



Feminist theory

Credit points: 7,5

Responsible department: Umeå Centre for Gender Studies

Main field of study: Gender Studies

Level: PhD Studies

Subject area: Gender Studies

Grading scale: Pass (G); Fail (U)

Course approval

The course syllabus has been confirmed by the Director of Umeå Centre for Gender Studies on June 14, 2019 and is valid from autumn semester of 2019. Revised on February 10, 2022, and January 16, 2024.

Aim and Contents

This course deals with feminist theory focusing on contemporary debates and issues in feminist theory. Focusing on a variety of feminist and intersectional approaches the course will address questions such as: What is feminist theory? How have feminists theorized and understood the relationship between gender, power and subjectivity? The course is divided into broad themes such as politics, re-production, popular culture and sustainability. These themes will be explored through both classical academic theoretical feminist texts, as well as political manifestos and popular texts.

Expected learning outcomes

Upon the completion of the course the PhD student should:

Knowledge and understanding

- Account for and relate to central perspectives, dividing lines, concepts and themes within feminist theory.
- Understand how different feminist theories conceptualise power, gender and subjectivity.

Skills and abilities

- Prepare and deepen relevant discussions and readings of different feminist approaches.
- Apply relevant theories on empirical or theoretical problems.

Judgement and approach

- Be able to reflect on feminist theory as a field of research.
- Be able to analytically reflect on feminist theory in relation to contemporary societal problems.
- Orally and in writing present analyses related to central questions regarding power, gender and subjectivity in feminist theorizing.

Form of instruction and examination modes

The learning outcomes are examined through compulsory seminars, active participation and seminar preparation through individually written papers (so-called reading protocols) presented in relation to each of the themes. The reading protocols are handed in, as well as presented orally. The course is given through lectures and seminars. The course is given in English. The assignments can be written in either English or Swedish, Danish and Norwegian.

Literature

Ahmed, Sara (2000) Whose counting? *Feminist theory* 1(1): 97-103.

Aruzza, Cinzia Bhattacharya, Tithi and Fraser, Nancy (2019) *Feminism for the 99%. A manifesto*. London/New York: Verso books.

Banet-Weiser, Sarah, Gill, Rosalind, and Rottenberg, Catherine (2020) Postfeminism, popular feminism and neoliberal feminism? Sarah Banet-Weiser, Rosalind Gill and Catherine Rottenberg in conversation. *Feminist Theory* 21(1): 3-24.

Butler, Judith (2003) Values of difficulty. In: Culler Jonathan and Lamb Kevin (eds) *Just Being Difficult? Academic Writing in the Public Arena*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, pp. 199-216.

The care collective (2020) *The Care Manifesto: The Politics of Interdependence*. London/New York: Verso books.

Davis, Angela et.al (2022) *Abolition. Feminism. Now*. Dublin: Penguin books. (pp ix-xiv; 1-28; 77-122; 175-181)

Foucault, Michel (1984/1998) Polemics, Politics and Problematizations. In: Rabinow Paul (ed) *Essential Works of Foucault: Vol. 1 "Ethics"*. New York: The New Press, pp.381-390.

Fraser, Nancy (2016) Contradictions of capital and care. *New left review*. 100 (July/Aug).

Hemmings, Clare (2005) Telling feminist stories. *Feminist theory* 6(2): 115–139.

Mouffe, Chantal (2022) *Towards a green democratic revolution. Left populism and the power of affects*. London/New York: Verso books, pp.1-49.

Sandberg, Sheryl and Scovell, Nell (2015) *Lean in: women, work, and the will to lead*. WH Allen (excerpt).

Shiva, Vandana, Lockhart, Caroline and El-Hage, Nadia (eds) (2023) *Making Peace with the World through Diversity, Mutuality, Non-Violence, and Care. An Ecofeminist Manifesto*. Navdanya.

Wark, Mackenzie (2023). *Raving*. Durham: Duke University Press (excerpt).

Weiss, Penny & Moskop, Wynne (2020) Ecofeminist manifestos. Resources for Feminist perspectives on the Environment. *Women's Studies International Forum* 83(1): 1-11.

Texts may be added. Approx. 60 pages.