

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, EDUCATION AND COMMERCE

Course Outline

Women's Studies 3000 - Introduction to Feminism/Postmodernism

Yellowhead Regional Education Consortium - Hinton Campus

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COURSE

DESCRIPTION: An introductory examination of feminism and how it engages questions of identity, difference, sexualities, agency, and community. The focus of the course will be on practical discussion of how feminist theorizing can inform day to day challenges of living within what postmodernism calls "the current crisis of representation." Special attention will be paid to the feminine body as a highly contested discursive figuration, and how rationalistic cultural practices have attempted to produce and circulate woman as a material presence and biological entity.

REQUIRED

TEXTS: Crowley, Helen and Susan Himmelwelt, (eds.) (1992). Knowing Women: Feminism and Knowledge London: Polity Press.

Giroux, Henry (ed.) (1991). Postmodernism, Feminism, and Cultural Politics New York: SUNY Press

Jacobus, Mary et al (eds.) (1990). Body/Politics - Women and the Discourses of Science. New York: Routledge

These three texts will serve as the core for class assignments and discussions.

Other readings will be provided.

EVALUATION: Three critiques (2-3 pages) of selected readings 30%
One oral presentation of a selected reading 10%
Participation 20%
Project 40%

COURSE SCHEDULE:

This course is organized around four themes that will tie the readings together. Students are expected to offer their understandings of the assigned readings. Each student will be asked to present one article to the class. Depending on the size of our group, generally two articles will be presented each week. Students will be required to prepare and present a project focussed on one of the four themes. Details on this project will be provided in Week 6.

Week	Theme	Readings	Presenter (TBA)
1	I Rethinking Boundaries	Introduction to Feminism/Postmodernism (An overview of the field: Flax, Butler, Harckson)	
2		Giroux (PFCEP) "Modernism, Postmodernism, and Feminism..." Butler "Contingent Foundations..." (handout)	
3	II Bodies that Matter	Loeche (KW) "Age, race, class, and gender" Titchler (BP) "Feminism, Medicine, and the Meaning of Childbirth" Butler "Bodies that Matter" (handout)	
4		Jagger (KW) "Human Biology in feminist theory..." Bordo (KW) "Anorexia nervosa..."	
5		Hollway (KW) "Gender Difference and the production of subjectivity" Martin (KW) "Feminism, criticism and Fecundity" Spivak "Can the subaltern speak?" (handout)	
6	III Language and Difference	Kellner (PFCEP) "Reading Images Critically..." Shuttleworth (BP) "Female Circulation..."	
7		Maguire (KW) "Sitting up and lying down..." Martin (BP) "Science and Women's Bodies..."	
8		Mami (KW) "Multiple Medications..." Bordo (BP) "Reading the Slender Body..."	
9		Doane (BP) "Technophilia: Technology, Representation, and the Feminine" Fruin (KW) "Identity: skin blood heart"	
10	IV Politics of Emotion: Complicity/Resistance	Keller (BP) "From Secrets of Life..." Goffin (PFCEP) "Women Dancing Back..." Corrigan (PFCEP) "The Making of the Boy..."	
11		Segal (KW) "Sexual Uncertainty, or why the dihoris is not enough" Haraway "A Manifesto for Cyborgs" (handout)	
12		Flax "The End of Innocence" (handout) books "Choosing the Margin as a space of Radical Openness" (handout)	
13	So What? Now What?	Harding (KW) "The Inseparability of the analytical categories of feminist theory" Gros (KW) "What is a feminist theory?"	