

CURE2022 / UGEC2273 Feminisms: Thoughts and Movements

1st Semester, 2024-2025

Time: Wednesday 10:30 - 13:15 **Instructor:** PANG Ka Wei, Janet
Venue: (Lecture) LSK 302 **Tutors:** WONG Tak Yin, Yumi
(Tutorial) LSK 302 / LSK 301 YANG Tian

Course Description

Feminism is a passionate politics for everybody. Emerged in the late 19th century in the West as a women's movement, feminist movements have continued to fight for equality, mutual respect and justice against the patriarchy. Over decades of dialogues among feminist scholars and activists, feminisms have become more compassionate towards the marginalized, in terms of not only sex, but also gender and sexuality, race and ethnicity, class, age, body, religion and so on. Despite the wider acceptance of gender equality, "feminism" becomes a new F-word. In this course, we will look into various waves of feminism, as well as different schools of feminist thought and activism. Drawing on their key figures, theories, debates and movements, this course hopes to examine the challenges of feminist movements in the contemporary sexual politics, and subsequently explore different possibilities of feminist praxis.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to

1. articulate key issues and debates of feminisms,
2. interrogate the dominant norms of sex, gender and sexuality,
3. acquire a deeper theoretical understanding of different waves and schools of feminism,
4. contextually analyse on specific gender issue with illustration from cultural texts, and
5. critically synthesize feminist theories and practice.

Assessment Scheme

- ✧ Tutorial Presentation & Participation 30%
- ✧ Gender Autobiography, Love Letter from your Body, OR Rewriting Fairy Tales 30%
 - ◆ Word limit: 500 words
 - ◆ Due Dates: VeriGuide (Assignment no.1) – **29 Oct (Wed) 23:59**
& Hardcopy – **30 Oct (Thu) 10:30**
- ✧ Term Paper (English: 2000 words/ Chinese: 3000 words) 40%
 - ◆ A textual analysis OR a reflective-experiential journal
 - ◆ Due Date: VeriGuide (Assignment no.2) – **4 Dec (Wed) 23:59**

- ◆ Both written assignments could be written in either Chinese or English.
- ◆ The written assignment must be word-processed [in Word (.docx) format] with font size 12, 1.15-line spacing.
- ◆ One letter grade will be lowered per day delay.

Course Schedule

- Week 1 Introduction: We are not afraid of feminismsss 4 Sep**
hook, bell. "To Love Again: The Heart of Feminism." In *Feminism is for Everybody: Passionate Politics*, 100-104. New York; Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, 2014.
Johnson, Allan. "Where Are We?." In *The Gender Knot: Unraveling our Patriarchal Legacy*, 3-25. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2014.
- Week 2 We Want to Vote!: The suffragettes 11 Sep**
Johnson, Allan. "Patriarchy, the System: An It, Not a He, a Them or an Us." In *The Gender Knot: Unraveling our Patriarchal Legacy*, 26-47. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2014.
Wollstonecraft, Mary. "Chapter XII." In *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*. Cambridge University Press, 2010.
- Week 3 No Class - The day following the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival 18 Sep**
- Week 4 Screening 25 Sep**
- Week 5 We Are (NOT) the Second Sex: 2 Oct**
From identity politics to politics of difference
Friedan, Betty. "The Problem that Has No Name." In *The Feminine Mystique*, 15-32. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2001.
Whelehan, Imelda. "Liberal Feminism: The Origins of the Second Wave." In *Modern Feminist Thought: From the Second Wave to "Post-Feminism"*, 25-43. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2005.
- Week 6 We Want Both Bread and Roses: Class matters 9 Oct**
Rubin, Gayle. "The Traffic in Women: Notes on the 'Political Economy' of Sex." In *Feminist Theory: A Reader*, 230-245. Boston: McGraw-Hill Higher Education, 2010.
Young, Iris Marion. "Socialist Feminism and the Limits of Dual System Theory," 94-106. In *Materialist Feminism: A Reader in Class, Difference and Women's Lives*. New York/London: Routledge, 1997.
- Week 7 We Need to Uproot Sexism: The personal is political 16 Oct**
Daly, Mary. "The Metapatriarchal Journey of Exorcism and Ecstasy." *Gyn/Ecology: The Metaethics of Radical Feminism*, 1-34. Boston: Beacon Press, 1978.
Radicalesbians. "The Woman-Identified Woman." In *Feminist Theory: A Reader*, 197-200. Boston: McGraw-Hill Higher Education, 2010.
- Week 8 We Write Our Own Stories: Women's writing & feminine writing 23 Oct**
Chodorow, Nancy. "Women's Mothering and Women's Liberation." *The Reproduction of Mothering: Psychoanalysis and the Sociology of Gender*, 211-220. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1978.
Cixous, Helene. "The Laugh of Medusa." In *Feminist Theory: A Reader*, 215-221. Boston: McGraw-Hill Higher Education, 2010.

- Week 9 We Embrace Diversity: Intersectionality 30 Oct**
Lorde, Audre. "The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House." In [*Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches*](#). Trumansburg, NY: Crossing Press, 1984.
Mohanty, Chandra Talpade. "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Postcolonial Discourses." In *Feminism Without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity*, 17-42. Durham: Duke University Press, 2003.
- Week 10 We Go Both Online & Offline: The new wave? 6 Nov**
Halberstam, Jack. "Gaga Feminism for Beginners." In *Gaga Feminism: Sex, Gender, and the End of Normal*, 1-30. Boston: Beacon Press, 2012.
Gieseler, Carly. "The Social Media Activism of #MeToo: 'The Silence Breakers'." In [*The Voices of #MeToo: From Grassroots Activism to a Viral Roar*](#). Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2019.
- Week 11 We Are Interdependent: Doing away with anthropocentrism and androcentrism 13 Nov**
Martin, Emily. "The Egg and the Sperm: How Science Has Constructed a Romance Based on Stereotypical Male-Female Roles." *Signs* 16, no.3 (Spring, 1991): 485-501.
Warren, Karen. "[Feminism and Ecology](#)." *Environmental Ethics* 9, no.1 (Spring 1987): 3-20.
- Week 12 Gender Workshop (tbc) 20 Nov**
- Week 13 We Are Here & We Empower Each Other: Feminism is for everyone, now and beyond 27 Nov**
hooks, bell. "Feminist Manhood." In *The Will to Change: Men, Masculinity, and Love*, 107-124. New York: Atria Books, 2004.
Rivers, Nicola. "Femen: Postfeminist Playfulness or Reinforcing Sexualized Stereotypes?" In [*Postfeminism\(s\) and the Arrival of the Fourth Wave: Turning Tides*](#), 79-105. Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017.
Ahmed, Sara. "Conclusion 1. A Killjoy Survival Kit," and "Conclusion 2. A Killjoy Manifesto." In *Living a Feminist Life*, 235-268. Durham: Duke University Press, 2017.
Ahmed, Sara. "Feminist Attachments." In *The Cultural Politics of Emotion*, 168-190. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press 2014.
Fraser, Nancy, Tithi Bhattacharya, and Cinzia Arruzza. *Feminism for the 99%*. London: Verso Books, 2019.

Tutorial Schedule

Week 5 Board Game

Week 6 Liberal Feminism

Friedan, Betty. "The Crisis in Woman's Identity." In *The Feminine Mystique*, 69-79. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2001.

Week 7 Radical Feminism

Millett, Kate. "Theory of Sexual Politics." In *Sexual Politics*, 23-58. London: Virago, 1981.

Week 8 Black Feminism

Collins, Patricia Hill. "Intersectionality's Definitional Dilemmas." *Annual Review of Sociology* 14, no.1 (2015): 1-20.

Week 9 Debate: Should feminism be trans-exclusionary?

Lawford-Smith, Holly. "Introduction." In *Gender-Critical Feminism*, pp.1-17. Oxford, England: Oxford University Press, 2022.

Sarter, Emma, Peter Hegarty, & Annalisa Casini. "Gender-Critical or Gender-Inclusive?: Radical Feminism is Associated with Positive Attitudes toward Trans* People and Their Rights." *Sex Roles* (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11199-024-01507-9>

Week 10 Debate: Is sex (as a practice) always sexist?

Dworkin, Andrea (安菊雅·朵金)。〈性交〉“Intercourse”。載《女性主義經典》，顧燕翎、鄭至慧編，188-196。台北市：女書文化事業有限公司，1999。

Lorde, Audre. "The Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power." In *Sexualities & Communication in Everyday Life: A Reader*, edited by Karen E. Lovaas and Mercilee M. Jenkins, 87-91. Thousand Oaks, Calif.: SAGE Publications, 2007.

Week 11 Being a Feminist

Ahmed, Sara. "Bringing Feminist Theory Home." In *Living a Feminist Life*, 1-18. Durham: Duke University Press, 2017.

bell hooks. "When Angels Speak of Love." In *All About Love*, 225-237. New York: William Morrow, 2000.

Supplementary Resources:

何春蕙 (編)。《[連結性：兩岸三地性/別新局](#)》。台北：中央大學性/別研究室，2010。

陳錦華等 (編)。《[差異與平等：香港婦女運動的新挑戰](#)》。香港：新婦女協進會、香港理工大學應用社會科學系社會政策研究中心，2001。

甯應斌 (編)。《[性地圖景：兩岸三地性/別氣候](#)》。台北：中央大學性/別研究室，2011。

黃慧貞、蔡寶瓊 (編)。《[性/別政治與本土起義](#)》。香港：商務印書館，2015。

譚少薇等 (編)。《[性別覺醒：兩岸三地社會性別研究](#)》。香港：商務印書館香港有限公司，

2012。

顧燕翎 (編)。《女性主義理論與流變》。台北：貓頭鷹，2019。

顧燕翎、鄭至慧 (編)。《女性主義經典》。台北市：女書文化事業有限公司，1999。

Ahmed, Sara. *Living a Feminist Life*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2017.

Evans, Mary, Clare Hemmings, Marsha Henry, Hazel Johnstone, Sumi Madhok, Ania Plomien, and Sadie Wearing. *The SAGE Handbook of Feminist Theory*. GB: Sage Publications, 2014.

hooks, bell. *Feminism is for Everybody*. New York; Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, 2014.

Kemp, Sandra and Judith Squires. *Feminisms*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1997.

Prince, Althea, Susan Silva-Wayne and Christian Vernon. *Feminisms and Womanisms: A Women's Studies Reader*. Toronto: Women's Press, 2004.

Tong, Rosemarie Putnam. *Feminist Thought*. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 2013.

Walker, Barbara (芭芭拉·沃克)。《醜女與野獸》(Feminist Fairy Tales)。台北：一起來出版，2020。

Weber, Shannon. *Feminism in Minutes*. London: Quercus Publishing, 2019.

Whelehan, Imelda. *Modern Feminist Thought: From the Second Wave to "Post-feminism"*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1995.

Grade Descriptors

- A** Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes.
- A-** Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes.
- B** Substantial performance on all learning outcomes, OR high performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance.
- C** Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses.
- D** Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes
- F** Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, OR failure to meet specified assessment requirements.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>.

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration.

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.

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