

Women's and Gender Studies

Spring 2015 Proposed Graduate Courses

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To get a **WGS Graduate Minor**, you need to take WGS 7150, 7900 and 6 hours of approved 4000/7000 level courses.

WGS COURSE OFFERINGS

WGS 4500.1

Foucault and Feminism

Contemporary feminist theory maintains a remarkably lively critical engagement with the work of French philosopher Michel Foucault. While not explicitly a feminist (Foucault makes few references to women or gender in his work), feminist philosophers have found his exploration of the relations between power, the body and sexuality particularly productive. Foucault's work has contributed to feminist critiques of gender essentialism and to accounts of gendered embodiment even as some theorists point to the limitations of Foucauldian theory for emancipatory political projects. Most recently, Foucault's account of the neoliberal mutation of power—biopolitics—has attracted significant critical attention. The final third of the course will be focused on the uptake of biopower in post-Foucauldian feminist theory.

Debbie Goldgaber

T/Th 12:00pm – 1:20pm

WGS 4500.2

Radical Feminism and Consciousness Raising: From the Redstockings to Dworkin and McKinnon

Radical feminists are perhaps best known for claiming that "all sex is rape." Of course, they didn't really mean that, and none of the most famous radical feminists even claimed it. As happens to many political movements, radical feminists have largely been defined by their opposition. Yet, oppositional narratives lead to a biased historical perspective that loses the essential and empowering work done by radical feminists. This course aims to excavate the history and viewpoints that derived from radical feminists who took a leading role in defining the second wave movement. The course will examine radical feminism's main theoretical writers, such as Catherine MacKinnon and Andrea Dworkin, activist groups, such as Redstockings and Bread & Roses, and ideological positions, such as that the personal is political, sexual harassment is sexual discrimination, porn plays an essential role in the maintenance of the patriarchy, and rape is ubiquitous and not taken seriously enough (though that doesn't mean, that all sex is rape, as we will see!). These viewpoints may remain controversial today, but they also provide the foundation of much of feminist theory. Thus, to truly understand feminism today, we must take a closer look at the voluminous contributions of the radical feminists.

Mona Rocha

MWF 2:30pm – 3:20pm

WGS 4900

Readings in Women's and Gender Studies

PERMISSION OF DEPARTMENT REQUIRED

WGS 7900

Independent Reading and Research

PERMISSION OF DEPARTMENT REQUIRED