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Office; TBA
hours: after class & by appt.

Fall 2009
University of Texas at Dallas
Monday 7 – 9.45 pm
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Gender in Western Thought GST 3302 / HIST 4380

“On the subject of animals, then, the following remarks may be offered. Of the men who came into the world, those who were cowards or led unrighteous lives may with reason be supposed to have changed into the nature of women in the second generation.”

-- Plato

"Women...have but small and narrow chests, and broad hips, to the end that they should remain at home, sit still, keep house, and bear and bring up children."

-- Martin Luther

“Nature has given women so much power that the law has very wisely given them little.”

-- Samuel Johnson

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

-- American Declaration of Independence

“The true man wants two things: danger and play. For that reason he wants woman, as the most dangerous plaything.”

-- Nietzsche

“One is not born a woman, one becomes one.”

-- Simone de Beauvoir

“Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus.”

-- John Gray

In this class we will explore what people have thought and written about gender and gender roles from Plato’s time until the present, and situate those ideas in a historical context. We will explore how gender has been constructed, and what people have claimed as the source and function of gender and gender differences. We will also outline the major recent and current schools of thought on what gender is and does and what it should be and do and sort through the main debates between them.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

--Students will be able to recognize and describe gendered aspects of western thought from antiquity to today

--Students will form an understanding of how changing conceptions of gender relate to major social, political and cultural shifts

--Students will have an overview of recent and current trends in gender studies and have a grasp of the major areas of agreement and conflict between different theorists and theories.

REQUIRED READINGS:

Linda Nicholson, ed., *The Second Wave*. London; New York: Routledge, 1997. (TSW)

Texts on Electronic reserve -

<http://sites.google.com/site/genderedthought/>

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

In class discussion 15%, review of draft report 5%, presentation and written report 10%, reaction papers 15%, exam one 25%, exam two 25%.

In class discussion: We will work together interpreting and analyzing the various texts, trying to understand the historical context in which they were written and what they say. This is a collaborative intellectual process that requires active participation.

Reaction papers: 10 one page papers responding to the weekly readings. Due at the beginning of class on the day of class when the readings will be discussed. Note that you must write a response paper on Halberstam and the two texts by Plato. For the other 8 response papers you can pick which weeks you want to respond. You may only write one response paper per class session, but you may choose whether your paper talks about one or all of the readings for that week.

Presentation and report: One in class presentation, between 6-8 minutes long on a text written by one of the people listed in the appendix. A 3-6 page written report on the text is due at the beginning of class on the day of the presentation.

For further details on assignments see the appendix.

COURSE & INSTRUCTOR POLICIES:

--This is a reading intensive class. You will be expected to come to class having read the assignment for that day at least once.

--More than 2 unexcused absences, persistent tardiness, or failure to actively participate in discussions will lower your final grade.

--All components of the course must be completed in order to pass the course.

--No late assignments will be accepted, unless agreed upon IN ADVANCE or caused by extraordinary circumstances.

--Play nice. We are all responsible for making the classroom a safe and constructive arena for discussion.

--The syllabus is subject to change at the discretion of the instructor. If you miss class, please contact a classmate to find out what was discussed and what assignments were handed out.

CLASS SCHEDULE:*Introduction to reading/s*

First meeting August 24 – Introduction to reading/s

Part 1: Syllabus, readings, reading

Part 2: Read Judith Halberstam, “Drag Kings and Raging Bull Dykes”

Small group discussion – deconstructing gender.

From Classical thought to the Renaissance

August 31

Part 1 – Plato, from *The Republic*, Book V

Write: Response paper
Part 2 – Plato, from *Timaeus*
Discussion: close reading and comparison

September 7 –

NO CLASS

Revised response paper on Plato due by midnight 9-7-09

September 14

Part 1 – New International Bible, from *Genesis, Corinthians, Timothy*
Thomas Aquinas from *Summa Theologica*
from *Snorre's Edda* (on the creation of man and woman, on the gods)
Part 2 – Baldessar Castiglione, from *The Courtier*, Book III

Enlightenment ideas on gender and equality

September 21

Part 1 – John Locke, from *Two Treatises on Government*
David Hume, from *Essays, Moral, Political, and Literary*
Declaration of Independence
Sentiments of a Woman
Part 2 – Olympe de Gouges, *The Rights of Women*
Mary Wollstonecraft, from *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*
Jacques Rousseau, from *Emile*

The Nineteenth Century

September 28

Part 1 – Declaration of Sentiments
Sojourner Truth, "Ain't I a Woman?"
Harriet Taylor Mill, *The Enfranchisement of Women*
Part 2 – Friedrich Nietzsche, from *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*
Arthur Schopenhauer *On Women*
Rudyard Kipling, *If*

October 5

Part 1 – ***Exam I*** – short IDs, essay question/s (comparisons – textual analysis)
Part 2 – "Town Bloody Hall" DVD (on order)

Marxism, Freud

October 12

Part 1 – Karl Marx
Alexandra Kollontai, from *The Social Basis of the Women's Question*
Part 2 – Sigmund Freud, "Femininity" from *Freud on Women*

The Second Wave

October 19

Draft of presentation/report due at the beginning of class.

Part 1 – Simone de Beauvoir, “Woman as Other” from *The Second Sex* (TSW)

Part 2 – Betty Friedan, from *The Feminine Mystique*

NOW Statement of Purpose

Cultural / essentialist feminism

October 26

Part 1 – Germaine Greer, from *The Female Eunuch*

Part 2 – Monique Wittig (TSW)

Carol Gilligan (TSW)

Race and gender

November 2

Part 1 – bell hooks, from *Yearning: race, gender, and cultural politics*

Part 2 – from *Chicana Feminist Thought: The Basic Historical Writings*,

Alma M. Garcia ed.

French feminism

November 9

Part 1 – Luce Irigaray (TSW)

Part 2 – Julia Kristeva

Radical feminism

November 16

Part 1 – Shulamith Firestone (TSW)

Part 2 – Catharine McKinnon (TSW)

Queer/ing Theory

November 23

Part 1 – Judith Butler (TSW)

Part 2 - *The Queer Manifesto*

Your perspectives / Looking ahead

November 30

Part 1 – Presentations

Part 2 – Presentations

December 7

Part 1 – Michael Warner – from *The Trouble with Normal*

Part 2 – Your moment of Zen, discussion

December 14 ??

Final exam

Technical Support

If you experience any problems with your UTD account you may send an email to: assist@utdallas.edu or call the UTD Computer Helpdesk at 972-883-2911.

Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD printed publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Series 50000, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391) and online at <http://www.utdallas.edu/judicialaffairs/UTDJudicialAffairs-HOPV.html>

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic Dishonesty. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). If you are not sure whether what you are doing is plagiarism – ask.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted materials, including music and software. Copying, displaying, reproducing, or distributing copyrighted works may infringe the copyright owner's rights and such infringement is subject to appropriate disciplinary action as well as criminal penalties provided by federal law. Usage of such material is only appropriate when that usage constitutes "fair use" under the Copyright Act. As a UT Dallas student, you are required to follow the institution's copyright policy (Policy Memorandum 84-I.3-46). For more information about the fair use exemption, see <http://www.utsystem.edu/ogc/intellectualproperty/copypol2.htm>

Email Use

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email

from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

Incomplete Grade Policy

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

Disability Services

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:

The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22, PO Box 830688, Richardson, Texas 75083-0688

(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

disabilityservice@utdallas.edu

If you anticipate issues related to the format or requirements of this course, please meet with the Coordinator of Disability Services. The Coordinator is available to discuss ways to ensure your full participation in the course. If you determine that formal, disability-related accommodations are necessary, it is very important that you be registered with Disability Services to notify them of your eligibility for reasonable accommodations. Disability Services can then plan how best to coordinate your accommodations.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

Religious Holy Days

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.