

**Gender Relations II
Feminist Theory and Practice**

INSTRUCTOR: Professor Hae Yeon Choo
OFFICE: Rm 41, Department of Sociology, 725 Spadina Ave
CLASS HOURS & LOCATION: Tuesday 4-6pm
OFFICE HOURS: by appointment—Just email to schedule a meeting!
EMAIL: hy.choo@utoronto.ca
COURSE WEBSITE: Access via UofT portal: <http://portal.utoronto.ca>

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND STRUCTURE

This is a seminar designed to cultivate and practice the art of feminist theorizing. We will cover important feminist theoretical developments with a keen focus on the process and methods as toolkits for our own research. This seminar is interdisciplinary, reflecting the history of feminist theory as a collective endeavor across multiple disciplines. We will emphasize how we as social scientists build theory from empirical research. Simultaneously, we will practice theory in a four-stage structured workshop format to develop individual projects through peer review along with instructor feedback.

I encourage students to come with their own research projects in various stages, including but not limited to 1) a term paper that they would like develop during the semester, 2) a section of the master's thesis that they would like to publish in peer-reviewed journals, 3) dissertation or master's thesis proposal, 4) a review article /statement of the field paper. Consider using this seminar as an opportunity to move a project forward with the insights and ways of thinking that feminist theory offers. The students who plan to specialize in sociology of gender and feminist studies would benefit most from the seminar, but I also welcome students with other research interests who want to enhance their analytic skills.

Each class will consist of a student-led presentation and discussion of the assigned readings. In addition, we will do a workshop for our individual research papers, including in-class writing, outlining and conceptual mapping, and peer-reviews.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADES

1. Reflective essay on the meaning of theory (2 single-spaced pages, Week 3)	5%
2. Reading Response (10% each: 2 single-spaced pages, choose <i>four weeks</i> between Week 4-10)	40%
3. Workshop I-IV (5% x 4 times)	20%
4. Two individual meetings with the instructor	5%
5. Final paper (20-25 double-spaced pages, December 15)	30%
TOTAL	100%

- All writing assignments and workshop materials, except the final paper, are either pass or fail, with the possibility of re-writing within two weeks of receiving the mark in case of fail. Since there are multiple weeks students can choose from, late reading responses are not accepted, except when there are legitimate reasons beyond a student's control. For the term paper, the late penalty is 5% per day, which is waived in the case of legitimate reasons beyond control.
- You will write five 2 single-spaced page papers that reflect upon and respond critically to the readings. These papers should include a short summary of the arguments but

focus on synthesis, engagement with core ideas, and critique. They should be seen as writing and thinking exercises, and thus, marked pass/fail. You will receive individual feedback on reading responses.

- Two individual consultations: (1) The final paper, topic and format, need to be discussed with the instructor through an individual meeting (from October 3-October 16). (2) The instructor will provide feedback on the outline or the conceptual map of your final paper (from Nov 21-Dec 4). Please email or see the instructor before/after class to set up a 20-minute individual appointment.
- Students should be familiar with policies on plagiarism (see here: <http://www.sgs.utoronto.ca/governance/policies/academicmisconduct.htm>. For more information about how to write without plagiarizing, see: <http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>).

Course Outline

Week 1 September 12, 2017
Introduction

Lorde, Audre. 1984. "Transformation of Silence into Language and Action," Pp. 40-44. In *Sister/Outsider*. Freedom, CA: The Crossing Press.

Week 2 September 19, 2017
Why theorize?

hooks, bell. 1991. "Theory as Liberatory Practice," *Yale Journal of Law and Feminism* 4(1): 1-12.

Crenshaw, Kimberle. "Demarginalizing the intersection of race and sex: A black feminist critique of antidiscrimination doctrine, feminist theory and antiracist politics." *U. Chi. Legal F.* (1989): 139.

Butler, Judith. 2004. "Acting in Concert" Pp 1-16 in *Undoing Gender*. New York: Routledge.

Week 3 September 26, 2017
How do we know what we know? Feminist epistemology

Haraway, Donna. 1988. "Situated Knowledges: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspective," *Feminist Studies* 14: 575-599.

Collins, Patricia Hill. 1986. "Learning from the Outsider Within: The Sociological Significance of Black Feminist Thought," *Social Problems* 33 (6): 14-32.

Harding, Sandra. "Rethinking standpoint epistemology: What is 'strong objectivity?'" *The Centennial Review* 36.3 (1992): 437-470.

Scott, Joan W. 1991. "The Evidence of Experience," *Critical Inquiry* 17 (4): 773-797.

Reflective Essay Due: What does theory mean for each of us? What kind of standpoint do we bring to our theory and knowledge production? Engage the week's readings in the reading response.

Week 4 October 3, 2017

Politics and Ethics of Representation

Mohanty, Chandra Talpade. 1988. "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses," *Feminist Review* 30: 61-88.

Narayan, Uma. 1997. "Cross-Cultural Connections, Border-Crossings, and 'Death by Culture'" Pp. 81-117 In *Dislocating Cultures: Identities, Traditions, and Third World Feminism*. New York: Routledge.

Mahmood, Saba. 2001. "Feminist Theory, Embodiment, and the Docile Agent: Some Reflections on the Egyptian Islamic Revival." *Cultural Anthropology* 16(2): 202-236.

Abu-Lughod, Lila. 1990. "The Romance of Resistance," *American Ethnologist* 17(1): 41-55.

Workshop I: Finding the Research Question and the Case—What is your research question, and why is it an important one? What is your empirical case, if you have one? Why is it a good case to answer your research question? Submit this short research proposal (1 single-spaced page) to the instructor by 6pm on **Monday, October 2**.

Week 5 October 10, 2017

Multiracial Feminism and Intersectionality (1)

Crenshaw, Kimberlé. 1991. "Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color" *Stanford Law Review* 43 (6): 1241-1299.

Zinn, Maxine Baca, and Bonnie Thornton Dill. 1996. "Theorizing Difference from Multiracial Feminism," *Feminist Studies* 22 (2): 321-331.

Glenn, Evelyn Nakano. 2002. "Integrating Race and Gender." Pp. 6-17 In *Unequal Freedom*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Collins, Patricia Hill. "Intersectionality's definitional dilemmas." *Annual Review of Sociology* 41 (2015): 1-20.

Week 6 October 17, 2017

Intersectionality (2)

McCall, Leslie. "The complexity of intersectionality." *Signs: Journal of women in culture and society* 30.3 (2005): 1771-1800.

Choo, Hae Yeon and Myra Marx Ferree. 2010. "Practicing Intersectionality in Sociological Research: A Critical Analysis of Inclusions, Interactions and Institutions in the Study of Inequalities," *Sociological Theory* 28 (2): 129-149.

Nash, Jennifer C. "Re-thinking intersectionality." *Feminist review* 89.1 (2008): 1-15.

Alexander-Floyd, Nikol G. "Disappearing acts: Reclaiming intersectionality in the social sciences in a post-Black feminist era." *Feminist Formations* 24.1 (2012): 1-25.

Week 7 October 24, 2017

Gender, Labor, and Globalization

Rudrappa, Sharmila. *Discounted life: The price of global surrogacy in India*. NYU Press, 2015.

Workshop II: Engaging the Literature—Choose one journal article or a book that is the most important to your project and write 1 single-spaced memo about how your project builds upon, extends, or critiques this article theoretically and/or empirically. Submit this short memo the instructor by 6pm on **Monday, October 23**.

Week 8 October 31, 2017
Thinking about Sex and Sexualities

Rubin, Gayle. 1992. "Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality." *Pleasure and Danger: Exploring Female Sexuality*. Ed. Carole S. Vance. London: Pandora. 267-293.

Rubin, Gayle. "Blood under the bridge: Reflections on "thinking sex". *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 17.1 (2011): 15-48.

Bernstein, Elizabeth. "Militarized humanitarianism meets carceral feminism: the politics of sex, rights, and freedom in contemporary antitrafficking campaigns." *Signs* 36.1 (2010): 45-71.

Espiritu, Yen Le. 2001. "We Don't Sleep Around Like White Girls Do: Family, Culture and Gender in Filipina American Lives" *Signs* 26(2): 415-440.

Workshop III: Finding and Using a Model Article (Reverse Outlining Technique)—This exercise is for you to familiarize yourself with the structure of a journal article including its component, style, and length. Choose a model article from a journal, to which you would like to send your manuscript in the future, and bring an outline of the article to class, taking note of the structure and the length of each section of the article. (if your final paper is a different format—proposal, review article, etc—please consult the instructor for alternate suggestions)

Week 9 November 14
Intimacy and the Sexual Commerce

Takeyama, Akiko. *Staged Seduction: Selling Dreams in a Tokyo Host Club*. Stanford University Press, 2016.

Week 10 November 21
Gender and the State

Haney, Lynne. 2010. *Offending Women: Power, Punishment, and the Regulation of Desire*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Week 11 November 28 *Class does not meet as a group; instead, we have writing assignments and individual meetings with the instructor

Workshop IV: Review, Respond, and Revise

First Submission Draft, Reviews, Revision Memo, and Final Draft of:

Choo, Hae Yeon. 2013. "The Cost of Rights: Migrant Women, Feminist Advocacy, and Gendered Morality in South Korea." *Gender & Society* 27(4): 445-468.

Hoang, Kimberly. 2014. "Competing Technologies of Embodiment: Pan-Asian Modernity and Third World Dependency in Vietnam's Contemporary Sex Industry," *Gender & Society* 28(4): 513-536.

Lakkimsetti, Chaitanya. 2014. "'HIV is Our Friend': Prostitution, Biopower and State in Postcolonial India," *Signs: Journal of Women and Culture* 40(1): 201-226

- Students will read three recently published article manuscripts through the review process, along with the reviews. **By 10pm, November 25 (Saturday)**, students should finish reading my packet (Choo, G&S 2013) as an example, read both the first draft of both Hoang and Lakkimsetti, and choose either Hoang or Lakkimsetti to write a peer review and submit it to the instructor. After 10pm, I will send the reviews, revision memos, and revised, final copy of the article. Students are asked to complete the reading of the whole packet before Nov 28, and bring reflections to the review process to the following class on December 5.
- From Nov 21 until December 4, you are required to meet with the instructor one-on-one to discuss your final paper. Bring an outline or conceptual map of the final paper to the individual meeting.

Week 12 December 5

Student Paper Presentations & Follow-up discussion of our research projects

*The final paper is to be submitted via email by **December 15***