



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES
Te Kura Mahinga Tangata

Sociology and Social Policy

SACS 202

**Topic in Feminist Theory: Key
Thinkers and Perspectives**

20 POINTS

TRIMESTER 2 2013

Important dates

Trimester dates: 15 July to 17 November 2013

Teaching dates: 15 July to 18 October 2013

Mid-trimester break: 26 August to 8 September 2013

Last assessment item due: 18 October 2013 – In-Class Test

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/payments/withdrawalsrefunds

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination (aegrotats), refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat

Class times and locations

Lectures:	Tuesday 12.00-12.50pm	Hunter LT119
	Friday 12.00-12.50pm	Hunter LT220
Tutorials:	Thursday 3.10 – 4.00 pm	VZ108
	Friday 2.10 – 3.00 pm	MY108
	Friday 1.10 – 2.00 pm	MY103
	Thursday 2.10 – 3.00 pm	KP22104

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator

Dr Rhonda Shaw

Murphy Building, MY 1007

Tel: 04 463 6134

E-mail: rhonda.shaw@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Tuesday 1.00 – 2.00pm

Communication of additional information

Additional information related to the course will be made available on BlackBoard. You will automatically receive all Blackboard announcements as an email sent to your @myvuw.ac.nz email address. If you are not going to use this Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

Prescription

The course will examine the major influences on and developments in feminist theory up to the present day. Topics include knowledge, power, biology, sexuality, ethnicity, class, science, technology and space.

Course content

July 16	Introduction to course
July 19	Feminist perspectives and key thinkers
July 23	Second wave feminisms
July 26	Theorizing pornography as violence against women
July 30	Gayle Rubin's "The traffic in women"
August 2	Feminine and feminist ethics
August 6	Mana wahine me te raweke ira: Māori feminist thought and genetic modification
August 9	A feminist politics of black subjectivity
August 13	A postcolonial feminist perspective
August 16	Luce Irigaray's "challenges to philosophy and other matters"
August 20	Elizabeth Grosz's "Volatile bodies"
August 23	R.W. Connell and hegemonic masculinity
September 10	Donna Haraway and cyborg subjectivity
September 13	Iris Marion Young and phenomenology

September 17	Feminist geography and geographers
September 20	Feminist perspectives on international development
September 24	Feminist engagements with refugee settlement
September 27	Judith Butler and gender performativity
October 1	Feminism meets queer theory
October 4	Postfeminism and feminism
October 8	Postfeminism and the third way
October 11	Postfeminism as a sensibility
October 15	Summary and revision lecture
October 18	In-class test

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

This course aims to introduce you to feminist theory. Students who pass this course should be able to:

1. Display their grasp of the work of key feminist thinkers from different historical periods
2. Distinguish from a variety of feminist theoretical perspectives
3. Apply the theoretical ideas covered to practical and real-life issues
4. Critically evaluate the contributions of social science and psychological approaches to understanding gender identity

Teaching format

Lectures and tutorials. Lectures for this course will be given by the course coordinator and guest lecturers from across the university.

While attendance at lectures and tutorials is not compulsory, students are expected to regularly attend them, and will be advantaged if they do so.

There are 6 tutorials for this course. The tutorial days and times will be announced in the first lecture, on July 16. It is recommended that students attend all 6 tutorial classes.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

- ▲ Submit Essay 1 and Essay 2
- ▲ Sit the in-class test.

Workload

University guidelines stipulate that a 20-point course should require 13 hours per week, including class time, of student work.

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	2500 – 3000 word essay	40	2, 4	23 August
2	2000 word essay	30	3, 4	11 October
3	In-Class test (50 minutes)	30	1, 2, 4	18 October

This course is 100% internally assessed and requires three pieces of work (two essays and one in-class test).

Essay 1

Weighting: 40%

Due: 4pm, Friday, August 23

Write a 2500-3000 word essay on the following question.

1. Draw on two key themes to discuss the contribution to feminist thought of any one theorist covered in this course.

Essay2

Weighting: 30%

Due: 4pm, Friday, October 11

For this assignment you are required to write a 2000 word essay. You must write on a different theorist and different topic from your first essay.

A common theme for feminist scholarship has been to show the political significance of matters not traditionally considered political. Drawing on theory covered in this course critically discuss how a feminist scholar would address one of the following issues, with a view to implementing reform or social change: gender norms, work, sex trafficking, sex or race discrimination, poverty, sexual harassment, rape, pornography, multiculturalism, genetic enhancement, domestic violence, disability, citizenship, or abortion.

In-class test

Weighting: 30%

12.00 -12.50 pm Friday, October 18

A guidance statement on the test will be handed out two weeks before the date of the test.

Submission and return of work

You must submit a hard copy and an electronic copy of your essays. Essays must be placed in the assignment box on level 9, Murphy Building, to the side of the lifts. The Assignment Box is cleared at 4pm on the due date, all work is date-stamped, and its receipt recorded, and then handed on to the appropriate markers. Electronic copies get sent to rhonda.shaw@vuw.ac.nz. In the subject heading of your email insert: your name, course number (e.g., SACS 202), Essay 1 or Essay 2, and due date of assignment. Every effort will be made to return marked assignments within two-weeks of the due date. Marked assignments not collected in lectures or tutorials can be collected at the Murphy 9th floor reception desk, between **2.00 and 4.00 pm** only from Monday to Friday. The in-class test will be collected up at the end of the class on 18 October.

Penalties

Late submissions for student assignments in all Sociology and Social Policy undergraduate courses are subject to a penalty. The exact deduction will be calculated on the basis of one half mark per day late for each 10 marks, i.e. 1 mark will be deducted each day for an assignment worth 20% of the total course mark.

Note: assessment work will not be accepted for marking more than 7 days after the due date or 7 days after an approved extension date. Work must still, however, be submitted to meet the mandatory course requirements.

Practicum/placement/field trip/internship arrangements

There are no other arrangements for this course.

Set texts

Each student should buy the prepared book of Student Notes from VicBooks, since ready access to and familiarity with its contents will be required throughout the course. Customers can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz.

Recommended reading

There are a number of excellent journals you can consult, including:

Australian Feminist Studies

Feminism and Psychology

Feminist Review

Feminist Theory

Gender & Society

Gender, Place and Culture

Hypatia

Journal of Gender Studies

Journal of Men's Studies

Men and Masculinities

Sex Roles

Sexualities

Signs: Journal of Women in Culture & Society

Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal

Women's Studies International Forum

Note that an extensive list of readings related to the course and assignments will be available on BlackBoard.

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

Student feedback

This is a new course in 2013.

You will have an opportunity to participate in the evaluation of this course.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at

www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/aegrotat
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/exams-and-assessments/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#grievances
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/publications2#specialpass
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-service
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/viclife/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/admisenrol/enrol/studentcontract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

School Contact Information

Head of School: Dr Allison Kirkman, MY1013

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International Student Liaison: Dr Hal Levine MY1023

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Maori and Pacific Student Liaison: Dr Trevor Bradley, MY1101

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Students with Disabilities Liaison: Dr Russil Durrant, MY1120

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School Manager: La'Chelle Pretorius, MY918

Tel: 463 6546 E-m: La'Chelle.pretorius@vuw.ac.nz

School Administrators: Suzanne Weaver, Alison Melling, MY921,

Tel: 463 5317; 463 5258; 463 5677

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School of Social and Cultural Studies: www.victoria.ac.nz/sacs/