

SOCI 383 – Feminisms in Theory and Practice 1

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Course Description:

What does it mean to live your life as a woman? What does it mean to be a feminist? Is there any universal essence within these two notions? How about Patriarchy? Can we find foundational family resemblance among all patriarchal structures in different times and spaces?

This course will address these fundamental questions and other equally significant questions in contemporary Feminism studies and practice. Stated differently, this course will be centered on different dimensions of what one can call "women's question" in the modern world. In practice, the course will review the wide range of theories and practices and movements that could come together under the feminism umbrella, despite their differences.

During the semester, the course will be founded on the following pillars.

First, we will investigate the history of the different waves of feminism movements in North American societies. i.e., their point of departure, their framework in analyzing modern patriarchy and their general scope in addressing the "Women's question."

Second, we will explore some significant theoretical branches of feminism (radical feminism, post-structural feminism, ecofeminism, etc.), the broader ontological/epistemological ground they represent, and the way they address "women's question" and portray "women's emancipation." In addition, will we investigate their critical “standpoint” of feminism approaches regarding (social)science knowledge production system.

Finally, we will shift our lens into those who stand__ sexually(lesbian, queer) racially(black feminism, indigenous feminism), economic wise(social feminism, labor feminism) or geographically(postcolonial feminism, third world feminism, etc.)__ in margins of mainstream feminism. In doing so, we ponder over how mainstream feminism has been echoed in marginalized women's lives and how the marginalized women re-articulate " women's question" from their own standpoint.

¹ This online outline is only intended to give an overall sense of the course. Detailed course outlines will be made available for all registered students on the first day of class. Only those outlines are to be considered official.

Course Goals/Objectives

By the end of this course, students are expected to:

- Explore various feminist perspectives and their historical development as a result of critical dialogues with each other
- Be familiar with Feminism critics of (social) knowledge.
- Be familiar with the socio-historical conditions that ground feminism theories and movements and observe each feminism movement in its wider social frame.
- Boost their ability to analyze popular culture and current events from a feminist perspective.
- Recognize the irreducibly diverse voices of less privileged and marginalized women in feminism movements/ theories

Course Pre/Co-requisites:

- 1.5 units of SOCI upper level course (300 or 400 level)
- Or permission of the department

Course Materials:

Textbook:

Mandell, Nancy., Jennifer, Johnson (Eds). 2017.Feminist Issues: Race, Class and sexuality.Sixth edition. Toronto: Pearson Publication.

All other reading materials (journal papers, book chapters, videos and online sources) will be accessible via Bright Space.