Course Syllabus (Draft)

**Foundations of Gender Studies II**
Winter 2015
Time and Place TBA

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Building on the FGS I, this course explores major contributions in feminist scholarship that shaped the field of gender studies after the first and second waves of feminism. In this course, we will discuss the feminist inquiries that emerge from questioning the universal category of “woman,” tracing the multiple (and sometimes conflicting) approaches to gender and sexual difference, relations of power, agency, embodiment, and postcolonial and neoliberal conditions. In this light, the curriculum is designed to address the potential and challenges in feminist engagements with poststructuralist theories, psychoanalysis, postcolonial criticism, and new materialist discourses. This course also invites reflections on the investment in *theory* in the context of transnational knowledge production, beyond the binary opposition to *praxis*.

**Learning Outcomes**

- Students will understand the major theoretical concepts and discourses of feminist scholarship after the 1970s, through questioning them from a variety of perspectives, and making connections between them.
- Students will be able to discuss the impact on and implications of these theories for gender studies in particular and critical theories in general.
- Students will be able to engage with these theories to re-examine a variety of challenges in the contemporary world.
- Students will improve their academic skills by reading texts, writing papers, and engaging in classroom discussions and oral presentations.

**Course Requirements and Policies**

- Participation and Attendance (20%): This is a discussion-based course, and therefore your active, serious, and respectful participation is crucial. It is important that you attend each class ready to ask questions and share thoughts, having closely read the assigned texts. Some of these texts will be very challenging and might require multiple readings. Please arrive on time, with all electronics turned off. Attendance is mandatory, and absences due to medical problems must be officially documented. Missing a class without an official document will negatively affect your grade, and missing more than three classes could result in failing the course.

- Group Presentation (20%): In a group of 2-3 people, you will give an oral presentation on the text assigned for the day of your presentation. The presentation may take various forms; for example, it could provide a set of questions for class discussion, present an in-depth analysis of a particular idea or a quotation, or situate the given text in a wider context by making connections to other readings covered in the course. The presentation should take about 10-15 minutes, with all members of the group participating equally.
Please email me a brief plan for the presentation (up to one page) by the day before the presentation.

- Reaction Papers (60%): You are asked to write four reaction papers on the weekly readings, one each for the four parts of the course. A reaction paper is 500-600 words long, and should be submitted both online by 9pm before the day of the relevant class and in hard copy at the beginning of that class. The primary goal of a reaction paper is to develop your own analysis based on close reading of and theoretical engagement with the chosen texts. These papers will also help you to prepare for class discussion, and may be shared with the class. Please read the detailed guidelines for the reaction papers.

Weekly Schedule

Part I. Women’s Experience?

Week 1.

Week 2.

- Presentation Group 1

Week 3.

Part II. Psychoanalysis, Language, and Difference

Week 4.

- Presentation Group 2

Week 5.

- Presentation Group 3

Further Readings for Part II:


**Part III. Rearticulating Embodiment**

**Week 6.**

**Week 7.**

➢ Presentation Group 4

**Week 8.**

➢ Presentation Group 5

**Part IV. Postcoloniality, Postsecularism, and the Feeling of Future**

**Week 9.**

➢ Presentation Group 6

**Week 10.**

➢ Presentation Group 7 (if necessary)

**Week 11.**

**Week 12. Wrap-Up Discussion**

There are no readings scheduled for this class. Please bring to class three questions about the course so far. The aim of this class is to discuss seriously the main questions we have engaged with throughout the course without the burden of having to address a new reading in class. Detailed guideline for the assignment will be given in advance. Please submit your questions online by 5pm the day before the class, and also bring a hard copy to the class. The questions are part of your required coursework.