

**Feminist Thought and Theory**  
**Fall 2006**

**Midterm Exam**

**Directions:** This exam is due by class time on Thursday, October 12. 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 12 and until the exam is turned in on October 19. Clearly identify all quotes with quotation marks and proper citation. And, include a bibliography at the end of your exam. List all readings that you discussed and indicate to which essays those readings correspond by putting the essay number in parentheses after your citations. Please 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 (10/19), it is your responsibility to get your completed exam to me by class time.

**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 student conduct code. Please sign your name on the line below after completing the test, acknowledging that you did follow the conduct code. YOU MUST SUBMIT THIS SIGNED FORM WITH YOUR COMPLETED EXAM IN ORDER TO GET CREDIT FOR YOUR EXAM.**

---

**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. SELF VS. OTHER: What is meant by this idea? Discuss how it has been used in at least 2 articles that we have read so far this semester. Is this a useful/relevant/valuable concept? Why or why not? How do we fear the other and how does this contribute to oppression?

2. 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?

3. WHAT IS FEMINIST THEORY?: Discussing at least two of our authors, critically explore the following questions: What is feminist theory? Why is it important? What is specifically feminist about it? How should we practice it? Then, apply Bunch's four-part method to at one of the following articles: Allison, Butler or Anzaldúa. Does your chosen article fit Bunch's definition of feminist theory? Why/why not?

4. POSITIONALITY: How do our experiences shape our understanding of the world? How have women used their positionality to construct new understandings/forms of knowledge? How do Anzaldúa and Collins discuss this?

5. GENDER PERFORMANCE: According to Bornstein and Butler, how do we perform our genders? How does performing gender make us think of sex and gender differently? Why is this an important concept? How are our gender performances regulated/controlled? And how are those performance linked to "proper" forms of desire?

**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. "We die so easily, disappear so completely—we/they, the poor and the queer. I pressed my bony white trash fists to my stubborn lesbian mouth. The rage was a good feeling, stronger and purer than the shame that followed it, the fear and the sudden urge to run and hide, to deny, to pretend I did not how who I was and what the world would do to me" (Allison 13)

2. "From this radical, ideological, cultural and biological cross-pollinization, an 'alien' consciousness is presently in the making—a new *mestiza* consciousness, *una conciencia de mujer*. It is a consciousness of the Borderlands" (Anzaldúa 420).

3. Gender "must be understood as the mundane way in which bodily gestures, movements, and styles of various kinds constitute the illusion of an abiding gendered self" (Butler 472).