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Course Name

GNDS 825 Abolition Feminism

Contact Hours

Graduate Course: Tuesdays 11 am – 2 pm

Course Description

This graduate course focuses on the theories, practices and transformative visions of abolition feminism. Engaging with historical genealogies, internationalist dimensions and contemporary everyday geographies and socialities of abolition feminism, this course explores the central role of feminism in abolition politics and world building. To this end, we will learn from historical accounts of abolition feminism such as during the Haitian revolution and Quilombo formations, as well as from current abolitionist feminist work beyond carceral regimes and geographies, carceral technologies, and systems of violence. Attending to local and global forms of abolition feminist knowledge production and organizing, as well as alternative visions and practices of transformative justice, we will explore the indivisibility of abolition and feminism as pathways of liberation.

Required Course Materials

All readings are available through the library's e-reserve.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Describe and understand key theories of abolition and their relation to anti-racist, anti-colonial and anti-capitalist feminisms;
- Interpret and understand the local as well as international dimensions of abolition feminism;
- Compare and interpret approaches and examples from and across different places and continents;
- Explain the connections between state violence and intimate violence, domestic policing, border policing and militarism, and how they interrelate with racial capitalism and cis-heteropatriarchy, among other relations of power and domination;
- Engage with practices and possibilities of transformative justice and alternatives to state violence
- Apply analysis and insights to current events;
- Develop and practice skills in graduate level writing, seminar participation and facilitation, large and small group discussions, and designing and carrying out an independent research project

Course Evaluation

Presentation: 30%

Reading Commentaries (3 x 10%)

OR Reflection Paper: 30%

Research Abstract/Proposal: 10%

Research Project: 30%





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Topics in Course Outline

Genealogies of Abolition Feminism

Plantations and Abolitionist Revolutions

Anticolonialism and Abolition

Prison

Policing

Militarism

Border Regimes

Digital Carceration and Abolition Technologies

Abolition Ecologies

Building Alternatives and Transformative Justice