WS 822-5: Graduate Seminar in Feminist Theory
Topic: “Critical Intersections & New Directions”

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Course Description:
In this course, we will reflect on the current state of feminist theory and explore its challenges and future directions. Special attention will be paid to feminist theory's intersections with critical race theory, postcolonial theory, queer and transgender theory, and masculinity studies. We will also examine the institutional formations and pedagogical practices of Women's Studies and Gender Studies. Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to contribute to the course content with ideas from their own experience, practices, and visions of feminism.

Course Texts:
Judith Kegan Gardiner, ed. Masculinity Studies and Feminist Theory (Columbia UP, 2002)
Robyn Wiegman, ed. Women’s Studies On Its Own (Duke UP, 2002)
Regina Lewis and Sara Mills, ed. Feminist Postcolonial Theory (Routledge, 2003)
Susan Stryker and Stephen Whittle, ed. The Transgender Studies Reader (Routledge, 2006)
Gloria Anzaldua & Analouise Keating, ed. This Bridge We Call Home (Routledge, 2002)

Course Evaluation and Assignments:
Attendance & Participation 10%
Contributions to Blog 20%
Short Class Presentation 10%
Research Presentation 20%
Research Paper (15 - 20 pages) 40%

DESCRIPTION OF ASSIGNMENTS:
Attendance/Participation: The course will be conducted as a seminar and students are expected to participate actively in class discussion. The participation grade will reflect students’ attendance record, degree of involvement during class discussion and general contribution to the learning environment.

Blog: Students are required to contribute regularly to a class blog with reflections on their readings and on feminist issues in general.

Short Class Presentation: Choosing one topic from the list of course texts, each student will prepare a short (10 min) presentation on one aspect of that week’s reading and lead a short class discussion on the topic.

Research Presentation: Each student will give a 20-minute presentation of their research project. These presentations will be conducted as a symposium, open to faculty and graduate students in the department.

Research Paper: Each student will write a 15-20 pg. (typed and double-spaced) research paper on a relevant topic of their choice.

THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN’S STUDIES ENCOURAGES CLARITY OF THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION AND GOOD WRITING. STUDENTS WILL BE EVALUATED ON THESE SKILLS IN ALL COURSES GIVEN BY THE DEPARTMENT.