

Feminism & Sociological Theory

SOC3350

Department of Sociology, University of Manitoba

CRN 15987

Tier 215

2:30-3:45 TR, Sept 7 – Dec 8, 2017

Holidays: Oct 5-9, Nov 13

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Office hours: Wednesdays 11:00-13:00.

Voluntary Withdrawal Deadline: Nov 17

Welcome to SOC3350

We are grateful to begin this course by acknowledging that we are here together, as newcomers to and experts within the transnational and transhistorical communities of learners and scholars, in a society with public goods and ills, within a part of the sacred Earth biosphere, specifically in Treaty 1 territory, and that the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and the homeland of the Métis Nation.

In this course we will survey key moments in the recent history of feminism and its contributions to the development of a community of scholarship, sociological theory.

For centuries, but particularly in the early 20th century and again today, feminist theorists have examined capitalist accumulation's dependency upon the **free reproduction work** of feminized people (and nature), some local (via the gendered public-private divide, enclosures, and Austerity) but also much displaced "out-of-sight out-of-mind" (via imperialism, colonialism & Structural Adjustment Programmes) and circulating through migration.

Feminist theorists have examined **the ways in which capitalism functions through hierarchical distribution of (systematic monopolization of and exclusion from) cooperation and credit** (broadly as well as monetarily conceived), as that hierarchical distribution *exacts* that free "reproduction" work, imposing **stunting** limits and profound toll (from mass killing to sexual violence to climate crisis) upon human development and environmental relations.

Feminist theorists assess the strategies (both disruption and building alternative institutions & dispositions; and philosophical-linguistic v. sociological) which feminists have collectively crafted to surf, challenge, circumvent and transcend the feminization-racialization-dispossession accumulation racket.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- First, this course will engage **global** feminist theory on the contemporary, hierarchical distribution of violent disruption and of systematic exclusion from or withdrawal of citizenship rights to **social credit and cooperation**.
- Second, this course will engage materialist and socialist-feminist theory on the unpaid and unacknowledged **reproduction work** undergirding capitalist accumulation, on **embodied inequality**, and on the historical movement for and temporary institutionalization of democratic **social citizenship** to intercede in this systematic offloading of crisis, and to provide purchase toward *egaliberte*.
- Third, this course will engage feminist theory on the **patrimonial capitalist restoration** and its **neoliberal** implementation, including via some feminist tendencies. Our feminist theorists will delineate feminisms **reclaiming non-elite cosmopolitanism, solidarity, and socio-political literacy** for the common advancement of human development within ecological flourishing.

Required readings

In science, theory is the medium by which the community of scholars iteratively forms research agendas and communicates empirical findings over time and across space. Moreover, sociological theory is made to transcend socialized common sense and commercial expertise. This is challenging work. Designed with 50 pages of reading per week, this course is structured as a term-long “narrative,” in order to help you understand an unfolding feminist programme. Reading, and reading rigorously, is therefore critical. Read assigned readings every week for fourteen weeks, and contribute to making a vibrant classroom experience together.

Required books (available at the Bookstore):

Briggs, Laura. 2017. *How All Politics Became Reproductive Politics: From Welfare Reform to Foreclosure to Trump*. University of California Press. ISBN 978-0520281912.

Brubaker, Rogers. 2016. *Trans: Gender and Race in an Age of Unsettled Identities*. Princeton. ISBN 978-0691172354.

Fraser, Nancy. 2013. *Fortunes of Feminism: From State-Managed Capitalism to Neoliberal Crisis*. Verso. ISBN 978-1844679843.

Other Required readings (syllabus, chapters, articles, excerpts) listed in the Schedule below will be posted in D2L for you to print out, read, and bring to class.

- **This syllabus.** You are expected to read and consult this syllabus.

Assignments

- **2 S-Reports, including:**

2 written Secretariat Reports on the assigned reading(s). The written Secretariat Reports will be worth 30 pts each. *The S-Report assignment format is designed to help you approach theory correctly, by prioritizing rigorous reading and reporting, as well as a collegial, scholarly ethos; the amount of work is equivalent to a paper.* There will be a late penalty of 3% per day, including days on weekends, will be applied to all reports that are handed in after the specified deadlines. Failure to turn in a report will result in a grade of 0.

- Sign up for your S-Report dates on the first day of class. S-Reports are due to be posted in D2L in electronic version on the Sunday before the class for which the reading is assigned. Stapled, final-edited hardcopies are due to the professor in class on the day of the class for which the reading is assigned.
- Specifications and an example for writing a S-Report will be provided. You will be required to map out and provide a logically-related analysis of the week's assigned reading argument in the S-Report format, including answering the Arts seminar reading comprehension questions **What does the text say? What does it mean? What is at stake?**, and synthetic analysis is recommended.
- Assignment grades will be available to the student in D2L two weeks after the professor receives the completed assignment.
- **Final paper: A feminist indigenous-settler perspective on a MB/Canadian colonial relations issue.** 30 pts.
- **Course Scholarly Engagement & Participation.** 10 points.

Composition specs

*See course UM Learn page. Generally, for submitted written material: use ASA style guidelines. Generally: 12 pt font, 1 inch margins, 1-1.5 spacing, paginated, stapled, **with your name and a title on top.** Use **subheadings** to switch topics when you can't compose a smooth transition.*

- The following letter/percentage/GPA/descriptive scale will be used.

<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Percentage</u>	<u>GPA</u>	<u>Description</u>
A+	96-100%	4.5	Extraordinary
A	90-95%	4.0	Excellent
B+	86-89%	3.5	Very Good
B	76-85%	3.0	Good
C+	70-75%	2.5	Sufficient
C	60-69%	2.0	Average
D	50-59%	1.0	Insufficient
F	49% or less	0	Failure

Schedule: Reading due dates

Note: This Schedule is set through Week 8. You will be given a new syllabus by Week 5 inclusive of the finalized Reading Schedule for Weeks 9-14.

WEEK 1:

Reading assignment: This syllabus

What are the expectations for this course?

WEEK 2: Capitalism & its enforcement via gender

Sept 12

Federici, Silvia. 2004. Chapter 2 “The accumulation of labor and the degradation of women” (to “Devaluation of women’s labor”), from *Caliban and the witch*. Autonomedia.

Sept 14

Federici, Silvia. 2004. Finish Chapter 2, “The accumulation of labor...,” from *Caliban and the witch*. Autonomedia.

WEEK 3: Patrimonial capitalist coercion; militarized patrimony

Sept 19

Federici, Silvia. 2004. Chapter 4, “The Great Witch Hunt in Europe,” from *Caliban and the witch*. (Read the whole chapter for today. Lots of illustrations!)

Sept 21

Cohn, Carol. 1987. “Sex and death in the rational world of defense intellectuals.” *Signs* 12(4): 687-718.

WEEK 4: Militarized patrimony; Gender & reproduction

Sept 26

Khalili, Laleh. 2011. "Gendered practices of counterinsurgency."

Sept 28

Laslett, Barbara & Johanna Brenner. 1989. "Gender and social reproduction: Historical perspectives." *Annual Review of Sociology* 15: 381-404.

WEEK 5: Gender & reproduction, 20th c. capitalism under socialist heat

Oct 3

Kollontai, Alexandra. 1915. "Preface" to *Society and Motherhood*.

Oct 5

Holiday! No class.

WEEK 6: Gender & reproduction, 20th c.

Oct 10

Optional: Holiday or final project workshop

Oct 12

Fraser, Nancy. Ch. 3 "A genealogy of 'dependency,'" pp. 83-110 in *Fortunes of Feminism*.

WEEK 7: Social democratic gender & reproduction; transAmerica

Oct 17

Esping-Anderson, Gosta. 2002. Chapter 3 "A new gender contract," in *Why we need a new welfare state*. Oxford. JC 479 E86 2002.

Oct 19

Brubaker, Rogers. 2016. Chapter 1 "Transgender, transracial," pp. 15-39 in *trans*, Princeton University Press.

WEEK 8: Trans & migration

Oct 24

Brubaker, Rogers. 2016. Chapter 3 "The trans of migration," pp. 71-91 in *trans*, Princeton University Press.

Oct 26

Yilmaz, Ferruh. 2015. "From immigrant worker to Muslim immigrant: Challenges for feminism." *European Journal of Women's Studies* 22(1) 37-52.

WEEK 9: Reproduction & reform: Restoring a conservative social order

Oct 31

Briggs, Laura Intro & Ch. 2 Welfare Reform

Nov 2

Briggs, Laura Ch. 3 Offshoring Reproduction & Epilogue

WEEK 10: Comparative gender & social reproduction/reform

Nov 7

Ferguson, Sue. 2008. "Canadian contributions to social reproduction feminism, race and embodied labour." *Journalism*, Paper 4.

Nov 9

Sutton, Barbara. 2008. "Gendered bodily scars of neoliberal globalization in Argentina," Chapter 8 in *The gender of globalization*, edited by Ann Kingsolver. School for Advanced Research Press.

WEEK 11: Liberty & reform in the long social struggle

Nov 14

Fraser, Nancy. Ch. 9 "Feminism, capitalism and the cunning of history," pp. 209-226 in *Fortunes of Feminism*.

Nov 16

In-class Video: Wendy Brown's 2015 Brown University lecture: "Feminist change and the university."

WEEK 12: Feminism & neoliberalization

Nov 21

Fraser, Nancy. Ch. 8 "Reframing justice in a globalizing world," pp. 289-208 in *Fortunes of Feminism*.

Nov 23

First Nations feminism synthesis workshop

WEEK 13: Reclaiming non-elite solidarity & socio-political literacy

Nov 28

Lamont, Michele & Sada Aksartova. 2002. "Ordinary cosmopolitanisms." *Theory, Culture & Society* 19(4): 1-25.

Nov 30

First Nations feminism synthesis workshop

WEEK 14: Reclaiming non-elite solidarity & socio-political literacy

Dec 5

Mohanty, Chandra Talpade. "'Under Western Eyes' Revisited: Feminist Solidarity through Anticapitalist Struggles."

Dec 7

Turn in final papers.

Course and university procedures and regulations:

Your Learner Disposition: Requirements and Evaluation

This course is a senior undergraduate text-focused seminar in a university. It is understood and expected that you have and are responsible for maintaining a greater-than-average interest in the material, an enthusiastic and collegial attitude toward both study and participation, and a firm and observable respect for scholarship and scholars. The expectation is that you will attend each meeting, study the reading thoroughly and in advance, do your assignments with dedication and on time (before their due date), and participate actively in class, with collegiality consistently demonstrated for your classmates and respect consistently demonstrated for your professor both in and out of class.

It should go without saying that students should make every effort to arrive on time for class; students who arrive late miss important class material, create a culture of disrespect for learning and the community of learners, and disrupt the class. If you miss the time reserved for class, your option is to ask a classmate to catch you up. Students who have studied and attended classes are warmly welcomed to visit the professor in her office hours.

Students are always expected to be respectful to their colleagues and to the professor during class discussions and in office hours. Disruption will initially result in the student being asked to leave the classroom; any disruption after that warning will result in the student being given the choice to avail himself or herself of the Voluntary Withdrawal date or (s)he may be subject to disciplinary action such as being debarred from the class.

Academic dishonesty

Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating, exam personation, ("**Personation at Examinations**" (**Section 5.2.9**) and "**Plagiarism and cheating**" (**Section 8.1**)) and duplicate submission by reading documentation provided at the Arts Student Resources web site at <http://www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student/index.html> . Ignorance of the regulations and policies regarding academic integrity is not a valid excuse for violating them.

Late penalty

No extensions will be given without medical documentation, or other documentation of comparable seriousness, that will normally be required to avoid a late penalty. Please be advised that a late penalty of 3% per day, including days on weekends, will be applied to all papers that are handed in after the specified deadlines.

If the student has a binding and documented reason to be absent from class on a specified date, the student must notify the professor as early as possible, so that if the reason is accepted by the professor, the student and professor can make substitute arrangements for the student to complete and submit assigned work.

Athletic championships & identity-group holidays

The university recognizes the right of all students to observe recognized holidays of their faith which fall within the academic year. If you will have to miss any classes or will require an extension for an assignment due to an athletic championship or identity-group holiday, please notify the professor at the beginning of the term or at least three weeks in advance of the relevant date.

Unclaimed term work disposal

Any term work that has not been claimed by students will be held for four (4) months from the end of the final examination period for the term in which the work was assigned. At the conclusion of this time, all unclaimed term work will become property of the Faculty of Arts and be destroyed according to FIPPA guidelines and using confidential measures for disposal.