

UC Irvine Department of Chicano/Latino Studies

**Feminisms/Women of Color**

**ChcLat 158w (61260)**

**WomnSt 139w (33625)**

Fall 2009

Professor Deborah R. Vargas

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Tues. 12:30-2:00P

And by appointment

**Course Description:**

This writing course surveys feminist of color theories and praxis. We will focus on historical and contemporary writings that explore gender as a system of power as well as the intersections of gender, race, sexuality, and class. The course draws from interdisciplinary scholarship to provide an introduction to the historical and intellectual landscape of feminist scholarship. Course material and lectures will address the lived realities, cultural formations, and knowledge productions by and about women and men of color. Moreover, the term "feminisms" is used in class to emphasize the multiplicity of what is considered feminist thought and praxis with respect to unique structural differences affecting a variety of communities.

**Required Texts:**

***Feminism Without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity.***

Chandra Talpade Mohanty. Duke University Press (2003).

***The Nuts and Bolts of College Writing.*** Michael Harvey. Hackett Publishing Company (2003).

**COURSE READER** (<http://www.mozenapublishing.com>)

Fall Evaluation Period: Sunday, November 22-Sunday, December 6

**TOPICS AND READINGS:**

**Day 1: TU SEPT. 24<sup>th</sup>**

- INTRODUCTION TO COURSE

**WEEK 1: *Feminist Theories/Women of Color***

**TU SEPT. 29<sup>TH</sup>**

- “Privatized Citizenship, Corporate Academies, and Feminist Projects” [C. Mohanty]
- “The Combahee River Collective Statement [CR]
- “On Asian America, Feminism, and Agenda-Making: A Roundtable Discussion” [Chiang, Co, Kim, Lui, and Zia/CR]

*Recommended:*

- “Origins of the Feminist Struggle in Puerto Rico” [Valle-Ferrer/CR]

**TH OCT. 1st**

- “In Praise of Insubordination, Or, What Makes A Good Woman Go Bad?” [I. Hernández-Avila/CR]
- “Cartographies of Struggle: Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism” [C. Mohanty]
- “Punctuation” [Harvey]
- “Paragraphs” [Harvey]

*Recommended:*

- “Roots and Resistance: The Emergent Writings of Twenty Years of Chicana Feminist Struggle” [Teresa Córdova/CR]

**WEEK 2: *Empire: Slavery—Immigration—Colonization***

**TU OCT. 6th**

- “The Legacy of Slavery: Standards for a New Womanhood” [A.Y. Davis/CR]
- “Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses” [C. Mohanty]
- “The Place and Placelessness of Migrant Filipina Domestic Workers” [R. Parreñas/CR]

**DUE: Critical Reflection Essay**

**TH OCT. 8<sup>TH</sup>**

- “Malintzín Tenepal: A Preliminary Look into a New Perspective” (A. Del Castillo/CR)
- “Beyond Pocahontas, Princess, and Squaw: Investigation Traditional Feminism” [M.J. Tippeconnic Fox and S. Nicholas/CR]
- **SCREEN: MOHWAK GIRLS (2005)**

**WEEK 3:     *Mediations on Sovereignty and Nationalism*****TU OCT. 13<sup>TH</sup>**

- “Introduction” to From a Native Daughter [H.Kay Trask/CR]
- “Geneologies of Community, Home, and Nation” [C. Mohanty]
- “Clarity [Harvey]

**TH OCT. 15<sup>TH</sup>**

- “Women’s Mana and Hawaiian Sovereignty” [H. Kay Trask/CR]
- “A Room of One’s Own: Women and Power in the New America” [Fusco and Muñoz/CR]
- Flow [Harvey]

**WEEK 4:     *Family*****TU OCT. 20<sup>TH</sup>**

- “Chicana Lesbians: Fear and Loathing in the Chicano Community” (C. Trujillo/CR)
- “Reappraising the Archive” [R. Rodriguez/CR]
- “What’s Home Got to Do with It?” [C. Mohanty]

**DUE: Critical Engagement Essay****TH OCT. 22<sup>nd</sup>**

- “Will the “Real” Mother Please Stand Up” [P. Hill Collins/CR]
- “Equality Inc.” [L. Duggan/CR]
- “Using Sources” [Harvey]

**WEEK 5: Labor—(Re)production—Resistance****TU OCT. 27<sup>TH</sup>**

- “Racism, Birth Control and Reproductive Rights” [A.Y. Davis/CR]
- “The Birth Control Movement in Puerto Rico” [I. Lopez/CR]
- “Controlling Borders and Babies: John Tanton, ZPG, and Racial Anxiety over Mexican-Origin Women’s Fertility” [E. Gutiérrez/CR]

**TH OCT. 29<sup>TH</sup>**

- “The U.S. Ware on Trafficking and the Moral Disciplining of Migrant Women” [R. Parrenas/CR]
- “Drop It Like It’s Hot” Culture Industry Laborers and Their Perspectives on Rap Music Video Production” [M. Fitts/CR]
- **SCREEN: MAID IN AMERICA (2004)**

**WEEK 6: Labor—(Re)production—Resistance****TU NOV. 3rd**

- “Communist Women” [A.Y.Davis/CR]
- “Do You See the Light?”: Mexican American Workers and CIO Organizing” [Z. Vargas/CR]
- “Women Workers and the Politics of Solidarity” [C. Mohanty]

**DUE: Secondary Sources + Annotated Bibliography****TH NOV. 5<sup>th</sup> <No Class>****WEEK 7: Criminality and the State****TU NOV. 10<sup>TH</sup>**

- “The Prison Fix” [R. Gilmore/CR]
- “Gracefulness” [Harvey]

**TH NOV. 12<sup>TH</sup>**

- “Crime, Croplands, and Capitalism” [R. Gilmore/CR]
- “Beginnings and Endings” [Harvey]

**WEEK 8:            *Representations*****TU    NOV. 17<sup>TH</sup>**

- “Critical Visions: The Representation and Resistance of Asian Women” [L. Lu]
- “Shooting the Patriarch” [R. Rodriguez/CR]
- **SCREEN: *SLAYING THE DRAGON (2007)***

**TH    NOV. 19<sup>TH</sup>**

- “Gangsta Culture—Sexism, Misogyny: Who Will Take the Rap?” [b. hooks/CR]
- “Hip-Hop Honeys and Da Hustlaz: Black Sexualities in the New Hip-Hop Pornography” [M. Miller-Young/CR]
- **SCREEN: *SAY MY NAME (2009)***

**WEEK 9:        Identity Politics—Politics of Identity—Coalitions****TU    NOV. 24<sup>ST</sup>**

- “The Master’s Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master’s House” [A. Lorde/CR]
- “Sisterhood, Coalition, and the Politics of Experience” [C. Mohanty]
- “On the Road with Angela Davis” [R. Fregoso/CR]

**DUE: Analytic Essay – Research Paper Draft****TH    NOV. 26<sup>th</sup>    <Happy Turkey Day>****WEEK 10:      Identity Politics—Politics of Identity—Coalitions****TU    DEC. 1<sup>ST</sup>**

- “What’s Race Gotta Do With It?—November 2008” [C. Moraga]
- “Love and Money” [L. Duggan/CR]
- “Race, Multiculturalism, and Pedagogies of Dissent” [C. Mohanty]

**TH    DEC. 3<sup>RD</sup>      LAST DAY****DUE:    Peer Reviews (in class dialogue)**

## Course Requirements

### **Attendance and Participation in Discussion 15**

Attendance and participation in discussion is absolutely vital to the success of your learning experience. A record of attendance will be taken daily. You are allowed 2 excused absences without penalty. Each absence after that will result in a deduction of 2 points. The grade total of 15 = 10 pts. attendance + 5 points discussion participation.

### **Writing Journal Concepts 10**

Utilize a writing journal for reading assignments.

For each day's assigned readings:

(1) provide a summary in your own words of at least 1 key concept or argument posed by authors.

(2) Write down at least one question you would pose in class for discussion.

*Journals will be randomly collected and evaluated 2 times during the quarter (each evaluation = 5 pts.)*

Instructions and guidelines will be reviewed in class for the following assignments. The goal for each writing assignment is that each will build upon the other to form the foundation for your final research paper.

**Critical Reflection Essay — Why Feminist/Feminism? (2 pgs.) 10**

**Critical Engagement Essay (2 pgs.) 10**

**Secondary Sources + Annotated Bibliography (2-3 pgs) 10**

**Analytic Essay – Research Paper Draft (3-4 pgs.) 15**

**Peer Review 10**

**Research Paper (10-12 pages) 20**

**DUE DATE Research Paper: Thursday December 10th @ 5PM**

Grade Scale (based on 100 pts.):

90-100 = A

80-89 = B

\*70-79 = C

60-69 = D

59-Below = F

***House Rules:***

- *Internal Deadline for signing DROP CARDS is the end of week 2. After this week I will not sign drop cards. No Exceptions.*
- *\*If you are taking this course P/NP you must make a 70 in order to receive a Pass.*
- *Be on Time. If you are late or leave class early you will not receive credit for attendance.*
- *If you miss class it is your responsibility to catch up on anything missed in class from a classmate.*
- Turn off all computers, iPods, and all tech equipment during class.
- Please see me in person during office hours (rather than email) if you'd like to go over any of the readings or assignments.
- All written assignments must be submitted in hard copy form at the beginning of class unless otherwise instructed. I do not accept assignments submitted over email. NO Exceptions.