**ENGL 6360: Topics in Feminist Criticism—“Beauvoir to Butler, Bordo, and Beyond”**

**Instructor:** Dr. P. Ingram **Semester:** Spring 2016

**Office:** 410 Carlisle **Class Time & Room:** T 2-4:50, CAR 212

**Office Hours:** T: 11:30-1:30pm

**Email:** pingram@uta.edu

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course attempts to cover many of the key issues, conversations, and debates central to feminist thought of the twentieth and early twenty-first century in an effort to provide you with an overview of the field of feminist theory. The course is organized thematically and includes readings related to race, class, sexuality, reproduction, science, and authorship. We will devote two weeks at the end of the semester to discuss a variety of feminist methodologies in order to help you identify and articulate your own research questions. **This course is a requirement of the** **Women’s and Gender Studies Graduate Certificate.**

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

* To develop knowledge of some of the key concepts central to feminist thought of the twentieth and early twenty-first century.
* To learn a variety of methods employed by feminist researchers to produce knowledge about our world, such as empiricism, standpoint theory, ethnography, and post-structuralism.
* To recognize and understand how such methodologies can be utilized in your own research.

**TEXTS:**

R**equired**:Tina Chanter, *Gender: Key Concepts in Philosophy*. Continuum Press, 2006.

Kolmar and Bartkowski, *Feminist Theory: A Reader*, 3rd or 4th edition. McGraw Hill, 2010, 2014. (Reading #s below relate to the 4th edition)

**REQUIREMENTS:**

Participation and (2) presentations: 20%

7 short (3 page) papers: 35%

1 longer (8-10 page) paper: 25%

Final exam: 20%

**Grading Scale:**A= 90-100 D= 60-69B= 80-89 F= 59 and below

C= 70-79

**Papers**

Short papers (3 double-spaced pages)

During the course of the semester you will write 7 (3-page) papers. This means you do not have to write a paper every week ☺.

Papers should be submitted via BB on the week the readings are due.

You may not submit papers before or after the due date of the work assigned, except in the case of the longer paper. See below.

**Your paper should**

* Analyze and interpret *three* of the readings for the week, paying attention to the methods, assumptions, and aims of the essays. (You should briefly summarize each argument.)
* *Bring into dialogue* the key points raised in each essay and determine how the differences shape the argument in question.

**Please note:**

* You **must use at least three of the assigned readings** for the week.
* Chapters from **Chanter’s book *cannot* be included** as one of your three, **unless** there are only two other assigned readings that week. However, in any of your papers, you may incorporate her ideas where relevant to your discussion of the other essays.

Longer Paper (8-10 pages) **DUE 3/22**

This paper is intended to give you the opportunity to examine in more detail one of the areas of feminist research being studied in the class **(Marxism, Intersectionality, Sexuality, Bodies, Psychoanalysis, Science, Reproduction etc.)** You should use the assigned articles as a starting point to research the topic further, including researching the work of other scholars in your chosen area. There is no specific prompt; rather you should identify your own thesis from the research you find. What’s interesting to you about the work scholars are doing in this area? What questions, assumptions, or limitations does their research suggest to you?

Avoid a simple summary of the research. You will need an argument related to the material.

This paper is due in the middle of the semester, so we will not have covered every topic; however, any of the research areas on the syllabus can be utilized for this assignment.

**Presentations**

You are required to deliver two presentations on two different readings during the course of the semester. The formal part of the presentation should last for **20 minutes**, and must include discussion questions for the class.

* You should provide an in-depth examination of **one** of the week’s essays. (Other people will be presenting on other readings for the week, so make sure you stick to your own essay.) You should provide a summary of the essay and then examine the implications of the piece (and, if applicable, the contribution it and the theorist makes to the movement being studied). Feel free to go beyond the text and examine the real-world possibilities/implications of the theory.
* Don’t spend more than a few minutes on the biography of the theorist. The bulk of your presentation should be on the content of the essay and if necessary it’s relationship to the theorist’s oeuvre.
* As most of the readings in K&B are short excerpts from longer articles, you are encouraged to seek out the longer piece for your presentation. (This is not required, but it might be helpful for you and the class.)

**You will be evaluated on:**

* The accuracy and clarity of your summary of the essay you are assigned.
* The quality of your analysis of the text’s significance and evaluation of its aims.
* The coherence and organization of your presentation.
* The quality of your discussion questions.

**Final Exam**

The final exam for the course will cover the material studied throughout the semester. You will be required to identify terms, concepts, and theorists, and, in an essay, demonstrate an understanding of the key concepts in the field of feminist thought.

**PLAGIARISM**

In both oral and written communication, the following guidelines for avoiding plagiarism must be followed:

1. Any words quoted directly from a source must be in quotation marks (for a written assignment and referenced for an oral presentation) and cited.
2. Any paraphrasing or rephrasing of the words and/or ideas of a source must be cited.
3. Any ideas or examples derived from a source that are not in the public domain or of a general knowledge must be cited.
4. **All papers and presentations must be the student’s own work.**

Students who are confused about what constitutes plagiarism should meet with me.

Academic Honesty is expected of all students. Cheating and plagiarism are violations of academic honesty. Any student caught violating the academic honesty code will be failed for the entire semester and the matter will be reported, with documentation, to the Office of Student Conduct for further disciplinary action.

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** Students who need accommodations are asked to arrange a meeting during office hours the first weekof classes, or earlier if accommodations are needed immediately. Bring a copy of all relevant paperwork to the meeting. If you do not have a notification for accommodations but need accommodations, make an appointment with the Office for Students with Disabilities, 102 University Hall, 2-3364.

**Student Support Services**:UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**Electronic Communication:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**Student Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**Assignment Schedule (subject to change)** Readings are due on the date recorded and should therefore be completed BEFORE the corresponding class day.

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| **DATE** | **ASSIGNMENT DUE/CLASS ACTIVITIES** |
| Week 1  T 1/19 | Kolmar and Bartkowski (K&B) Readings 1, 2 & 3 (pp. 7-15)  Chanter, Introduction and ch.1 (pp.1-30)  Delphy, <https://rancom.wordpress.com/2012/06/05/hierarchy/> |
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| Week 2  T 1/26 | **Sex and Gender**  Beauvoir #37 (K&B)  Ortner #50 (K&B)  Butler #82 (K&B) |
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| Week 3  T 2/2 | **Feminism and Marxism**  Engels #22 (K&B)  Gilman #25 (K&B)  Rubin #54  Irigaray, “Women on the Market” and “Commodities Among Themselves” **pdfs on Black Board (BB).** |
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| Week 4  T 2/9 | **Gender, Race, Class (Intersectionality)**  Chanter, ch.2.  Hartmann #65  Lugones, “Coloniality of Gender”  <https://globalstudies.trinity.duke.edu/wp-content/themes/cgsh/materials/WKO/v2d2_Lugones.pdf> |

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| Week 5  T 2/16 | **Intersectionality con’t**  Chanter, ch. 5  Lorde #59  Crenshaw #92 (K&B)  Combahee River Collective #58 (K&B)  Anzaldua #74 (K&B)  Alarcon #81 (K&B) |
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| Week 6  T 2/23 | **Psychoanalysis and Feminism**  Chanter, ch. 6.  Horney #35 (K&B)  Irigaray #59 (K&B)  Mitchell, Introduction to *Psychoanalysis and Feminism* **pdf on BB** |
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| Week 7  T 3/1 | **Sexuality**  Vance # 70 (K&B)  Mackinnon #80 (K&B)  Wittig #63 (K&B)  Rich #64 (K&B)  Hammonds, “Toward a Genealogy of Black Female Sexuality” **pdf on BB** |
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| Week 8  T 3/8 | **Bodies**  Chanter, ch. 3  Bordo #87 (K&B)  Halberstam, “F2M” **pdf**  Garland-Thompson, #97  Haraway, “Biopolitics of Postmodern Bodies” **pdf on BB**  Balsamo, “Forms of Technological Embodiment” **pdf on BB** |
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| Week 9  T 3/15 | **SPRING BREAK** |
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| Week 10  T 3/22 | **NO CLASS—Longer Paper Due** |
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| Week 11  T 3/29 | **Science and Feminism**  Martin, “The Egg and the Sperm” pdf on BB  Fausto-Sterling, “Sexing the Brain” pdf  King # 79 (K&B) |
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| Week 12  T 4/5 | **Feminism and Motherhood**  Chodorow #60 (K&B)  Sawicki, “Disciplining Mothers” pdf on BB  Davis #85 (K&B)  Baraitser, “Oi Mother, Keep Ye’ Hair On!” <http://www.mamsie.org/wp-content/librarypapers/Baraitser,+L+%282006%29.+Oi+Mother,.pdf> |
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| Week 13  T 4/12 | **Feminist Methodologies**  Chanter ch. 4  Harding, “Feminist Standpoints” **pdf on BB**  Scott #74 (K&B)  Bordo, “Feminism and Foucault” **pdf on BB** |
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| Week 14  T 4/19 | **Methodologies, cont.**  Mohanty#69 (K&B)  Pillow and Mayo, “Toward Understandings of Feminist Ethnography” **pdf on BB**  Moss, “Emergent Methods” **pdf on BB** |
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| Week 15  T 4/26 | **Feminism and Authorship**  Woolf #34 (K&B)  Cixous #52 (K&B)  Du Plessis, “Breaking the Sentence, Breaking the Sequence” pdf on BB |
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| Week 16  T 5/3 | Catch up Day or subsequent content TBA |
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| 5/10 | \*\*\*\*Final Exam 2-4:30 pm\*\*\* |

**Emergency Phone Numbers**: In case of an on-campus emergency, call the UT Arlington Police Department at **817-272-3003** (non-campus phone), **2-3003** (campus phone). You may also dial 911.