COURSE CONTENT

What is feminist scholarship? The purpose of this course will be to evaluate the impact of feminist scholarship on the social sciences, in particular, the extent to which feminist sociologists and anthropologists have challenged previously-held notions about sex roles, reproduction, sexuality, mothering, work, social reform movements, and the production of knowledge. Beginning with the early, isolated contributions of the psychologist Helen Thompson Wooley, the sociologist Jessie Taft, and the anthropologists Elsie Clews Parsons and Margaret Mead, the course will then turn to the burgeoning literature of recent feminist scholarship. Works by major British, American and Canadian writers who have analyzed the position of women in western industrial societies will be given particular emphasis. In their essay for the course, students will be asked to consider the impact of feminist scholarship in their specific area of interest.

REQUIRED READING

Rosalind Rosenberg, Beyond Separate Spheres: Intellectual Roots of Modern Feminism
Kristin Luker, Abortion and the Politics of Motherhood

Additional photocopied readings will be made available at cost.

ORGANIZATION

One weekly seminar.