Course Description:

In this course we will investigate contemporary feminist thought from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. We will focus on key issues in feminist theory such as the sex/gender debate, sexual desire and the body, the political economy of gender, the creation of the “queer” as subject, and the construction of masculinity among others. This course aims also to think through the ways in which these concerns intersect with issues of race, class, the environment and the nation. Texts include feminist philosopher Judith Butler’s *Gender Trouble*, anthropologist Kamala Visweswaran’s *Fictions of Feminist Ethnography* and feminist economist Bina Agarwal’s *The Structure of Patriarchy*.

Course Materials:

Books for purchase are marked P on the syllabus and can be found at Amherst Books, 8 Main Street, 413.256.1547. All Other Required Readings for this course can be found on E-Reserve (E).

Required Texts:

Films are marked (F). We will be discussing the following films over the course of the semester:

Madhur Bhandarkar, *Chandni Bar* (2001)
Course Requirements

1. I expect you to attend class regularly and inform me by email if you miss a class.

2. Read the readings before class, not during or after class or right before the papers are due.

3. There will be three papers. The approximate weighting is as follows:
   - Paper 1: (4-5 pages) 20% of base grade
   - Paper 2: (4-5 pages) 25% of base grade
   - Paper 3: (6-7 pages) 30% of base grade
   - Speaker Report: (4-5 pages) 10%
   - Class Attendance: 15%

Due dates for Papers:
   - Paper 1: Friday Oct. 13th
   - Paper 2: Friday Nov. 11th
   - Speaker Report: Friday Dec. 2nd
   - Paper 3: Friday Dec. 16th

WEEK 1

Wed. Sept. 7th
Introduction

WEEK 2:

FEMINIST THEORIES?

Mon. Sept. 12th: Feminisms
Uma Narayan, “The Project of Feminist Epistemology: Perspective from a Nonwestern Feminist” Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives
Chandra Talpade Mohanty, “Feminist Encounters: Locating the Politics of Experience” Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives (P)

Wed. Sept 14th: Why Theory?
Maria C. Lugones and Elizabeth V. Spelman, “Have We Got a Theory for You!” Women's Studies International Forum, 1983

WEEK 3

THE CATEGORY OF ANALYSES: THE SEX/GENDER DEBATE
Mon. Sept. 19th: **The Category of Woman**  
Donna Haraway “Situated knowledges: The science question in feminism and the privilege of partial perspective” *Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives*  
Shani Motoo, *Cereus Blooms at Night* (P) Chapters 1-6

Wed. Sept 21st: **Being a Woman/Becoming a Woman**  
Shani Motoo, *Cereus Blooms at Night* Chapters 7-11

**WEEK 4**

Mon. Sept.26th: **Between Woman and Man**  
Shani Motoo, *Cereus Blooms at Night* Chapters 12-19  
Judith Butler, “Sex and Gender in Simone de Beauvoir's Second Sex”  
Yale French Studies No. 72, Simone de Beauvoir: Witness to a Century (1986), pp. 35-49  
Christine Delphy, “Rethinking Sex and Gender” *Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives*

**DESIRE: PSYCHOANALYSIS AND FEMINISM**

Wed. Sept. 28th: **Sexuality**  

**WEEK 5**

Mon. Oct. 3rd: **Writing Desire: L'ecriture Feminine**  
Anais Nin, *Little Birds* (P) (selections)

Wed. Oct. 5th: **The Gaze and Desire**  
Madhur Bhandarkar, *Fashion* (film)  

**WEEK 6**

Mon Oct. 10th: FALL BREAK
**Wed. Oct. 12**: **Desire and Power**

**Friday Oct. 13**: Paper 1 Due

**WEEK 7**

**THE BODY: POST-STRUCURALISM, BIOPOWER AND FEMINISM**

**Mon. Oct. 17**: **Biopower**
Michel Foucault, “We ‘Other Victorians’” *History of Sexuality: Vol. 1*, Vintage: 1990, pp. 1-14

**Wed. Oct. 19**: **Bodies and Power**
Judith Butler, “Bodies and Power Revisited” *Feminism and the final Foucault* (ed.)
J.M. Coetzee, *Disgrace* (P) Chapters 1-6

**WEEK 8**

**Mon. Oct. 24**: **Politics of the Body I**
J.M. Coetzee, *Disgrace*, Chapters 7-20

**Wed. Oct. 26**: **Politics of the Body II**
J.M. Coetzee, *Disgrace*, Chapters 21-23

**WEEK 9**

**GENDER AND LABOUR: MARXISM, SOCIALISM AND FEMINISM**

**Mon. Oct. 31**: **Marx and Feminism**
Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto* (P)
Heidi Hartmann, “The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism” Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives

Wed. Nov. 2nd: The Gendered Division of Labour
Heidi I. Hartmann, “The Family as the Locus of Gender, Class, and Political Struggle: The Example of Housework” Signs, Vol. 6, No. 3 (Spring, 1981), pp. 366-394

WEEK 10

Mon. Nov. 7th: The Political Economy of Gender
Iris Young, “Socialist Feminism and The Limits Of Dual System Theory” Socialist Review 10.2-3 (1980), 169-188.
Madhur Bhandarkar, Chandni Bar (2001) (film)

Wed. Nov. 9th: Theorizing Women’s Labour

Friday Nov. 11th: Paper 2 due

WEEK 11

RACE AND NATION: CRITICAL RACE THEORY, POSTCOLONIAL THEORY AND FEMINISM

Mon. Nov. 14th: Race as a Critical Category for Feminist Thought
Claire Denis, White Material (2010) (F)

Wed. Nov. 16th: The Politics of Race
Gwendolyn Mikell, “African Feminism: Toward a new Politics of Representation” Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives
Mitsuye Yamada, “Invisibility is an Unnatural Disaster: Reflections of an Asian American Woman” Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives
Patricia Hill Collins, “The Politics of Black Feminist Thought” Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives

WEEK 12: THANKSGIVING BREAK

WEEK 13:

Mon. Nov. 28th: Race, Nationalism and Gender
Anne McClintock, “Massa and Maids: Power and Desire in the Imperial Metropolis” Imperial Leather: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Colonial Contest, pp. 75-131
Anne McClintock, “‘No Longer in a future Heaven’: Gender Race and Nationalism” Dangerous Liaisons: Gender, Nation, and Postcolonial Perspectives (ed.) Anne Mcclintock, Aamir Mufti and Ella Shohat, Univ. of Minnesota Press: 1997, pp. 89-112

Wed. Nov. 30th: Woman and Nation
Lata Mani, “Multiple Mediations: Feminist Scholarship in the Age of Multinational Reception” Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives

Friday Dec 2nd: Speaker Report Due

DECENTERING THE SUBJECT: QUEER THEORY AND MASCULINITY STUDIES

WEEK 14:

Mon. Dec. 5th: Queer Theory
Gayatri Gopinath, “Funny Boys and Girls: Notes on a Queer South Asian Planet” Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives

Wed. Dec. 7th: Desiring Women
Audre Lorde, The Black Unicorn (selections)

WEEK 15

Mon. Dec. 12th: Desiring Men
Patricia Powell, _A Small Gathering of Bones_ (P) Chapters 1-4

Wed. Dec. 14\textsuperscript{th}: **Masculinity**
Patricia Powell, _A Small Gathering of Bones_ Chapters 5-7

**Friday Dec. 16\textsuperscript{th}: Paper 3 Due**