at formations in the 20th and 21st centuries—from liberal nation-state versions through postsocialisms to neoliberal-neocolonial globalization. In this transnational comparative context, we will focus on how various feminisms have negotiated these intertwined political/economic theories, at once emerging from them, claiming a place in them, as well as self-defining against their different formations. We will explore how liberal, second- and third-wave, socialist, women of color, radical transnational, and indigenous feminisms deploy the notion of Object in addressing issues of citizenship, violence, labor, the environment, cultural representation, etc. as ways of tackling this complicated relationship with diverse forms of capitalism and democracy.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

REQUIRED ARTICLES:
Check detailed syllabus on pp. 5-7 and Moodle every week

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES:
Democracynow.org
MotherJones.com
Feministing.com
Mnwomen.org
Thefeministwire.com

REQUIREMENTS:
Your participation is the key to making this course intellectually stimulating and socially vibrant. Our careful reflection on what you and others are saying, and on communicating your different opinions with both respect and precision will make these following tasks exciting:

A. Forum (including articles and websites)
B. Oral presentations
C. Moderating
D. Mini-essays

A) FORUM: every week, when it is the turn for your group, you submit an individual entry through Moodle BY EVERY SUNDAY 10 PM, that is composed of ONE question involving any ONE of the texts assigned for the Tuesday of the upcoming week. You may reflect briefly
on an aspect of the past week’s discussion if you consider it relevant. Refer to any one of the recommended websites. Check Moodle to read the list of questions already posted, to look for correlations, before you post your entry. The question should be followed by a short comment, no longer than 200 words, on the relationship of your query to a point of personal interest in the materials assigned. Please imagine questions that elicit responses about the implications of textual content, rather than ‘yes’/‘no’ or only factual research. Be prepared to summarize your point in class as a quick refresher. Consult the “Questions for Discussion” at the end of each chapter of Feminist Thought.

I will check Moodle for your posts. Please be prepared to summarize your post in class as a quick refresher. You will be graded individually, based on your own entry. When you miss your turn, you will forfeit your grade for that missed opportunity. For grading guidelines, please see page 4 of this syllabus.

B) ORAL PRESENTATIONS: a one-time in-class activity on which you are graded individually. It is based on the material assigned for the date that you sign up. The presentations can be in the form of artwork, poster show, lecture, performance, or combination of these.

Advantages: Your moment in the spotlight! You may grasp this opportunity to display your individuality in expressing ideas.

Disadvantages: None.

What do you do?

- Provide a Title to your presentation that indicates your approach;
- Outline ONE particular aspect/theme/idea of the texts for that day;
- Compare/contrast these texts and previous/outside sources; you have the option to bring in a visual image or soundtrack to highlight a point;
- Pose a couple of questions based on the theme to elicit discussion; points will be deducted for simply summarizing the texts in your presentation.

Time allotted: 20 minutes maximum (please observe time-limit). You are most welcome to consult me beforehand about the presentation, if you have any questions about organization and format. Consult the “Questions for Discussion” at the end of each chapter of Feminist Thought as well as the bibliography for ideas and supplementary materials.

My suggestion is that the presentation be uninterrupted, followed by general discussion.

Reminder: Sign up for the oral presentation as early as you can and make a note of this event. You are responsible for remembering the date. If you have to cancel a scheduled presentation, please let me know well in advance. You must reschedule but may do so only once.

C) MODERATING: every session, the moderator will be selected randomly, they will take 5 minutes with the professor to synthesize the responses submitted on Moodle, decide a focus topic, and present issues based on that topic for the class to discuss, in the form of open-ended questions or observations. The moderator will lead discussion for about 10-15 minutes and others should be ready to contribute. You will be graded individually. Consult the “Questions for Discussion” at the end of each chapter of Feminist Thought as well as its bibliography.

D) MINI-ESSAYS: an in-class assignment as scheduled in the syllabus, where a topic or question as well as a structure will be offered by the instructor and on which you will write for
about 30 minutes of class time. The focus will be on recent past texts we have discussed in class; you will have access to your books and notes, and extra credit will be given for using short, relevant quotations from the assigned materials. The assignment is completed and collected in class; absences cannot be made up or compensated. You will be graded individually.

PLAGIARISM is defined as the use of another’s ideas without acknowledgement. Since this is considered a serious matter, please consult a style handbook on the correct way to record another person’s opinions; ask me if you are still confused.

Participation in class discussion, in the online forum, and in oral presentations, is extremely important. One suggestion is to write comments/questions in your notebook while reading and/or consulting past class notes.

CONFERENCES: I value individual conferences highly and encourage them since, for all of the above, frequent communication is necessary. My office hours are printed at the head of this information sheet and at the top of the syllabus sheet. Leave a note, with your telephone number, in my mailbox (or slip it under my office door), or e-mail me, or talk with me after class if you wish to make an appointment other than the times indicated, for any aspect of the class. I urge you to take advantage of this practice, especially because I take great pride in knowing you individually. Please time your appointments or questions with at least 24 hours notice, if not visiting during office hours. I am not available between Friday 5 p.m. and Monday noon.

Regular attendance is the basis of good performance and is an inspiration for me to work harder. I will make a record of your attendance. Remember, attendance also means punctuality, an important aspect of your membership in the class. Absences: you may have 2 unexplained absences. Otherwise, please inform me in advance, by email, voicemail, or in person if you plan to be absent. When it is an emergency, please leave a message as soon as possible.

Please see the attached grade-guide (page 4 of syllabus).

I am committed to providing assistance to help you be successful in this course. Reasonable accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Allie Quinn (651-696-6874 or aquinn2@mac… or disabilityservices@mac…) serves as the coordinator for services for students with disabilities. It is important to meet with her at the beginning of the semester to ensure that your accommodations are approved and in place to begin the semester successfully.

P.S. This is an exciting and rigorous course. You must meet all the requirements, consistently and productively, so that you may reap the maximum benefit. Inability to complete the various assignments, to participate in an alert manner, or to present one’s original and honest opinions, will result in great disappointment for you and for me. It will defeat the purpose of exploration.

Having said all this, I WELCOME YOU AND I HOPE YOU ENJOY THIS COURSE!!
Guide to Grading

For the **Forum**:

A for entries that raise thought-provoking questions, establish unique/interesting/significant connections to one’s disciplinary interests, within/between texts, or to issues external to the class, maintain precision and clarity of thought, and provide succinct summaries of relevant ideas discussed.

B for entries that adequately summarize selected/relevant ideas from class-discussion, establish a valid and straightforward connection to one’s disciplinary interests.

C for entries that summarize ideas in a sketchy manner, leave connections unclear, and dwell on obvious details that are not stimulating in their significance.

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<th>Grade</th>
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<td>A</td>
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When averaging final grades, any number at the upper limit that carries a +0.5 value will be rounded to the next highest number at the discretion of the instructor, eg., a final average of 89.5 could become 90, meaning a final grade of A-/B+ rather than a B+ (which is not bad in itself). That will enhance the value of your performance, and give you some advantage and a lot of credit!

**GRADE DISTRIBUTION FOR THE COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

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<thead>
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<tr>
<td>Forum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oral Presentation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moderating</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mini-essays</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
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</tbody>
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If you have any questions or suggestions, feel free to talk to me.
### WEEK 1
- **Wed, September 6**
  - Introduction

- **Fri, September 8**
  - FRAMES AND OBJECTS PART I
    - Kant, Truth (moodle)

### WEEK 2
- **Mon, September 11**
  - Delmar (moodle); discussion of presentations and mini-essays

- **Wed, September 13**
  - Delmar (contd.); Treichler (moodle).

- **Fri, September 15**
  - Treichler (contd.); Dahl (moodle); **Practice Mini-Essay**

### WEEK 3
- **Mon, September 18**
  - Dahl (contd.); Grimke, Droege (moodle) **Moderating Begins**

- **Wed, September 20**
  - FRAMES AND OBJECTS PART II
    - *Feminist Thought*, pp. 1-9; Friedan, NOW statement (moodle)

- **Fri, September 22**
  - Walker, Young, Dryzek (moodle)

### WEEK 4
- **Mon, September 25**
  - LIBERAL and RADICAL FEMINISMS
    - *Feminist Thought*, pp. 11-37; Habermas I (moodle)
    - **MINI ESSAY #1**

- **Wed, September 27**
  - *Feminist Thought*, pp. 39-59; Daly (moodle).

- **Fri, September 29**
  - Firestone, Hardin (moodle)

### WEEK 5
- **Mon, October 2**
  - *Feminist Thought*, pp. 59-72; Radicalesbians, Redstockings, Rawls (moodle)

- **Wed, October 4**
  - MARXIST & SOCIALIST FEMINISMS
    - *Feminist Thought*, pp. 73-123; *Third Wave Feminism*, pp. 283-291.

- **Fri, October 6**
  - Grosfoguel et al, Horney, Irigaray (moodle)
**WEEK 6**  
**Mon, October 9**  
**PSYCHOANALYTIC FEMINISMS**  

**Wed, October 11**  
**CARE-FOCUSED FEMINISM**  
_Feminist Thought_, pp. 183-204.

**Fri, October 13**  
**WOMEN OF COLOR FEMINISMS in the U.S.**  
_Feminist Thought_, pp. 105-131.

**WEEK 7**  
**Mon, October 16**  
**WOMEN OF COLOR FEMINISMS in the world**  
_Feminist Thought_, pp. 133-154. **MINI ESSAY #2**

**Wed, October 18**  
Women of Color Feminisms (review).

**Fri, October 20**  
Chodorow, Habermas II (moodle)

**WEEK 8**  
**Mon, October 23**  
Held, Pateman (moodle)

**Wed, October 25**  
_Third Wave Feminism_, chapters 10 and 14.

**Thursday, October 26—Sunday, October 29 (Fall Break)**

**WEEK 9**  
**Mon, October 30**  
**ECOFEMINISM**  
_Feminist Thought_, pp. 205-229.  
_Third Wave Feminism_, chapters 8 and 9

**Wed, November 1**  
King, Shiva (moodle).

**Fri, November 3**  
Grosfoguel et al, Jordan (moodle).

**WEEK 10**  
**Mon, November 6**  
**EXISTENTIALIST and POSTMODERN FEMINISM**  
_Feminist Thought_, pp. 231-259. **MINI ESSAY #3**

**Wed, November 8**  
Davis, Enloe (moodle); Critical Resistance (moodle).

**Fri, November 10**  
Held, Mouffe (moodle)

**WEEK 11**  
**Mon, November 13**  
**THIRD WAVE AND QUEER FEMNISMS**
Feminist Thought, pp. 261-275.

Wed, November 15
Third Wave Feminism, chapter 2.

Fri, November 17
Third Wave Feminism, chapters 6 and 15.

MINI ESSAY #4

WEEK 12
Mon, November 20
Friday’s readings contd., Feminist Thought, pp. 277-278; Third Wave Manifesta (moodle).

Thanksgiving Break Wednesday, Nov 22 – Sunday, Nov 26

WEEK 13
Mon, November 27
Third Wave Feminism, chapter 1

Wed, November 29
Third Wave Feminism, chapter 4; Braidotti (moodle)

Fri, December 1
Third Wave Feminism, chapter 12; Braidotti (contd.).

WEEK 14
Mon, December 4
Third Wave Feminism, chapter 13. Moderating Ends

Wed, December 6
Trask 1 (moodle).

Friday, December 8
Third Wave Feminism, chapter 18; Trask 2, Part 1.

WEEK 15
Mon, December 11
Trask 2, Part 2; Review

Wed, December 13
Review

Final Paper due Friday, December 21 by 5 p.m. by email to sarker@macalester.edu
COMPLEMENTARY READINGS and RESERVES

A
Anzaldua, Gloria, and AnaLouise Keating. *This Bridge We Call Home.*

B

C
Chomsky, Noam. *Deterring Democracy.*

D
_____ .“Abolition Democracy.” From *Abolition Democracy*, pp. 77-103.
Delmar, Rosalind. “What is Feminism?” From *Theorizing Feminism*, pp. 5-25.
Dryzek, John. *Deliberative Democracy and Beyond.*
_____ .“Why Capitalist Democracy Emerges Victorious.” From *Democracy in Capitalist Times*, pp. 17-34.

E

F

G
Grosfoguel, Ramon et al. “Introduction.” From *The Modern/Colonial/Capitalist World-System*
in the Twentieth Century, pp. xi-xxix.
_____. Section II from The Modern/Colonial/Capitalist World-System in the
Twentieth Century, pp. 127-211.

H
Habermas, Jurgen. “The Public Sphere.” From Jurgen Habermas on Society and Politics: A
Reader, pp. 231-236 for WEEK 4.
_____ “What does a crisis mean today? Legitimation Problems in Late Capitalism.” From
Jurgen Habermas on Society and Politics: A Reader, pp. 266-283.
_____ “The crisis of the welfare state and the exhaustion of utopian energies.” From Jurgen
Habermas on Society and Politics: A Reader, pp. 284-299.
_____ The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere.

504-509.

260-279.
_____ “The Multitude against Empire.” From Empire, pp. 393-413.

Hartmann, Heidi. “The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism.” From Feminist Theory,
pp. 356-364.

Held, David. “The Development of Democracy: For and Against the State.” Chapter 3 in
Models of Democracy, 2nd edition, pp. 70-120.
_____ “Deliberative Democracy and the Defence of the Public Realm.” From Models of
_____ “The Transformation of Political Community: Rethinking Democracy in the Context of
Globalization.” From The Democracy Sourcebook, pp. 516-525.

Herrmann, Anne, and Abigail Steward, eds. Theorizing Feminism: Parallel Trends in the
Humanities and Social Sciences.


I

J
290-293.

K
King, Ynestra. “The Ecology of Feminism and Feminism of Ecology.” From Feminist Theory,
pp. 469-474.
M

N

O

P

R

S
Schneir, Miriam. *Feminism in Our Time*.
Siegfried, Charlene. *Feminist Interpretations of John Dewey*.
Solow, Robert. “Guess who likes Workfare” and “Guess who pays for Workfare” in *Work and Welfare*, pp. 3-43.

T
Wing, Adrien Katherine, ed. Critical Race Feminism: A Reader.

_____ “Communication and the Other: Beyond Deliberative Democracy.” From Intersecting Voices, pp. 60-74.