

RESEARCH PREPARATION SEMINAR

2 credits MA course

CEU Department of Gender Studies

Spring term 2018-19, April 23-May 22

Instructor: Eszter Timár

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Class dates start on April 23 and end on May 22 (see the schedule below) in **Z412**. Classes will be held from 1:30 pm to 3:10 (except for the last 4 sessions)

This course is designed to help students prepare for their MA research. Several representative examples of feminist research will be discussed from the point of view of research design, methodology, argumentation and analytical finesse.

Using selected examples, students will be required to relate aspects of the readings and the discussion to their research projects and to progress towards better understanding of the aims, research questions and the scope of the research they want to make for their MA thesis.

Requirements:

There is no final paper for this class. Grading will be based on class participation, short written pieces and a final presentation of research proposal.

Active participation in class –40%

Presentation of research proposal- 30%

3 smaller assignments –30%

Course schedule

April 23, session 1: Feminist Approaches to Research

Sharlene Nagy Hesse-Biber, Patricia Leavy and Michelle L. Yaiser. “Feminist Approaches to Research as a *Process*: Reconceptualizing Epistemology, Methodology, and Method”. In *Feminist Perspectives on Social Research*.

Sharlene Nagy Hesse-Biber and Michelle L. Yaiser (eds.). New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004, pp. 3—26.

Joey Sprague and Diane Kobryn timer. “A Feminist Epistemology”. In *Feminist Perspectives on Social Research*. Sharlene Nagy Hesse-Biber and Michelle L. Yaiser (eds.). New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004, pp. 78—98.

April 24, session 2: Finding a Research Topic

Inger Furseth and Euris Larry Everett. “Help! How Do I Find a Research Topic?”. In *Doing Your Master’s Dissertation: From Start to Finish*. London: SAGE, 2013, pp. 1—16.

April 25, session 3. Formulating research questions

Inger Furseth and Euris Larry Everett. “How Do I Formulate Research Questions?”. In *Doing Your Master’s Dissertation: From Start to Finish*. London: SAGE, 2013, pp. 89—101.

April 29: Assignment 1: Thesis topic and a short description of the proposed research (1 page)

April 30, session 4. Selection of methodology

Mary Evans. “Auto/biography as a Research Method”. In *Research Methods for English Studies*. Gabriele Griffin (ed.) Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2005, pp. 31—46.

Nira Yuval-Davis. “Intersectionality and Feminist Politics”. In *European Journal of Women’s Studies*. Vol. 13, (3), 2006, pp. 193—209.

May 6 Assignment 2: Reflection on research question for the proposed research (2 – 3 pages).

May 7, session 5. Formulating a theoretical argument (1)

Rosi Braidotti. “Dympna and the Figuration of the Roman Warrior”. In *Doing Gender in Media, Art and Culture*. Rosemarie Buikema and Iris van der Tuin (eds.). London and New York: Routledge, 2007, pp. 241—259.

May 8, session 6. Formulating a theoretical argument (2)

Gloria Wekker. "The Arena of Disciplines: Gloria Anzaldúa and Interdisciplinarity". In *Doing Gender in Media, Art and Culture*. Rosemarie Buikema and Iris van der Tuin (eds.). London and New York: Routledge, 2007, pp. 54—69.

May 9, session 7. Positioning the researcher (1)

Mary Hawkesworth. "Reconceptualizing Objectivity". In *Feminist Inquiry*. New Brunswick, New Jersey, and London: Rutgers University Press, 2006, pp. 76—97.

May 14, session 8. Positioning the researcher (2)

Lynda Johnston. "The Place of Secrets, Silences and Sexualities in the Research Process". In *Secrecy and Silence in the Research Process*. Róisín Ryan-Flood and Rosalind Gill (eds.). London and New York: Routledge, 2010, pp. 291—305.

May 20 Assignment 3: Reflections on the main argument behind the research (why the chosen topic, what would be the main argument at this point, methods to be used, 3-4 pages),

May 21 and May 22, sessions 9-12. Student presentations. We will have a double session both days: from 1:30 to 5:10 with a break.