

ADVANCED FEMINIST THEORY

GNDR_ST 405 / POLI_SCI 490



The primary aim of this “post-Beauvoir” seminar is to identify and investigate some of the most significant “zones of contestation” that populate the vast array of debates and disputations in contemporary academic feminist theorizing. The approach and methodology is text interpretive, problem-oriented, and extensive in spirit rather than historical-chronological or circumscribed by the pursuit of a single, highly focused, topic. Accordingly, the syllabus is organized in “advanced survey” style, with a view toward staging pointed encounters between theories,

texts, and thinkers from week to week. Depending on the problem or subject in question (e.g. feminist historical materialism; social and sexual contract; standpoint theory; intersectionality and identity knowledges; subaltern politics; masculine domination/white supremacy/heteropatriarchy; sexuality and sexual difference; global feminisms; new materialisms; feminist politics of gender), we’ll place some significant “second wave” feminist works (1970s-80s) in juxtaposition with more recent contributions to the literature (1990s-present). The point of this orientation is to create a fluid, creative, and comparative interplay across feminist texts and theorists that is activated by a collective spirit of interrogation and problematizing, while at the same time resisting the presentist, progress narrative attitude that holds whatever comes later is always better and what is past is irrevocably dead (one of the potential drawbacks of “wave” thinking). Readings will be primarily attuned to essays, articles, and book chapters. To maintain some continuity across our investigations, we’ll have regular recourse to two required texts: *The Second Wave: A Reader in Feminist Theory* (L Nicholson, ed); and *Object Lessons* (R Wiegman).

Mary Dietz

W 3-5:50pm
Locy Hall 214