

A Comparative Study in Feminism and Feminist Dystopia

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Course Type:

Advanced lecture course, Comparative Literature, Feminist and Gender politics, Dystopia fiction, global studies

Course Description

This course will explore feminism and feminist dystopia in the fiction and non-fiction of women writers and theorists from around the globe; Europe, America, Canada and the Middle-East. We will focus on key issues in feminist agenda, such as the sex/gender debate, sexual desire and the body and the political economy of gender. We will compare and contrast the means by which feminists, which are sometimes rather dystopic, articulate their struggle for gender equality.

The main objectives of the course are

- To explore the history of feminist movements in the Western world
- To explore and discuss feminist agenda in fiction and non-fiction
- To compare and contrast the feminist struggle among different cultures
- To explore the emergence of classic and new feminist dystopia

Course Structure

- Frontal lectures
- Class discussions

- Independent work

Course Requirements and Assessment

Attendance: students are expected to attend at least 80% of the classes.

Examinations: a Midterm 25%

Written presentations: submission of two reports based on independent readings 25%

A Final Paper: 50%

University Policy:

- *Faculty Statement on Academic Integrity:* Intellectual communities are founded on an academic integrity and respecting the intellectual

property of others. We follow a zero-tolerance policy against plagiarism.

- *Faculty Statement on Disability Accommodation*: All students have the right to receive the accommodations that are necessary for the learning process.

Weekly Course Plan

Week	Topic	Required Reading
1-2	An introduction: -gender politics in 18th and 19 century - -early expression of feminist thought	Mary Wollstonecraft's <i>A Vindication of the Rights of Women</i> , Introduction John Stuart Mill's <i>The Subjection of Women</i>
3-5	Early feminist writers	Kate Chopin's short stories: "The Story of An Hour", "A Pair of Silk Stockings" Virginia Woolf's essay "A Room of One's Own" (Chapters 1 & 3)
6-7	Second wave of feminism in the 1960s	-Lorna Martens' reflections on feminist writers in Germany -Betty Friedan's "The Problem that Has no Name" from <i>The Feminine Mystique</i>
8	Third Wave of Feminist Movement	Julia Kristeva's "Women's Time"
9-11	Feminist Dystopia	Margaret Attwood's <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>

Week	Topic	Required Reading
12	Feminism and the Subversion of Identity	From Judith Butler's <i>Gender Trouble</i> : "Subjects of Sex/Gender/Desire"
13-15	Feminists in the Diaspora	American feminist with Palestinian-Egyptian roots Randa Jarrar's <i>A Map of Home</i>
16	Summary and final conclusions	

Required Bibliography

Attwood, Margaret. *The Handmaid's Tale*. Vintage: Penguin Random House, 1996.

Butler, Judith. "Subjects of Sex/Gender/Desire." *Gender Trouble: Judith Butler Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*. NY: Routledge, 1990. 1-34.

Chopin, Kate. *The Complete Works of Kate Chopin*. Ed. by Per Seyersted. E-book. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2006.

Friedan, Betty. "The Problem that Has No Name." *The Feminine Mystique*. NY: W. W. Norton & Company, INC, 1963.

Jarrar, Randa. *A Map of Home*. NY: Penguin Books, 2009. Print.

Kristeva, Julia. "Women's Time." *Signs* 7 (1). Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 13-35.

Martens, Lorna. *The Promised Land? Feminist Writing in the German Democratic Republic*. Albany, State University of New York Press, 2001. 1-35.

Mill, John Stuart. *On Liberty: The Subjection of Women*. NY: Henry Holt and Company, 1877. Print.

Wollstonecraft, Mary. *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*. UK: Penguin Classics, 2004. Print.

Woolf, Virginia. *A Room of One's Own*. London: Penguin Books, 2003. Print.