Course Name

GNDS 311

Feminist Thought

Course Instructor

Dr. Nancy Butler

Contact Hours

Lecture and Discussion: Tuesdays 11:30-2:30 pm, Nicol Hall, rm 321

Course Description

What is feminist theory? Why is it important, how is it useful? Who engages in theory-making? How has feminist knowledge production been shaped by elements of power and privilege? We will explore the ways in which feminism is -- and has always been -- a multi-vocal, non-linear discourse shaped by local and global sites of feminist formation. We explore feminist thinking on matters of gender, oppression, colonialism, race, sexuality, disability, reproductive justice, kinship, and care as always embodied and socially situated practices.

Required Course Materials

All course materials available online through the Queen's Library portal and Queen's Course Reserves. There is no course textbook.

Course Objectives

- Describe and analyze different feminist perspectives;
- Articulate the importance of locating feminist thought as local and global practice;
- Apply a feminist lens to developments in popular and mass culture, develop a feminist understanding of social events and trends;
- Articulate your own position, with a clear rationale, in various feminist debates; and
- Articulate the importance of feminist modes of thought and practice.

Course Evaluation

- 1) In person participation + weekly short writing. Five submissions over the term, 25%;
- 2) Synopsis and review of a key reading in feminist thought, 20%;
- 3. Leading class discussion on a weekly topic, 15%;
- 4. Topic proposal for a Reflection essay on feminist theory, 5%;
- 5. Reflection Essay on feminist theory, your topic, 35%

Topics in Course Outline

- Why theory? Why feminist theory?
- Being/Thinking gender, sex, sexuality
- Theorizing gender, sex, sexuality
- History/ies and feminist theory
- Indigenous feminisms
- Trans/queer formations in feminism
- Global sisterhood? Decolonial, postcolonial, transnational forms of feminism
- New and emerging forms of feminist theory