

WGSS 330 S.Sarker Fall 2017
DEMOCRACIES, FEMINISMS, CAPITALISMS

Class: Old Main 009

Office: OM 317/Mailbox OM 409

PH: 696-6316

Hours: MWF 9:40-10:40 am

Office Hours: MWF 2:30-3:30 pm

E-mail: sarker@macalester.edu

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:

Gillis, Stacy et al. *Third Wave Feminism: A Critical Exploration*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2007.
Tong, Rosemarie. *Feminist Thought*. Westview Press, 2009.

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!!

S. Sarker Fall 2017

WGSS 330
Guide to Grading

MWF 9:40-10:40 am

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.

A+	100 - 97
A	96 - 94
A-	93 - 91
A-/B+	90
B+	89 - 87
B	86 - 84
B-	83 - 81
B-/C+	80
C+	79 - 77
C	76 - 74
C-	71 - 73
C-/D+	70
D+	69 - 67
D	66 - 64
D-	63 - 61
F	60 and below

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:

Forum	20%
Oral Presentation	20%
Moderating	10%
Mini-essays	30%
Participation	10%
Attendance	10%

If you have any questions or suggestions, feel free to talk to me.

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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
Feminist Thought, pp. 155-181; *Third Wave Feminism*, pp. 292-297.
- 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 FEMINISMS

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

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

B

Braidotti, Rosi. "Meta(I)morphoses." *Feminist Theory*, pp. 586-597.

C

Chodorow, Nancy. "The Sexual Sociology of Adult Life." From *Feminist Theory*, pp. 322-327.

Chomsky, Noam. *Deterring Democracy*.

Combahee River Collective. "A Black Feminist Statement." From *Feminist Theory*, pp. 311-316.

Critical Resistance. "Gender Violence and the Prison-Industrial Complex." From *Color of Violence*, pp. 223-226.

D

Dahl, Robert. "What is Democracy?" (pp. 35-43), "Why Democracy?" (pp. 44-61), "Why Market-Capitalism favors Democracy" (pp. 166-172), "Why Market-Capitalism Harms Democracy" (pp. 173-179) from *On Democracy*.

Daly, Mary. From Gyn/Ecology. From *Feminist Theory*, pp. 328-332.

Davis, Angela. "Sexual Coercion, Prisons, and Feminist Responses." From *Abolition Democracy*, pp. 49-76.

_____. "Abolition Democracy." From *Abolition Democracy*, pp. 77-103.

Delmar, Rosalind. "What is Feminism?" From *Theorizing Feminism*, pp. 5-25.

Delphy, Christine. "For a Materialist Feminism." From *Feminist Theory*, pp. 292-296.

Droege, Paula. "Reclaiming the Subject, or A View from Here." From *Feminist Interpretations of John Dewey*, pp. 160-185.

Dryzek, John. *Deliberative Democracy and Beyond*.

_____. "Why Capitalist Democracy Emerges Victorious." From *Democracy in Capitalist Times*, pp. 17-34.

_____. "The Outlook for Democracy." From *Democracy in Capitalist Times*, pp. 145-154.

E

Enloe, Cynthia. "Decisions." From *Feminist Theory*, pp. 561-568.

F

Firestone, Shulamith. "The Dialectic of Sex." From *Feminist Theory*, pp. 224-227.

Friedan, Betty. "The Problem." From *Feminist Theory*, pp. 198-203.

G

Gatens-Robinson, Eugenie. "The Pragmatic Ecology of the Object." From *Feminist Interpretations of John Dewey*, pp. 189-209.

Grimke, Sarah. "Letters on the Equality of the Sexes." From *Feminist Theory*, pp. 69-71.

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*.

Hardin, Russell. "Democracy and Collective Bads." From *The Democracy Sourcebook*, pp. 504-509.

Hardt, Michael, and Antonio Negri. "Resistance, Crisis, Transformation." From *Empire*, pp. 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 Democracy*, 3rd Edition, pp. 231-255.

_____. "A Utopian Project." From *Models of Democracy*, 3rd Edition, pp. 309-311.

_____. "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*.

Horney, Karen. "The Dread of Woman." From *Feminist Theory*, pp. 154-157.

I

Incite! Women of Color Against Violence. *Color of Violence: The Incite! Anthology*.

Irigaray, Luce. "This Sex...." From *Feminist Theory*, pp. 317-321.

J

Jordan, June. "Introduction: Some of Us Did Not Die." From *Some of Us Did Not Die*, pp. 3-15.

_____. "Civil Wars." From *Some of Us Did Not Die*, pp. 257-267.

_____. "American Violence and the Holy Loving Spirit." From *Some of Us Did Not Die*, pp. 290-293.

K

Kant, Immanuel. "Perpetual Peace." From *The Democracy Sourcebook*, pp. 490-491.

King, Ynestra. "The Ecology of Feminism and Feminism of Ecology." From *Feminist Theory*, pp. 469-474.

M

Martinez, Elizabeth. "Unite and Rebel!: Challenges and Strategies in Building Alliances." From *Color of Violence*, pp. 191-195.

Mouffe, Chantal. "Democratic Politics Today." From *Dimensions of Radical Democracy*, pp. 1-14.

N

Nietogomez, Ana. "Chicana Feminism." From *Feminist Theory*, pp. 302-305.

NOW Statement of Purpose. From *Feminist Theory*, pp. 211-213.

O

Olson, Mancur. "Dictatorship, Democracy, and Development." From *The Democracy Sourcebook*, pp. 436-443.

P

Pateman, Carole. "Participation and Democratic Theory." From *The Democracy Sourcebook*, pp. 40-47.

R

Radicalesbians, "The Woman-Identified Woman." From *Feminist Theory*, pp. 239-242.

Rawls, John. "On the family as part of the basic structure." From *The Law of Peoples*, pp. 156-164.

Redstockings Manifesto. From *Feminist Theory*, pp. 220-221.

Roncaglia, Alessandro. *The Wealth of Ideas: A History of Economic Thought*.

S

Schumpeter, Joseph. "Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy." From *The Democracy Sourcebook*, pp. 5-11.

_____. *Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy*.

Schneir, Miriam. *Feminism in Our Time*.

Shiva, Vandana. "Earth Democracy." *South Asian Popular Culture*, Apr2004, Vol. 2 Issue 1, pp. 5-18.

Shulman, Alix Kates. *Red Emma Speaks*.

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.

Spiegel, Henry. *The Growth of Economic Thought*.

T

"Third Wave Manifesta." From *Feminist Theory*, pp. 568-569.

Trask, Haunani-Kay. "Lovely Hula Hands." From *From A Native Daughter*, pp. 179-197.

_____. "Pacific Island Women and White Feminism." From *From A Native Daughter*, pp. 263-277.

Treichler, Paula. "Feminism." From *Feminist Theory*, pp. 7-10.

Truth, Sojourner. "Ain't I a Woman." From *Feminist Theory*, p. 79.

W

Walker, Alice. "Womanist." From *Feminist Theory*, p. 11.

Wing, Adrienne Katherine, ed. *Critical Race Feminism: A Reader*.

Y

Young, Iris. "Gender as Seriality." From *Intersecting Voices*, pp. 12-37 for WEEK 4.

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

<http://caringlabor.wordpress.com/2010/10/20/mariarosa-dalla-costa-capitalism-and-reproduction-2/>