

**Intro to WS
Puotinen
Fall 2003**

Midterm Exam

Directions: This exam is due by class time on Thursday, October 9. Use your notes, handouts, the articles that we read and/or the film clips that we watched as you respond to the questions/quotations. Do not discuss your answers or the exam with anyone from class once the exam has been handed out on October 2 and until the exam is turned in on October 9. Clearly identify all quotes with quotation marks and proper citation (see page 3 for more information on proper citation). Spell-check and proofread your essays and type up all responses (12 point font and double-spaced).

Note: If you will not be in class next Thursday (10/9), it is your responsibility to get your completed exam to me before you leave. Please bring your exam to my mailbox in the women's studies graduate student lounge. This lounge is located in Candler Library on the first floor in the women's studies office. The easiest way to get to it is to enter through the main door to Candler facing the quad. Go down the stairs and then down the center hallway. The women's studies office is at the end of the hallway. Once you enter the office the lounge is the first door on your left.

Tips:

1. Be as specific as possible in the statements that you assert. Be sure that if you make claims, you can back them up with specific facts from the text, our discussions or your own experiences. Try not to make very broad or over-generalized statements (Such as: all women are oppressed). Instead, focus on specific statements that you can back up with evidence.
2. Also, remember that in this exam, there is no one right answer. You will be graded on how well you are able to support your interpretation/analysis of the article through detailed evidence from the essays, our discussions, or other sources.

Good luck!

Because this is a take-home test, I am trusting that you will abide by the Emory honor code. Please sign your name on the line below after completing the test, acknowledging that you did follow the honor code:

The Exam

Section I: Essay Questions: Choose three out of the five questions listed below and write a 2-3 page essay on each of them. Make sure to write clearly, to fully develop (and explain) your ideas and to support your claims with passages from the text, examples from class discussion and/or experiences from your own life. Also make sure that you address at least five different articles in your responses (not five in each essay, but at least five total within this portion of the exam).

1. INTERSECTIONS/INTERSECTIONALITY: What is this concept? What are the implications of it for race, class, sexuality, gender? How do all of these factors complicate what it means to be a woman? How have at least two of the authors that we have read talked about this?
2. INVISIBILITY: What is this? Why is this an important concept within women's studies? Discuss how this concept has been used in at least two of the articles that we have read. In what ways is invisibility harmful to women? What kinds of things has invisibility prevented society from talking about? Why/why not should they be talked about? How is invisibility connected to hypervisibility?
3. WHAT IS A WOMAN?: What does it mean to be a woman in our society? What shapes how females are gendered as women? Compare and contrast the notions of woman that were discussed in De Beauvoir, Truth and either Lorber, Butler or Bornstein. How should we define woman? Why?
4. WHY ARE SEXUALITY, RACE AND CLASS WOMEN'S STUDIES ISSUES? How are the following discussions important for women's studies: B. Smith "What's Homophobia Got to Do With It?" P. McIntosh in "White Privilege," and D. Allison in "A Question of Class"? What implications do sexuality, race, class have for women and their experiences of oppression (note: you may also draw upon the film, *People Like Us*, in order to answer this question or any of the "Lexicon of the Debate" articles)
5. WHAT IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO DO FEMINIST THEORY? Within class discussion, the question of writing style frequently came up. What is the most effective way in which to write about feminist issues? In what ways are different authors successful in getting their ideas across to their audience? unsuccessful? Compare and contrast the writing styles of at least two of the authors that we have read. In your response, make sure to include a brief discussion of the messages that each article is trying to convey to the audience.

Section II: Quotations: Choose two out of the three quotations listed below and write a brief (1/2-1 page) response on each, addressing the following: (a) what the quote is saying; (b) how it fits with the author's argument and (c) your own, well supported, opinion of the value/validity of quote.

1. "I have come to see white privilege as an invisible package of unearned assets that I can count on cashing in each day, but about which I was "meant" to remain oblivious" (McIntosh 95).
2. "Look at me! Look at my arm! I have ploughed and planted, and gathered into barns, and no man could head me! And ain't I a woman" (Truth 66)?
3. "Lesbian is the word, the label, the condition that holds women in line...Lesbian is a label invented by the Men to throw at any woman who dares to be his equal, who dares to challenge his preogatives, who dares to assert the primacy of her own needs" (Radicalesbians 195-196).

How to cite properly:

In citing passages within your essay responses, please use the MLA format which follows the author-page method of citations. This means that the author's last name and the page number(s)

from which the quotation is taken must appear in the text. The author's name may appear either in the sentence itself or in parentheses following the quotation, but the page number(s) should always appear in the parentheses, not in the text of your sentence.

For example:

In her essay, the author claims that “[h]eterosexuality has been both forcibly and subliminally imposed on women” (Rich 307).

or

In her essay, Rich claims that “[h]eterosexuality has been both forcibly and subliminally imposed on women” (307).

If you are using outside sources (that is, sources that are not from our readings), you must offer a full citation of the source at the end of your essay. Clearly mark this as **Works Cited** and include the following in your citation:

book:

Author (last name, first name). *Title of Book*. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year of Publication.

Butler, Judith. *Gender Trouble*. New York: Routledge, 1990.

article in book:

Author (last name, first name). “Chapter Title.” *Book title*. Place of Publication: Publisher, Year. Pages.

Butler, Judith. “Subjects of Sex/Gender/Desire.” *Gender Trouble*. New York: Routledge, 1990. 1-34.

article in journal:

Author (last name, first name). “Title of Article.” *Title of Journal* Vol (Year): pages.

Crenshaw, Kimberle. “Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory and Antiracist Politics.” *Chicago Law Forum* 1989: 139-167.

web site:

Author(s). *Name of Page*. Date of Posting/Revision. Name of institution/organization affiliated with the site. Date of Access <electronic address>.

Felluga, Dino. Undergraduate Guide to Literary Theory. 17 Dec. 1999. Purdue University. 15 Nov. 2000 <<http://omni.cc.purdue.edu/%7Efelluga/theory2.html>>.

For more information on citing in MLA style, check out Purdue University’s online guide at:

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_mla.html#Works-Cited