FEMINIST RESEARCH METHODS
WOMEN & GENDER STUDIES 392
FALL 2006

Professor: Mona Lena Krook
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Course Time: Mondays/Wednesdays, 1-2.30PM
Office Hours: Tuesdays/Wednesdays, 3-5 PM,
or by appointment

Course Description

This course explores feminist epistemologies and research methods. We will focus on how feminist scholars challenge dominant theories of knowledge and the major methodologies employed in the social sciences and humanities. Through a combination of lectures and workshops, we will ask how gender theory and feminist politics shape the kinds of research questions we ask, the types of materials we use, and how we define our relationships with our subjects. To reflect on and engage with feminist methods, students are expected to participate actively in class discussions, write memos reflecting on workshop topics, and draft a research proposal in stages over the course of the semester.

Course Requirements

This course aims to introduce students to basic concepts and debates in feminist research through three sets of course assignments:

1) **Class participation** (25%) You must come to class prepared and to participate actively in all class discussions. If you are absent from class – or must leave early – for any reason you are expected to write a short 3-5 page memo on the readings and hand it in at the beginning of the next class.

2) **Short research memos** (25%) Following each faculty workshop (including the ones led by me), you will write a short 1-2 page memo on ways that you might apply – or why you would not apply – that particular method or methodology to your own research project. After each film workshop, you will write a short 1-2 page memo addressing the question asked in the syllabus. These will be due at the beginning of the next class, which will usually – but not always – be on **Mondays**.

3) **Research proposal** (50%) You will draft a research proposal in stages over the course of the semester. I will distribute guidelines for the proposal during the second week of class. **Deadlines:** a research question on September 20, a first section on October 11, a second section on November 15, and the final paper on December 15. These will always be due on **Wednesdays**, except for the final version which is due on a **Friday**.

Required Texts

All of the readings will be available on ERes (password “feminist”), with the exception of three books that are available for purchase at the campus bookstore:


August 30: Course Introduction
No assigned reading – discussion of course aims and introduction to feminist epistemology and research methods.

September 4: NO CLASS, LABOR DAY

September 6: The Enlightenment and the Scientific Method

*Guest: Andrew Rehfeld, Department of Political Science*


**FEMINIST EPISTEMOLOGIES**

September 11: Feminist Approaches to Theories of Knowledge


September 13: Workshop on Alternative Feminist Methodologies


September 18: Gender as an Analytic Category


September 20: Workshop on Researching Masculinities


September 25: Workshop on Kitchen Stories

Question: What does Kitchen Stories share with feminist critiques of the ‘scientific method’?

September 27: Feminist Standpoint Theory


October 2: Essentialism and Intersectionality


October 4: Workshop on Essentialism and Psychoanalytic Theory

Guest: Susan Stiritz, Women and Gender Studies Program


October 9: Postmodern Challenges to (Feminist) Epistemology


DOING FEMINIST RESEARCH

October 11: Workshop on Beginning a Feminist Research Project


October 16: Feminist Interviewing


October 18: Workshop on Conducting Interviews


October 23: Feminist Text and Content Analysis


October 25: Workshop on Textual Analysis and Literary Theory

Guest: Barbara Baumgartner, Women and Gender Studies Program

Readings to be announced.

October 30: Feminist Ethnography


**November 1: Workshop on *Born into Brothels***

**Question:** In what ways is *Born into Brothels* a feminist ethnography?

**November 6: Feminist Archive and Internet Research**


**November 8: Workshop on Archival Research**

*Guest: Andrea Friedman, Department of History*


**November 13: NO CLASS**

**November 15: Feminist Surveys and Statistical Analyses**

*Lead by Amanda Driscoll, Teaching Assistant*


November 20: Workshop on *Kinsey*

*Question:* What does *Kinsey* suggest about the use of surveys for analyzing human sexuality?

November 22: NO CLASS, THANKSGIVING BREAK

November 27: Feminist Action Research


November 29: Workshop on Participatory Action Research

*Guest: Shanti Parikh, Department of Anthropology and Archaeology*

Readings to be announced.

December 4: Original Feminist Research Methods


December 6: Workshop on (Original) Feminist Research Methods

