WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM

SPRING 1992

MARJORIE COHEN

Lec.: Thu. 9:30-11:20
Tut.: Thur. 13:30-14:20

W.S. 303-3/W.S. 822-5

FEMINIST SOCIAL AND POLITICAL THOUGHT
(cross-listed with POSC 419-3)

The purpose of this course is to understand the nature and the problems of developing feminist theory. Feminism is not a monolithic movement with a unified theoretical base. Rather, it encompasses a variety of ideologies and political objectives. This course will study the intellectual traditions from which various approaches to feminist thought have derived.

The first part of the course will examine the writings of significant feminist thinkers with regard to their perspectives on women's nature, the origin of women's subordination, why subordination continues, and appropriate action to reduce or eliminate inequality. Particular emphasis will be placed on the social and political context of the development of these ideas about women.

The second part of the course will examine the relationship between current and earlier traditions in feminist thought. It will analyze theoretical questions on issues such as social justice, equality, reproduction, the state, sexuality, and social change.

REQUIRED READING

2) Hooks, Bell. Talking Back.
3) Sunstein, Cass R., ed. Feminism and Political Theory.

Plus selected readings from the following available on reserve in the library:

1) de Beauvoir, Simone. The Second Sex
2) Engels, Frederick. The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State
3) Firestone, Shulamith. The Dialectic of Sex
4) Friedan, Betty. The Feminine Mystique
5) MacKinnon, Catherine. Toward a Feminist Theory of the State
6) Mill, John Stuart. The Subjection of Women
7) O'Brien, Mary. The Politics of Reproduction
8) Vance, Carole, ed. Pleasure and Danger: Exploring Female Sexuality

(over)
ASSIGNMENTS

Class Participation 20%
Tutorial Presentation 10%
Short written assignment (5 pages...) 10%
Essay 30%
Final Exam 30%

Prerequisite: 60 credit hours or WS 100

TUTORIALS WILL BE HELD DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF CLASSES