Women's Studies Department
Simon Fraser University
Spring, 1996

W.S. 102-3 R
Mary Lynn Stewart    AQ 6190
Introduction to Western Feminisms

This course addresses the following questions: What are Western Feminisms? When can we first see evidence of a feminist consciousness? What can we learn from medieval mystical feminists, early modern humanists (or educational) feminists, or eighteenth and nineteenth century female networks? What relationship do these early "protofeminists" have to the suffragettes at the turn of the century, or liberal, radical, or socialist feminisms of the 1960's and 1970's, or to lesbian and women of colour feminisms of the 1970's through the 1990's? How can we define our own feminist perspectives, while respecting the diversity of historical and contemporary feminist positions? What does a feminist position offer for the future?

REQUIRED READINGS:

Lerner, Gerda. The Creation of Feminist Consciousness From the Middle Ages to Eighteen-Seventy. (Oxford University Press, 1993).


ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

Tutorial Participation    20%
2 short (5 pages) papers (due weeks 4 and 10) 20% each
(one on a feminist and the other on a feminist issue).
Mid Term Examination, Week 7 20%
Final Examination 20%

DESIGNATED CREDIT:

Students may apply to the Liberal Arts Department to obtain 3 lower division credits toward a Certificate in Liberal Arts.
Tutorial and Assignment Schedule  WS 102  Western Feminisms

Week 1: January 8 — 11 Introductions

Week 2: January 15 — 18
Reading assignment: Gerda Lerner, The Creation of Feminist Consciousness: From the Middle Ages to Eighteen-Seventy. (Oxford University Press, 1993). Chapters One through Three, pp. 3-64.

Week 3: January 22 — 25
Reading assignment: Lerner, Chapters Four through Six, pp. 65-137.

Week 4: January 29 —February 1
Reading assignment: Lerner, Chapter Seven, pp. 138-166.

Nb. FIRST SHORT PAPER DUE IN TUTORIAL

Week 5: February 5 — 8

Week 6: February 12 — 15
Reading assignment: Lerner, Chapters Ten and Twelve, pp. 220-273.

Week 7: February 19 — 22   No Tutorial

Nb. MID-TERM EXAM THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd, IN CLASS

Week 8: February 26 —29

Week 9: March 4 — 6
Reading assignment: Humm, Chapters Three and Four, pp. 51-121.

Week 10: March 11 — 14

Nb. SECOND SHORT PAPER DUE IN TUTORIAL

Week 11: March 18 — 21
Reading assignment: Humm, Chapters Five and Six, pp. 122-180.

Week 12: March 25 — 28

Week 13: April 1 — 3
W.S. 102 Western Feminisms
Lecture Schedule

January 11:  Definitions: Patriarchy, Feminisms.

January 18:  Goddesses, Saints, and Spiritual Feminisms, pre 1400.

January 25:  Humanist and Educational Feminisms in the Renaissance and Reformation (1400-1700).

February 1:  Individualism and Feminism? The Enlightenment (18th Century).

February 8:  Revolutionary Feminism? 1780-1800.

February 15: Romanticism and Free Love Feminisms, 1830's - 1840's.

February 22:  Mid Term Examination

February 29:  Equal Rights, Maternal and Socialist Feminisms, 1850’s - 1900.

March 6:  Suffragettes and Suffragists, 1860’s - 1940’s.


April 3:  Feminisms Today