Course Description:
The feminist activity and theory of the late twentieth century is often referred to as the ‘second wave’ and developed and co-existed with other social movements agitating for socialist goals, racial equality, gay liberation and anti-war amongst others. This was a historical period rich in discussions of a range of oppressions and the interconnections between sex, class, race and sexuality.
We will study a number of feminist theories which constitute a selection of work from the tradition of western feminisms. This is not a complete representation nor is it intended to be so; it is a collection of one major writing from a variety of traditions (usually) identified as Liberal; Radical; Black; Materialist and Revolutionary feminisms. Each reading will be discussed in the context of the society and time in which it was originally published; as such we will also examine the history of the US in the 1950s and 1960s; the UK in the 1970s and 1980s and France in the late 1960s and 1970s. We will understand the formal political context; the legal position of women; the co-existence of other political movements and the state of feminist debates surrounding each of the works we will read. We will also discuss the political and social actions related to each of these strands of feminist thought, such as Reclaim the Night marches; campaigns for reproductive rights; educational and employment opportunities for women; anti-violence and pornography campaigns; Wages for Housework amongst others.
The course has a heavy reading list of complex, theoretical readings. You will find it challenging but we will work together to examine and analyze each of them to the best of our abilities. This course will help you develop a solid historical background, whilst providing the opportunity for you to develop your own personal research interests.

Course Texts and Courseware:
- Betty Friedan – *The Feminine Mystique*
- bell hooks – *Ain’t I a Woman: Black Women and Feminism*
- Shulamith Firestone – *The Dialectic of Sex*
- Christine Delphy – *Close to Home*

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
- Attendance and Participation  20%
- Seminar Presentation  20%
- Essay Proposal with Annotated Bibliography 20% due mid term
- Final Paper  40% due at last class