



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 1 2014

Important dates

Trimester dates: 3 March to 2 July 2014

Teaching dates: 3 March to 6 June 2014

Mid-trimester break: 18 April to 4 May 2014

Last assessment item due: 6 June 2014 (in class test)

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

Class times and locations

Lectures: Wednesday 9.00-9.50am Hunter LT220
 Friday 9.00-9.50am Hunter LT220

Tutorials: Friday 11.00 – 11.50 am KK103
 Friday 12.00 – 12.50 am KK103
 Friday 3.10 – 4.00 pm MY 107
 Friday 4.10 - 5.00 pm MY 107

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: Friday 10.00am - 12.00pm

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

March 5	Introduction to course
March 7	Feminist perspectives and key thinkers
March 12	Feminism as a social movement
March 14	Debates about gender
March 19	Second wave feminisms
March 21	Gayle Rubin's "The traffic in women"
March 26	Mana wahine me te raweke ira: Māori feminist thought and genetic modification
March 28	A feminist politics of black subjectivity
April 2	A postcolonial feminist perspective
April 4	Luce Irigaray's "challenges to philosophy and other matters"
April 9	Elizabeth Grosz's "Volatile bodies"
April 11	R.W. Connell and hegemonic masculinity
April 16	Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick
April 18	Good Friday - no lecture
May 7	Feminist theory, ethics and the body
May 9	Iris Marion Young and phenomenology
May 14	Documentary presentation
May 16	Judith Butler and gender performativity
May 21	Postfeminism and feminism
May 23	Feminism meets queer theory

May 28	Postfeminism and the third way
May 30	Postfeminism as a sensibility
June 4	Summary and revision lecture
June 6	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. Tutorials for this course will be given by the course coordinator and a tutor. Tutorial classes run for 9 weeks and start in week 3. The tutorial days and times will be announced in the first lecture, on March 5. Enrolment for tutorial classes will be done using the S-Cubed system. It is recommended that students attend all 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
- ▲ Attend 50% of all tutorial classes

Workload

The expectations are that students will work 10 hours per point, therefore a 20 point course equates to 200 hours over the trimester. This include scheduled contact time, individual or group study, and work on assessment tasks.

In addition to attending the lectures (24 hours for the trimester) and tutorials (up to 9 hours) students can expect to spend on average, approximately 40-50 hours reading preparation for the course, 40 hours preparing for Essay 1, 35 hours preparing Essay 2, and 25 hours preparing for the in-class Test.

Assessment

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

Assessment items and workload per item		%	CLO(s)	Due date
1	2500 – 3000 word essay	40	2, 4	4pm 17 April
2	2000 word essay	35	3, 4	4pm 30 May
3	In-Class test (50 minutes)	25	1, 2, 4	12pm 6 June

Essay 1

Weighting: 40%

Due: 4pm, Thursday, April 17

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

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

Essay 2

Weighting: 35%

Due: 4pm, Friday, May 30

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.

Marking criteria

Marking criteria for essays and essay writing guides will be posted on Blackboard and discussed in tutorial classes.

In-class test

Weighting: 25%

12.00 -12.50 pm Friday, June 6

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. The hard copy gets marked. 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 June 6.

Extensions and Penalties

Extensions

Assignments are due on the dates stated. If for some serious reason you don't think you can get an essay in on time, see your course co-ordinator **prior** to the due date and discuss the problem. Extensions of time are not permitted except for illness, or bereavements.

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.

Materials and equipment and/or additional expenses

There are no additional materials required for this course with the exception of the course readings.

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. Students can order 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 a 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

Enhancements made to this course, based on the feedback of previous students, will be covered during the 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/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library/resources/subjectcontacts.html>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

CONTACT INFORMATION

Head of School: Dr Allison Kirkman, MY1013

Tel: 463 5676 Email: allison.kirkman@vuw.ac.nz

International Student Liaison: Dr Hal Levine MY1023

Tel: 463 6132 Email: hal.levine@vuw.ac.nz

Maori and Pacific Student Liaison: Dr Trevor Bradley, MY1101

Tel: 463 5432 Email: trevor.bradley@vuw.ac.nz

Students with Disabilities Liaison: Dr Russil Durrant, MY1120

Tel: 463 9980 Email: russil.durrant@vuw.ac.nz

School Manager: La'Chelle Pretorius, MY918

Tel: 463 6546 Email: lachelle.pretorius@vuw.ac.nz

School Administrators: Suzanne Weaver, Heather Day, Alison Melling, MY921,

Tel: 463 5317; 463 5258; 463 5677

Email: sacs@vuw.ac.nz

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