

**REBELS, RADICALS AND REVOLUTIONARIES:
HISTORY OF WESTERN FEMINISMS
(And Feminist Troublemakers)
GWSS 4402**

Spring 2008
Mondays 6:20-8:50
Blog Address: <http://blog.lib.umn.edu/puoto002/gwss4402/>

Instructor: Dr. Sara L. Puotinen
Office Hours: Mondays 4-6
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, we will explore the history of Western Feminisms through the lens of the feminist as troublemaker. Drawing upon a wide range of feminists and their speeches/ essays/articles, such as Susan B. Anthony, Emma Goldman, Sojourner Truth, Mary Wollstonecraft, Anna Julia Cooper, Audre Lorde, Marilyn Frye, and bell hooks (and many others), we will investigate how women have made trouble as: (1) **Rebels** who refused to obey, who raised their voices in protest and who claimed their own humanity; (2) **Radicals** who articulated important criticisms of the system, who developed consciousness-raising and radical feminist groups, and who claimed spaces of their own; and (3) **Revolutionaries** who created new ways of doing politics that transformed the world and our visions/understandings of it.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Attend Class Regularly. You are allowed to have **one unexcused absence** during this semester. You are responsible for contacting other students to get any notes, handouts or information on assignments that you might have missed.

Let me know if you have any problems. If at any point throughout the semester you have questions or concerns about this course, please know that you are more than welcome to make an appointment to meet with me. If you would like to meet to discuss a grade that you received, please email me with your questions or concerns and return your graded assignment to me at least one day in advance of our meeting. This will enable me to give you the best possible feedback.

Be an active participant in the class. Remember that everyone helps to shape the class. Your participation does make a difference. To that end, you are responsible for coming to class fully prepared (with fully read texts in hand), actively and respectfully contributing to discussions, asking questions when you don't understand the material and giving feedback to the instructor on what is working and not working in the class.

Turn your assignments in on time. All written assignments are due at the beginning of class on the date specified in this syllabus. I will only accept late papers under special circumstances.

OTHER COURSE INFORMATION

Academic Dishonesty

This includes cheating on assignments, plagiarizing (misrepresenting as your own work any work that has been written by another author), and submitting the same paper or substantially similar paper to meet the requirements of more than one course without the approval of all the instructors concerned. The instructor will report such dishonesty. It is grounds for failure in the course.

Disability Services

Students with disabilities who require accommodations in meeting course requirements should meet with me as early as possible in the term. Class materials, including this syllabus, can be made available in alternative formats upon request. It is your responsibility to provide documentation from Disability Services to receive accommodations.

Non-native English Speakers and Writers

If you need some extra assistance with the reading and writing assignments, please contact me early in the term.

U of M Harassment Policy

The University of Minnesota is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, or sexual orientation. For further information, call the University Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, 418 Morrill Hall, 624-9547.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Group Presentation

30%

You and 4-5 other people will give a 40 minute presentation on one of the chapters in Estelle Freedman's *No Turning Back* (chapters 6-14). You will be evaluated (individually and as a group) in the following ways: 1. Content/creativity/effectiveness of your presentation, 2. 3-4 page summary of your topic and 3. Use of supplementary materials (in addition to Freedman's chapter, you must draw upon 3-4 original sources). A more detailed handout and signup sheet will be distributed in the next few weeks.

2. 2 Critical Essays (20% each)

40%

You are required to write two short, 5 page critical essays on two of the three sections of the course (rebels, radicals, revolutionaries). A more detailed handout about this assignment will be distributed in the second or third week of class.

3. Attendance and Participation

15%

You are required to attend class regularly and contribute to class discussions. More than one unexcused absence will lower your class participation grade. For each class, you must be prepared, with fully read text in hand.

4. Small Group Work

15%

We will frequently rely on small groups in order to ensure that everyone has a chance to weigh in on the topics that we are discussing. Throughout the semester, you and your small group will be given various in-class assignments (discussion questions, group written/oral responses to a controversial issue, worksheets, etc.).

CLA GRADING CRITERIA

- A achievement *outstanding* relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements
- B achievement *significantly above* that level necessary to meet course requirements
- C achievement meeting the *basic* course requirements in every respect
- D achievement *worthy of credit* even though it does not meet the basic requirements
- F performance *failing* to meet the basic course requirements
- S equivalent to a grade of C or better

COURSE READINGS

Textbooks: Available at Amazon Feminist Bookstore, 4755 Chicago Ave. So

1. Freedman, Estelle. *No Turning Back: The History of Feminism and the Future of Women* (NTB)
2. Schneir, Miriam. *Feminism: The Essential Historical Writings* (F)
3. Schneir, Miriam. *Feminism in Our Time: The Essential Writings, World War II-the present* (FIOT)
4. Guy-Sheftall, Beverly. *Words of Fire: An Anthology of African-American Feminist Thought* (WOF)

COURSE SCHEDULE

(Subject to Change)

January

28 INTRODUCTIONS

February

4 Feminisms: An Overview

READING:

1. Schneir, Miriam. "Introduction" (F)
2. Schneir, Miriam. "Introduction" (FIOT)
3. Guy-Sheftall, Beverly. "Introduction" (WOF)
4. Friedman, Estelle. "The Historical Case for Feminism," 1-13 and "Part II: The Historical Emergence of Feminisms," 45-199 (NTB)

REBELS

11 Refusing to Obey

FILM: *Iron Jawed Angels* (125 minutes)

18 Raising our Voices in Protest

READING:

1. Anthony, Susan B. "The United States of America vs. Susan B. Anthony" and "Woman Wants Bread, Not the Ballot," 132-142 (F)
2. Pankhurst, Emmeline. "I Incite this Meeting to Rebellion" and "When Civil War is Waged by Women," 293-304 (F)
3. Catt, Carrie Chapman. "The World Movement for Woman Suffrage 1904 to 1911: Is Woman Suffrage Progressing?," 254-267 (F)
4. "Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions, Seneca Falls," 76-82 (F)
5. Goldman, Emma. "Marriage and Love," 318-324 (F)

5. Stone, Lucy. "Marriage of Lucy Stone Under Protest," 103-105 (*F*)
6. Engels, Friedrich. "The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State," 189-204 (*F*)
7. Gilman, Charlotte Perkins. "Women and Economics," 230-246 (*F*)

VIDEO: "Suffering 'Til Suffrage" from *Schoolhouse Rock*

25 Claiming Our Humanity

READING:

1. Truth, Sojourner. "Women's Rights," 36 (*WOF*)
2. Truth, Sojourner. "When Woman Gets Her Rights Man Will Be Right," 37-38 (*WOF*)
3. Truth, Sojourner. "Ain't I A Woman?," 93-95 (*F*)
4. Stewart, Maria Miller. "Religion and the Pure Principles of Morality, the Sure Foundation on Which We Must Build" and "Lecture Delivered at the Franklin Hall" 26-34 (*WOF*)
5. Cooper, Anna Julia. "Status of Women in America," 44-50 (*WOF*)
6. Wollstonecraft, Mary. "A Vindication of the Rights of Woman" 5-16 (*F*)

March

3 Group Presentations

Begin Film: *Born in Flames*

RADICALS

24 Getting at the Root: Critiquing the System

READING:

1. Lorde, Audre. "Age, Race, Class and Sex: Women Redefining Difference" (*WOF*, 284-292).
2. Smith, Barbara. "Some Home Truths on the Contemporary Black Feminist Movement" (*WOF*, 254-268).
3. Wallace, Michele. "Anger in Isolation: A Black Feminist's Search for Sisterhood" (*WOF*, 220-227).

Finish Film: *Born in Flames*

31 Radical Tactics: Violence as a feminist method?

READING:

1. Willis, Ellen. "Radical Feminism and Feminist Radicalism" in *Social Text*, No 9/10: 91-118 (E JOURNALS).
2. "'Shooting from the Hip': Valerie Solanas, SCUM, and the Apocalyptic Politics of Radical Feminism" in *Hecate*, 2006 (E JOURNALS).
3. review SCUM MANIFESTO (see blog for online link)

FILM: clips from *I shot Andy Warhol*

April

7 Group Presentations

If you have chosen to write on the radicals section, your paper is due today.

REVOLUTIONARIES

14 A Woman President?

READING:

1. Freeman, Jo. "Shirley Chisholm's 1972 Presidential Campaign" (ONLINE)
<http://www.jofreeman.com/polhistory/chisholm.htm>
2. Freeman, Jo. "The Women Who Ran for President" (ONLINE)
<http://www.jofreeman.com/politics/womprez03.htm>
3. The Feminist Debate over Hilary Clinton (ONLINE)
http://www.intentblog.com/archives/2008/02/the_feminist_de.html
4. Chisholm, Shirley. "The Abortion Question" (*WOF*)

Film: *Chisholm '72: Unbossed and Unbought*

21 A Woman Vice President?

READING:

1. LaDuke, Winona. Selections from *The Winona LaDuke Reader* (ERESERVES)

28 Group Presentations

May

5 FINAL CLASS