

Eng 6077 Section 8THB
Fall 2023 Feminist Theory Syllabus
Tues. Period 9 – 11 (4:05 PM - 7:05 PM)
Matherly 102

Professor: Tace Hedrick
Office Hours: Tues 12:45-1:40; Thurs 12:45-1:40
Office: Burlington 4326 (please do not leave messages at my office phone; the best way to reach me is by scheduling a meeting or on the email below)
Email: tace@ufl.edu

- **Important:** If possible, use paper books/essays for reading and class discussion. However, if you have a Kindle or other platform, you may use it in class.
- **I usually answer email once a day**, in the late morning. If you send an email after that, I will answer it the next day.

NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change.

Course Description: Feminist theory is a rhizomatic, constantly growing, organic field. Here, we will investigate interesting places and moments in that field where questions of gender, sexualities, class, race, and more come together and intersect. In that sense, this will not be an introduction to feminist theory, rather a deep dive into the midst of it from the late 1990s through the 2000s. We will be reading Jack Halberstam, bell hooks, Judith Butler, Lauren Berlant, José Muñoz, and Anna Tsing. Two response papers (5-7 pages) and two essay papers (5 pages) will be due during the semester.

Course Requirements: 5-page response papers for two texts, your choice (please turn in hard copies to me and the class the day they are due); two short essay papers (5-7 pages).

Required Texts:

Judith Butler, *Undoing Gender*
Jack Halberstam, *Trans: A Quick and Quirky Account of Gender Variability*
Jack Halberstam, *The Queer Art of Failure*
José Muñoz, *Disidentifications*
bell hooks, *Art on My Mind*
Anna Tsing, *The Mushroom at the End of the World: On the Possibility of Life in Capitalist Ruins*
Lauren Berlant, *Desire/Love*

August

T 29 Syllabus and “housekeeping”
Course Goals: theory as having “explanatory power”; helpful terms: **ideology, hegemony, white supremacy, patriarchy, capitalism.**

September

- T 5 **Course Reserves:** Gayle Rubin, “The Traffic in Women: Notes on the ‘Political Economy’ of Sex.” (1975)
- T 12 *Undoing Gender* “Beside Oneself” “Gender Regulations”
Course Reserves: Judith Butler, “Performative Acts and Gender Constitution: An Essay in Phenomenology and Feminist Theory”
- T 19 *Undoing Gender* “Longing for Recognition,” “The End of Sexual Difference?”
- T 26 *Trans* First three chapters; Last three chapters
Essay #1 Due

October

- T 3 *Disidentifications* Preface, Introduction, Chapter Two
- T 10 *Disidentifications* Chapter 4, Chapters 7-8
- T 17 *Art on my Mind* Introduction, Chapters 1-2, Chapter 6
- T 24 *Art on my Mind* Chapters 8-9, 12-13
- T 31 *Desire/Love* “Preface” “Introduction” “Desire”

November

- T 7 *Desire/Love* “Love” “Conclusion”
Essay #2 Due
- T 14 *The Mushroom at the End of the World* Prologue, Parts One and Two, “After Progress: Salvage Accumulation” and “Working the Edge.” “Between the Dollar and the Yen” and “From Gifts to Commodities.”
- T 21 **Thanksgiving Break**
- T 28 *The Mushroom at the End of the World* Parts Three and Four, “Salvage Rhythms” and “Flying Spores”

December

- T 5 **Course Wrap-up**

Class Policies

Students with disabilities: Please consult with me as soon as possible so that I can make appropriate accommodation for you.

Attendance: I allow one unexcused absence. This means that if you reach me with a good excuse either before or after the absence, I won’t count it; but if you don’t, I will count it. Three

unexcused absences will result in a one-grade diminution of your final grade (this means you will have missed three weeks). If you are absent for five or more class periods, you will receive a failing grade.

Course Requirements

Response papers: 5 pages, 8-10 minutes. Each student will choose two texts for two oral responses. Each oral response paper must do the following things: 1) be able to summarize the main argument(s) and lay out at least one of the critical terms of the book/article 2) analyze the **explanatory value** of the text for feminist study in general.

All response papers must be posted to our group at the time they are due. We will use them to help us discuss these texts when we meet together.

Brief Essay: 5-7 pages. I would like these to be about an idea you have encountered in our readings so far. As opposed to the response papers, where you should give a summary of the main arguments of an essay or chapter, your essay should say what the idea that interests you is, and how you understand it in the context of our readings. You can look at an idea across several texts or in one text. **Please use quotes.** You will also need a “Works Cited.”

You will need a clear thesis statement (even mechanically, you can start it by saying, “This essay is about...”), paragraphs that lay out why your argument is important, and how you will argue it, (“This argument is important because it...”; “I plan to use **blank** in order to show that...”), and a clear conclusion.