GSWS 405-5 Issues in Feminist Theory
“Contemporary Trans/National Feminist Theories on Race, Gender, and Sexuality”

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Lecture: Fridays 9:30 – 13:20 RCB 5118
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Course Description:
This course examines contemporary feminist theories on racism, gender, and sexuality. We will study how feminist theories can illuminate current political, racial, social, and gendered realities for subjects in national and international contexts. While focused on seeing links between this large and intersecting body of scholarship, special attention will be paid to the ways in which feminist theory can allow us to (or prevent us from) the task of challenging and dismantling multiple and interlocking systems of oppression both at “home” and “abroad.”

Course Texts and Courseware:

*Additional articles will be assigned to students and will be made available via a course website.

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
- Attendance and Participation 15%
- Seminar Presentation 20%
- Short Critical Response 25%
- Final Research Paper or Project 40%

Details of Evaluation and Assignments on page 2

Prerequisite: 60 units including six units of women’s studies or gender studies.
Attendance and Participation, 15%
Attendance is essential in this course. It is imperative that students attend class on time and actively participate in all classes. Reading all assigned materials and actively engaging class discussions are vital aspects of this seminar course.

Seminar Presentation, 20%
In groups of two, students will lead a seminar based on weekly theoretical readings. Presentations should attend to the key arguments/themes raised in the readings and provide discussion points and/or questions for the group. The presentations should strive to make appropriate links to contemporary political, historical, and social debates and utilize external research to illuminate difficult concepts and ideas raised in the readings. While providing some summary of the readings, presentations should include new analytic elements, showcasing students’ abilities to synthesize ideas and suggest exciting and nontraditional avenues for feminist research and praxis.

Short Critical Response, 25%
Half way through the term, the instructor will provide a set of questions for students to answer at home. The questions will examine any and/or all materials discussed during the classroom and students will offer cogent, well-written, and well-researched responses to each question. Students will have one week to complete the assignment. Responses should reflect an engagement with the issues raised, present your opinions on the debates surrounding selected issues, and showcase an understanding and knowledge of studied theories and works.

Final Research Paper or Project, 40%
A final research paper which does not exceed 12 pages in length addressing and extending the questions, debates, and discussions raised by the selected course materials and class discussions. The paper, while referencing theoretical works utilized in this class, should also showcase students’ research abilities and skills. Papers must provide a clearly articulated thesis, an annotated bibliography, and follow appropriate documentation styles and guidelines. Before embarking on their final projects, students are required to either submit a 1-2 page research proposal (at any point during the term) or set up an appointment to meet with me to discuss their ideas for their paper projects in person.