Winter Quarter, 2015  
Bldg 50, 51B  
T/Th 9:30 – 10:45  
Helen Longino  
Bldg 90, rm 92J  
Office hours:  
T/Th 11:00-11:45

Course description

This course is an opportunity to explore the difference feminism makes in creative arts, humanities, and social science research. The aim is twofold: 1) to consider challenges raised by feminist thinkers to standard views about knowledge and creativity and 2) to show students a range of approaches within feminist, queer, and gender sensitive scholarship. The course will be structured to reflect these two aims. While we cannot possibly cover all the feminist approaches in all the disciplines and interdisciplinary research areas, the hope is that students can begin to identify the research strategies and tools suited to the questions they wish to pursue.

In the first few weeks, we will read and discuss works that pose distinctive feminist questions about knowledge, research and scholarship: questions about positionality and situatedness, questions about the relations between disciplines, questions about the implications of postmodernism and postcolonialism for constructive knowledge projects. Having established some shared understandings and questions as well as a sense of the range of perspectives represented in the class through our readings and discussions, we will learn from faculty within Stanford about how they approach their own research. Each visitor will assign us some reading and spend one class period with us. We will have an opportunity for discussion with each visitor.

Readings: Required readings will be available on the CourseWork site (CW). I have indicated further readings as “Rec.” These either raise additional issues or investigate those in the required readings more deeply. Most of them are also accessible via the CourseWork site.

Expectations:

Everyone is expected to participate in class discussion. [And, please, no open laptop computers during class.] In addition, each student will sign up to introduce visitors’ materials to the class. All undergraduates should be enrolled for 4 units of credit in FemGen 103 or Phil 153. Graduate students should enroll in FemGen 203 or PHIL 253. The graduate section will meet on Wednesday from 10:00 to 10:50. If a student must be absent, he or she will prepare a 1 page response paper on the readings to be discussed on that date.

Papers and grading basis

- 1 short paper (4 to 6 pages) critically analyzing one or more of the readings of Part One. (30%)
• 1 final paper written in the form of a research proposal describing an actual or possible research project and how (a subset of) theory and methods discussed in the class would bear on it. (45-50%)
• Attendance and active participation (including introduction of a visitor). (20-25%)

Papers submitted after the due date without a documented medical excuse will be penalized.

Office hours and contact:

Office hours: T/Th 11:00-11:55 and by appointment. Office phone: 724 9596. Please use email only to set up an appointment for an office visit.

Schedule:

Part One: General Considerations in Feminist and Queer Research

Introduction: Themes in feminist and queer research

Jan. 6

• Review of terms: essentialism, universalism, bio determinism, social construction
• Themes in Feminist Research

Gender: Identity and Positionality

Jan. 8


Jan. 13


Rec:
Donna Haraway, “Gender for a Marxist Dictionary” In her Simians,Cyborgs and Women (Routledge, 1991)

**Humanities, Social Science, Interdisciplinarity**

Jan. 15

Paula Gunn Allen, "Kochinnako in Academe: Three Approaches to Interpreting a Keres Indian Tale" from *The Sacred Hoop*

Rec:
Margo Hendricks, “Feminism, the Roaring Girls, and Me” in Greene and Kahn, eds.

Jan. 20

Dorothy Smith, "Women's Perspective as a Radical Critique of Sociology" *Sociological Inquiry* 44 (1974) (CW)

Rec:
Toby Jayaratne and Abigail Stewart: “Quantitative and Qualitative Methods in the Social Sciences” In Mary Fonow and Judith Cook, *Beyond Methodology* (Indiana UP, 1991) (CW)

Linda Gordon/Joan Scott exchange on women's/feminist history. *Signs* 15, 4


Jan. 22


Rec:


**New challenges: Postmodernism, Postcolonialism, and Queer Theory**

Jan. 27


Rec:


Jan. 29


Saraswati Raju, “We Are Different, but Can We Talk?” *Gender, Place, and Culture* 9, 2 (2002): 173-177.


Rec:
Uma Narayan, "The Project of Feminist Epistemology: Perspectives from a Nonwestern Feminist" in Gender/Body/Knowledge, Alison Jaggar, et al. eds. (Rutgers UP)

Feb. 3
Naomi Scheman, “Queering the Center by Centering the Queer” in Feminists Rethink the Self, ed. by Diana Tietjens Meyers (Boulder: Westview, 1997) (CW)

Feb. 5

*First paper due*

Part Two: Getting Specific

Four additional Stanford faculty members will visit the class. Visitors are scheduled for Thursdays and in preparation for their visit, readings that they assign will be discussed on the preceding Tuesday. Discussion of each set of readings will be led by a group of students, who will also take the lead in engaging the visitor in discussion.

Feb. 10: readings from Myra Strober, School of Education, GBS (emerita)
Feb. 12: Myra Strober visit
Feb. 17: readings from Haiyan Lee, Department of East Asian Studies
Feb. 19: Haiyan Lee visit
Feb. 26: readings and discussion topic TBA
Feb. 24: readings from Sylvia Yanagisako, Department of Anthropology
Feb. 26: Sylvia Yanagisako visit
Mar. 3: readings from Richard Meyer, Department of Art and Art History

Mar. 5: Richard Meyer visit

Part Three: Getting Started

In the final week of class, we will discuss drafts of the final papers being prepared by students. The final paper for this class is an investigation and discussion of the implications of (some of) the ideas we have discussed in the class for an actual or imagined feminist research project.

Mar. 10-12 Student presentations on final papers

*Final paper due Friday, March 13*