

## Third-Wave Theory

MWF 4-5h00

Pete's Place (class location)

**Course description:** Women's and Gender Studies is an interdisciplinary field of study that facilitates inquiry into the full scope of human experience by addressing fundamental questions pertaining to gendered relations in human behavior, culture, and society.

Sociology is the study of human interaction with respect to its social causes and consequences. Its subject matter ranges from intimate, personal, and family relationships to globalization issues; from marginality, deviance, and crime to communities and their environment; from the discrimination and hate crimes due to race, social class, gender, and [perceived] sexual preference to the shared beliefs of a common culture. Few disciplines have such broad scope and relevance.

Third-wave feminism (early 1990s—) seeks to challenge or avoid what it describes as the second wave's (early 1960s—1980) "*essentialist*" definitions of femininity, which often assumed a universal female identity and over-emphasized and privileged the experiences of upper middle class white women. A post-structuralist interpretation of gender and sexuality is central to third wave ideology.

Emphasizing discursive power and the ambiguity of gender, third-wave theory usually incorporates elements of queer theory, transgender politics and a rejection of the gender binary, anti-racism and women-of-color consciousness, sexual assault awareness, and feminist theory.

Also considered part of the third wave is sex-positivity, a celebration of sexuality as a positive aspect of life, with broader definitions of what sex means and what oppression and empowerment may mean in the context of sex. For example, many third-wave feminists have reconsidered oppositions to pornography and sex work of the second wave and have challenged existing beliefs that participants in pornography and sex work cannot be empowered.

**Course objectives:** By integrating these two academic disciplines, we will study the ways in which society shapes or encourages our growth as individuals and as members of social groups, and we will examine our own location and participation in society, and the functionality and practicality of specific products of social constructionism, including gender roles, the gender binary, privilege, heteronormativity, repressed female sexuality, and oppression.

**Requirements:** This is a reading and discussion based course whose success depends critically on students' preparation and active participation. To facilitate careful reading and focused group discussion, students will maintain a weekly journal that will be turned in at the end of each week and at the end of the semester, with their portfolio. Their portfolio will include detailed analyses of 8 assigned readings (~1p/each, expected to be completed in the weekly journal), 1



At the end of the course, faculty:

- prepare evaluations of student achievement
- meet and discuss the evaluation with the students during evaluation week

### Readings and Assignments

#### **Week 1: The Sociological Imagination**

M

- Audio ethnography TBD
- Emile Durkheim, *The Rules of Sociological Method* [Regles de la methode sociologique, English translation], chapter 1
- C. Wright Mills, *The Promise of the Sociological Imagination*

W

- S & V, "The Prism of Gender"
- Charles Warriner, "Groups Are Real"

F

- Walter R. Jacobs, "The Teacher as Text: Using Personal Experience to Stimulate the Sociological Imagination"

#### **Week 2: The History of Feminism**

M

- Audio ethnography TBD
- Estelle Freedman, *No Turning Back: The History of Feminism and the Future of Women*, chapters I & II, pp. 1-44, "The Historical Case for Feminism" and "Gender and Power"

W

- Estelle Freedman, *No Turning Back: The History of Feminism and the Future of Women*, chapter 3, pp. 45-73, "Women's Rights, Women's Work, and Women's Sphere"

F

- Estelle Freedman, *No Turning Back: The History of Feminism and the Future of Women*, chapters 6 & 7, pp. 123-159, "Never Done: Women's Domestic Labor" and "Workers and Mothers: Feminist Social Policies"

#### **Weeks 3-4: Patriarchy as a Social Institution**

M

- Audio ethnography TBD
- Inga Muscio, "Aggro Beyond Your Wildest Dreams" from *Cunt: A Declaration of Independence*

- W • Patricia Juliana Smith, "The 'Sweet Assassin' and the Performative Politics of *SCUM Manifesto*"
- F • Valerie Solanas, excerpts from "The SCUM (Society for Cutting Up Men) Manifesto"
- M • Film: *I Shot Andy Warhol*
- M • Audio ethnography TBD
- M • Peter Berger and Thomas Luckmann, *The Social Construction of Reality*, chapter II section 1, pp.47-92
- M • Allan Johnson, "Patriarchy, the System"
- W •

## **Weeks 7-8: Keeping Gender in Check**

### *I. IDEALISM*

M

- Audio ethnography TBD
- Sharon Bird, "Welcome to the Men's Club: Homosociality and the Maintenance of Hegemonic Masculinity"
- Deirdre Kelly, "Skater Girlhood and Emphasized Femininity: 'You C an't Land an Ollie Properly in Heels'"



- Luce Irigaray, "This Sex Which is Not One" AND "The Mechanics of Fluid" from *This Sex Which is Not One*
- F
- Adrienne Rich, "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence"
  - Monique Wittig, "The Straight Mind"
  - Estelle Freedman, *No Turning Back: The History of Feminism and the Future of Women*, chapter 11, pp. 253-275, "Sexualities, Identities, and Self-Determination"

## II. PROSTITUTION/PORNOGRAPHY

M

- Audio ethnography TBD
- Luce Irigaray, "Women on the Market" from *This Sex Which is Not One*
- Inga Muscio, "Whores"

W

- Film: *Live Nude Girls Unite!*

F

- Beggan & Allison, "Reflexivity in the Pornographic Films of Candida Royalle"
- Nadine Strossen, "The Growing Suppression of Sexpression" AND "Posing for Pornography: Coercion or Consent?" from *Defending Pornography: Free Speech, Sex, and the Fight for Women's Rights*

## Week 13: Social Deviance

M

- Audio ethnography TBD
- Wendy Chapkis, "Trafficking, Migration, and the Law: Protecting Innocents, Punishing Immigrants"
- ✕ Edwin Lemert, "Paranoia and the Dynamics of Exclusion"