WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM

SPRING 1990

MEREDITH KIMBALL
Sem. Fri. 9:30-14:20

W.S. 311-5/621-5
FEMINIST PSYCHOANALYTIC THEORIES

In this course we will focus on modern feminist psychoanalytic theories. As a background we will examine the writings of Freud and Horney on female development. From there we will move on to modern feminist psychoanalytic theorists, in particular Nancy Chodorow, Carol Gilligan, and Jean Baker Miller. The task of these theorists has been to explain female development and psychological sex differences. The class will be conducted as a seminar. As such, students will be expected to do the readings before each class and to facilitate class discussions on a regular basis. While the amount of reading will vary from week to week, some of it is quite difficult and will require concentration and effort on the part of the reader.

REQUIRED READING

Gilligan, C. In a Different Voice: Psychological Theory and Women's Development (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1982)

Reserve readings will also be required.

ASSIGNMENTS  W.S. 311

Major Paper - The Major paper will count for 50% of the final grade and will be due at the end of the term. The length will be approximately 20-30 pages. Students will choose their own topics in consultation with the instructor. A wide range of paper topics will be possible. For example, one might wish to apply one or two of the theorists we have studied to an issue not specifically discussed by the theorists such as incest; or one might wish to pursue in more detail a topic that is central to one or more theorists such as dependency. Many other topics are possible.

Short Essays - Two short essays (approximately 5 pages in length) will also be assigned. Each essay will count for 15% of the final grade. One essay will cover the material in the first part of the course and be due at mid term time and the second will cover material in the second part of the course and be due at the end of the term. For each of the short essays several topics/questions will be made available.

(continued)
Class Participation - Class participation will count for 20% of the final grade. This will be based both on the student's general participation during class and also on two presentation/facilitation assignments. These assignments will consist of summarizing an assigned reading and presenting several questions or comments based on the reading in order to facilitate class discussion.

ASSIGNMENTS W.S. 821

Major Paper - The major paper will count for 40% of the final mark.

Short Essays - The first essay will be the same as for Women's Studies 311. For the second essay graduate students will be expected to write a short critical review of one of the theorists we have studied. Each essay will count for 15% of the final mark.

Class Participation - Class participation will count for 30% of the final mark. This will be based both on the student's general participation during class and also on two presentation/facilitation assignments. These assignments will consist of summarizing an assigned reading and presenting several question or comments based on the reading in order to facilitate class discussion. Students will make a presentation based on their major paper to the class at the end of the term.

Prerequisites: Women's Studies 100 and two Women's Studies 200 courses.