Sociological training often privileges questions of legitimacy over questions of urgency. Why we have chosen this life of inquiry and investigation can become quickly supplanted by technocratic rules about what can be studied, about how it can be studied, and how to convey the dispassionate ends of our hard work.

This class resists such a paradigm, making it useful for students in their 1st year of their MA or the last year of their PhD or post doc. Feminist sociology can resist the separation of mind and heart, political motivation and academic rigor, identity and the scholarly lens, reintegrating what farcically is displaced in the quest for scientific contribution.

The kind of feminist sociology introduced in this class does not encourage fiction, relativism, or rejection of the concept of truth (truthfully, all scholars imagine they are forwarding truth, and hope to be found truthful!). Rather, it encourages students to reintegrate their scholarly and personal selves, and reignite their passions, developing a maturity and groundedness about their academic priorities. The course also uses journaling, reading responses, and interviews to build an epistemological and useful toolkit of mentors, lenses, and practices.

This course can be thought of as a journey, and your writings a travelogue. Feminist Studies grants us passage into interdisciplinarity so that we might stay sociological approaches enough to imagine new ways of representation and analysis that seem vital to us. Artists, film makers, poets, essayists, can help us think about the questions that preoccupy us, the relationship of our selves to our work, the academy, listening, writing, and interpretation in refreshingly new ways. We will take time to think about writing, about defending, and what it means to define the sociological project and the feminist project, for ourselves and others.

This course will give you food for thought to build your personal approach, and then enable you to introduce something you are working on – it can be an article in progress or a piece of one, a dissertation proposal, a methods section, a reflection or segment of writing, an op-ed, really anything you are working on and want to share.

Coursework: 4 reading responses, 1-3 pages single-spaced. 1 admiration exposition, one interview. Final project: draft of something you’re working on with an appendix. Sky’s the limit. Each week different students will introduce what they are working on, their priorities or interests.
1. January 7. The Imperative of Feminist Studies
   - Answers. Mary Oliver.

   - Yiyun Li. 2017. To Speak is to Blunder. The New Yorker.
     - http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2017/01/02/to-speak-is-to-blunder
     - https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/diving-wreck

3. January 21 How it Starts
     - http://savageminds.org/2015/02/02/read-more-write-less/


5. Feb 4. Listening

• [https://discardstudies.com/2016/03/21/refusal-as-research-method-in-discard-studies/](https://discardstudies.com/2016/03/21/refusal-as-research-method-in-discard-studies/)

• [http://condor.depaul.edu/mwilson/multicult/patparker.htm](http://condor.depaul.edu/mwilson/multicult/patparker.htm)

• Anna Deveare Smith. Four American Characters, Ted Talk
  o [https://www.ted.com/talks/anna_deavere_smith_s_american_character](https://www.ted.com/talks/anna_deavere_smith_s_american_character)

  o [http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/10/26/the-memory-keeper](http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/10/26/the-memory-keeper)


6. Feb 11. Rendering Visible and Staring

• Too Poor to Retire, Too Young to Die. *L.A. Times.*


• Daniella Rossell.

• Catherine Opie.


7. Feb 25. Ethics

• Grappling with “The Feminist Ethnographer’s Dilemma” special issue, *JCE*.

• Ethics Beyond the IRB. 2011. Special issue of *Qualitative Sociology*. 2011.


8. March 4

Queen for a Day
Ochoa. *Queen for a Day: Transformistas, Beauty Queens and the Performance of Femininity in Venezuela.* Duke UP.


Wool. 2015. *After War: The Weight of Life at Walter Reed.* Duke UP

10. March 18. Gender, Interviewing, Masculine Sociology

• Swidler. Talk of Love. Part one and Methodological Appendix
• Lamont and Swidler. Methodological Pluralism and the Possibilities and Limits of Interviewing. *Qualitative Sociology* 37, 2: 173-188.


• Playing with Fire: Feminist Thought and Activism through Seven Lives in India. Intro, 123 postscript
• [http://beyondbullyingproject.com](http://beyondbullyingproject.com)
• Taylor, Johnston, Whitehead. 2014. A Corporation in Feminist Clothing?

12. April 1. Traitorous Research
• Mabs Segrest. *Memoir of a Race Traitor.*
• Naheed Islam. Racing Research, Researching Race.

Future reading:

• Stewart, Lal and McGuire. 2011. Expanding the Archives of Global Feminisms. *SIGNS.*