

**Winthrop University**  
**Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies**  
**WMST 300, Sec 001, 3 credits**  
**Dr. Jennifer Leigh Disney**  
**Spring 2018**  
**Tuesdays/Thursdays, 9:30-10:45am**  
**KIN 102**  
[disneyj@winthrop.edu](mailto:disneyj@winthrop.edu)

Political Science Office Phone: (803) 323-2209    My Office Phone: (803) 323-4668  
**PLSC Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 9:00am-11:00pm and by appointment**  
PLSC Office Location: Bancroft Hall, Room #328  
**WMST Office Hours: Wednesdays 11:00am-12:00pm and by appointment**  
WMST Office Location: Bancroft Hall, Room #107

### **Required Readings**

Estelle B. Freedman, *No Turning Back: The History of Feminism and the Future of Women*.  
New York: Ballantine Books, 2002.

Estelle B. Freedman, *The Essential Feminist Reader*. New York: Modern Library, 2007.

### **Course Description**

This course is designed to be an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of Women's and Gender Studies. Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies draws on feminist ideas and scholarship to develop historical, theoretical, and cross-cultural frameworks for the comparative study of women and gender. We will examine the category of gender and the subject of women (and men) in terms of their different and changing roles and experiences throughout history and across the world. The course is centered on feminist scholarship about women and their relationships with: systems of oppression and privilege; social and individual identities; the body and body politics; family; contraception, pregnancy, motherhood and fatherhood; productive and reproductive labor; domestic violence, rape, and sexual assault; state, law, and public policy; global perspectives; health and reproductive rights, sexuality and intimacy; art, music, and culture; spirituality and religion; creative expression; and power and empowerment. This course participates in the Global Learning Initiative (GLI) by including essential readings from women and men from around the world and by examining women and women's issues within a global context.

Women's and Gender Studies has been conceptualized as an interdisciplinary field to address three biases within academic disciplines: 1. the existing *misogyny* in much of the treatment of women; 2. the *absence* of women within disciplinary discourses; and 3. claims of *universality* within theory and research which were actually based on male experience. This course seeks to offer a *critique* of such biases by bringing the experiences and perspectives of women into the discourse. In addition, this course is designed to offer *feminist reconceptualizations* of: 1. basic concepts used within the study of women, gender, and society; 2. existing structures and institutions of power in our society and our world; and 3. visions of what a just world would

look like, constructed from the perspective of those who live at the intersections of multiple oppressions. An understanding of how interlocking systems of oppression operate is crucial to working toward their demise.

### **Course Goals**

Students enrolled in this course will gain an understanding of the fundamental concepts in and approaches to the interdisciplinary field of Women's and Gender Studies and the historical, theoretical, and cross-cultural frameworks for the comparative study of women and gender.

This course contributes to student mastery of the following University Level Competencies (ULCs): **Competency 3: Winthrop graduates understand the interconnected nature of the world and the time in which they live.** Winthrop University graduates comprehend the historical, social, and global contexts of their disciplines and their lives. They also recognize how their chosen area of study is inextricably linked to other fields. Winthrop graduates collaborate with members of diverse academic, professional, and cultural communities as informed and engaged citizens. **Competency 4: Winthrop graduates communicate effectively.** Winthrop University graduates communicate in a manner appropriate to the subject, occasion, and audience. They create texts – including but not limited to written, oral, and visual presentations – that convey content effectively. Mindful of their voice and the impact of their communication, Winthrop graduates successfully express and exchange ideas.

### **Student Learning Outcomes**

At the completion of this course, students should be able to answer the following questions: What is the difference between sex and gender? How have women and men had different and changing roles and experiences throughout history and across the world? How have assumptions about gender role stereotypes constrained women *and* men in society? How have systems of oppression and privilege impacted women's relationships to: the body; family; contraception, pregnancy, motherhood and fatherhood; productive and reproductive labor; violence; health and reproductive rights, sexuality and intimacy; creative expression; and power and empowerment. What is the relationship between gender, race, class, ethnicity, sexuality, nationality, post-coloniality, age, ability, and culture in the lives of women globally? How do these differences affect the constructions of 'womanhood' and the actual experiences of women globally? What have women done in various political, cultural, and economic settings to challenge oppression and create a better world for themselves, their communities, other women, and their families? What is feminism? These are just a few of the questions we will explore throughout this course.

### **Student Learning Activities and Course Requirements**

Discussion is a very important aspect of this course, both for critically comparing and contrasting ideas as well as for interesting, inclusive, and educational dialogue. It is required that you each come prepared to class having read and thought about the material, with a discussion question and/or comment to share. Your willingness to engage and critique the books we will be reading is a fundamental aspect of this course, worth 20% of your grade.

You will be required to write one **5-7 page book review on a classic text in the field of**

**Women's and Gender Studies (see attached list at the end of the syllabus). ALL PAPERS must be submitted to Turnitin.com by the due date in order to be graded. The Class ID is 17104809 and the Enrollment Password is GENDER.**

In addition, you will be required to write **one 5-7 page document review of 6 short readings** from Estelle B. Freedman, *The Essential Feminist Reader*. New York: Modern Library, 2007, and present those readings to the class **due the day the readings are assigned. Your paper will be deducted one letter grade for each day it is late.** You will also have an in-class essay mid term exam and a cumulative final exam during the scheduled final exam period.

**Your Grade Composition will be as follows:**

Daily Class Participation in Reading and Discussion	20%
5-7 Page Primary Document Review	20%
5-7 Page Classic Text Book Review (See List)	20%
Mid-Term Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%

The **Grade Distribution** in this class will be as follows:

A- 90-92	A 93-96	A+ 97-99	
B- 80-82	B 83-86	B+ 87-89	
C- 70-72	C 73-76	C+ 77-79	
D- 60-62	D 63-66	D+ 67-69	F > 60

**Grading:**

- A 93-100 = Designates work of superior quality**  
 A Class participation is voluntary, frequent, relevant, and reflects that you have both read and thought about the material. Performance on exams is consistently strong; demonstrates complete mastery of facts and concepts. Written work is clear, well-organized and thought-provoking, and free of grammatical or mechanical errors.
- B 87-89 = Designates work of high quality**  
 B+ Class participation is voluntary, frequent, and reflects that you are keeping up with the assigned materials. Performance on exams is very strong; demonstrates mastery of facts and concepts. Written work reflects a good understanding of the issues and concepts. Writing is clear with minimal errors.
- C 77-79 = Designates work that minimally meets the course requirements**  
 C+ Class participation is occasional and/or rarely voluntary, with comments that reveal only a superficial grasp of issues and concepts. Performance on exams demonstrates acceptable degree of mastery of facts and concepts. Written work may contain arguments that are confusing, with minimal evidence of organization. Writing is marred by errors.
- C  
 73-76 = C  
 70-72 = C-  
 C-

- D 67-69 = Reflects minimal clarity and comprehension**  
**D+ Class participation is minimal, never voluntary, and reveals that you have either not read the assigned materials or did not understand the readings.**  
**63-66 = D Performance on exams demonstrates minimal mastery of facts and**  
**60-62 = D- concepts. Written work is confusing, contradictory, repetitive, and/or not supported by either your own ideas or your sources. Writing is marred by errors.**
- F 0-59 = F Unsatisfactory performance along most (or all) measures.**

### The “N” Grade

This semester, the deadline to withdraw from a course with an automatic grade of “N” is **Friday, March 7**. *Students may not withdraw from the course after this date without documenting extenuating circumstances to the Registrar.*

Both attendance and class participation are important aspects of your grade, not to mention of learning the material. **YOU MUST KEEP YOURSELF UP TO DATE WITH THE SYLLABUS.** Moreover, the material we will be discussing in this class will touch each of us on a personal and a political level. To be successful in this course it is essential that a student be able and willing to: get out of her or his comfort zone; listen with an open mind; attempt to digest and understand uncomfortable material before reacting; respectfully study, learn, and understand feminist points of view. I am also very approachable. Please feel free to come to me with any questions, comments, or concerns you may have as the class progresses.

**Schedule of Class Topics and Reading Assignments:** *(The need may arise to make changes to this schedule depending upon the development of the class. Any and all changes will be communicated to the class. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of such changes.)*

**January 9** Discussion of Course Description and Course Requirements  
**Introduction: Who am I? From What Subject Position Do I Speak?**  
*The Bridge Poem*, Donna Kate Rushin, pp. xxi-xxii, in *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings By Radical Women of Color*, Cherrie Moraga, Gloria Anzaldua  
*I Aint’ the Right Kind of Feminist*, Cheryl L. West pp. ix-x, in *Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism*, Chandra Mohanty, Ann Russo and Lourdes Torres, eds.

### **What is Feminism? How Can It Be Defined? ‘The F Word’**

**January 11** Estelle Freedman, *No Turning Back: The History of Feminism and the Future of Women* Chapter 1: The Historical Case for Feminism, pp.vii-13

**January 16** Chapter 2: Gender and Power, pp.17-42

**January 18** Estelle Freedman, *No Turning Back: The History of Feminism and the Future of Women* Chapter 3: Women’s Rights, Women’s Work, and Women’s Sphere, pp.45-72

- January 23** **FINAL SELECTION FOR CLASSIC TEXT BOOK REVIEW**
- Estelle Freedman, *No Turning Back: The History of Feminism and the Future of Women* Chapter 4: Race and the Politics of Identity in U.S. Feminism, pp.73-94
- January 25** Estelle Freedman, *No Turning Back: The History of Feminism and the Future of Women* Chapter 5: The Global Stage and the Politics of Location, pp.95-119
- January 30** Estelle Freedman, *No Turning Back: The History of Feminism and the Future of Women* Chapter 6: Never Done: Women's Domestic Labor, pp.123-144
- February 1** Estelle Freedman, *No Turning Back: The History of Feminism and the Future of Women* Chapter 7: Industrialization, Wage Labor and the Economic Gender Gap, pp. 145-169
- February 6** Estelle Freedman, *No Turning Back: The History of Feminism and the Future of Women* Chapter 8: Workers and Mothers: Feminist Social Policies, pp.170-199
- February 8** Estelle Freedman, *No Turning Back: The History of Feminism and the Future of Women* Chapter 9: Medicine, Markets, and the Female Body, pp.203-228
- February 13** **BOOK REVIEWS DUE**
- Estelle Freedman, *No Turning Back: The History of Feminism and the Future of Women* Chapter 10: Reproduction: The Politics of Choice, pp. 229-252
- February 15** Estelle Freedman, *No Turning Back: The History of Feminism and the Future of Women* Chapter 11: Sexualities, Identities, and Self-Determination, pp. 253-275
- February 20** Estelle Freedman, *No Turning Back: The History of Feminism and the Future of Women* Chapter 12: Gender and Violence, pp. 276-302
- February 22** Estelle Freedman, *No Turning Back: The History of Feminism and the Future of Women* Chapter 13: New Words and Images: Women's Creativity as Feminist Practice, pp. 305-325
- Interim Grades Due By 5:00pm**
- February 27** Estelle Freedman, *No Turning Back: The History of Feminism and the*

*Future of Women* and Chapter 14: No Turning Back: Women and Politics, pp.326-347 AND Exam Review

<b>March 1</b>	<b>Mid-Term Exam</b>
<b>March 6</b>	Estelle B. Freedman, <i>The Essential Feminist Reader</i> , Documents 1-6
<i>March 7</i>	<i>Course Withdraw Deadline</i>
<b>March 8</b>	Estelle B. Freedman, <i>The Essential Feminist Reader</i> , Documents 7-11
<b>March 12-16</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS</b>
<b>March 20</b>	Estelle B. Freedman, <i>The Essential Feminist Reader</i> , Documents 12-17
<b>March 22</b>	Estelle B. Freedman, <i>The Essential Feminist Reader</i> , Documents 18-23
<b>March 27</b>	Estelle B. Freedman, <i>The Essential Feminist Reader</i> , Documents 24-28
<b>March 29</b>	Estelle B. Freedman, <i>The Essential Feminist Reader</i> , Documents 29-33
<b>April 3</b>	Estelle B. Freedman, <i>The Essential Feminist Reader</i> , Documents 34-38
<b>April 5</b>	Estelle B. Freedman, <i>The Essential Feminist Reader</i> , Documents 39-43
<b>April 10</b>	Estelle B. Freedman, <i>The Essential Feminist Reader</i> , Documents 44-48
<b>April 12</b>	Estelle B. Freedman, <i>The Essential Feminist Reader</i> , Documents 49-54
<b>April 16</b>	<b>Leadership and Social Change Series Cultural Event PLSC/WMST Scholar Dr. Cynthia Enloe, Dina’s Place, 7:00pm</b>
<b>April 17</b>	Estelle B. Freedman, <i>The Essential Feminist Reader</i> , Documents 55-59
<b>April 19</b>	Estelle B. Freedman, <i>The Essential Feminist Reader</i> , Documents 60-64
<b>April 24</b>	<b>STUDY DAY – VOLUNTARY STUDY SESSION – 9:30 KIN 102</b>
<b>April 27</b>	<b>FRIDAY, April 27, 11:30am-2:00pm FINAL EXAM</b>

### Student Obligations and Opportunities

#### **Attendance, Class Participation, and Taking Notes**

Regular class attendance is required. Excessive absences will lower your grade in two ways:

(1) loss of note-taking from class lecture and discussion; (2) loss of class participation opportunities. Class participation, which requires your presence, will raise or lower your grade. If prolonged illness or other problems cause you to be absent for an extended period of time, please call me and let me know. In addition, every student is expected to arrive on time. Arriving late or leaving early disrupts the class and

is not acceptable. I will make frequent use of the class listserv provided by the Division of Computing and Information Technology, and you are required to subscribe to it. For additional information, go to: [http://www.winthrop.edu/technology/default.aspx?id=7081&ekmense=bfef63b6\\_489\\_491\\_7081\\_1](http://www.winthrop.edu/technology/default.aspx?id=7081&ekmense=bfef63b6_489_491_7081_1)

**Exam Policy:** You must take exams on the days they are assigned. If an emergency arises, you must call me and leave a message on my voicemail by the day of the exam and be prepared to document the emergency in writing. I will then assess the possibility of a make-up exam. If this policy is not followed, you will receive a 0 for the exam.

**Student Conduct Code:** As noted in the Student Conduct Code: “Responsibility for good conduct rests with students as adult individuals.” The policy on student academic misconduct is outlined in the “Student Conduct Code Academic Misconduct Policy” in the online *Student Handbook* (<http://www2.winthrop.edu/studentaffairs/handbook/StudentHandbook.pdf>).

#### **College of Arts and Sciences Appropriate Use of Technology Policy**

<http://www.winthrop.edu/uploadedFiles/artscience/AppropriateUseOfHandHeldWirelessTechnologyApprovedPolicyMar2010.pdf>

**Winthrop’s Office of Accessibility (OA)** Winthrop University is dedicated to providing access to education. If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact the OA at 323-2233 or accessibility, as soon as possible. Once you have your professor notification letter, please notify me so that I am aware of your accommodations early in the semester.

**Winthrop’s Office of Nationally Competitive Awards (ONCA)** identifies and assists highly motivated and talented students to apply for nationally and internationally competitive awards, scholarships, fellowships, and unique opportunities both at home and abroad. ONCA gathers and disseminates award information and deadlines across the campus community, and serves as a resource for students, faculty, and staff throughout the nationally competitive award nomination and application process. ONCA is located in Dinkins 222A. Please fill out an online information form at the bottom of the ONCA webpage [www.winthrop.edu/onca](http://www.winthrop.edu/onca) and email [onca@winthrop.edu](mailto:onca@winthrop.edu) for more information.

**Winthrop’s Academic Success Center** is a free resource for all undergraduate students seeking to perform their best academically. The ASC offers a variety of personalized and structured resources that help students achieve academic excellence, such as tutoring, academic skill development (test taking strategies, time management counseling, and study techniques), group and individual study spaces, and academic coaching. The ASC is located on the first floor of Dinkins, Suite 106. Please contact the ASC at 803-323-3929 or [success@winthrop.edu](mailto:success@winthrop.edu) or [www.winthrop.edu/success](http://www.winthrop.edu/success).

**Winthrop’s Office of Victims Assistance (OVA)** provides services to survivors of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking as well as educational programming to prevent these crimes from occurring. The staff assists all survivors, regardless of when they were victimized, in obtaining counseling, medical care, housing options, legal prosecution, and more. In addition, the OVA helps students access support services for academic problems resulting from victimization. The OVA is located in 204 Crawford and can be reached at (803) 323-2206. In the case of an after-hours emergency, please call Campus Police at (803)323-3333, or the local rape crisis center, Safe Passage, at their 24-hour hot-line, (803)329-2800. For more information please visit: <http://www.winthrop.edu/victimassistance/>.

**Plagiarism:** Using the words or ideas of others as one's own is plagiarism. Quoting or paraphrasing material from books or articles without properly citing the source is also plagiarism. All sources used must be properly cited in your papers. Consult your Writing 101 Writing Manual for proper citation techniques.

#### **Guidelines for Primary Document Analyses**

As you read and review the primary documents, keep these things in mind: Identify and provide historical context for the author(s)--who, when, where was it written?; What is the purpose of the document or intent of the author? Who is the intended audience?; How does the author/document make its points? What kinds of arguments/rhetoric are used? How effective are they?; What does the text reveal about the author, feminist history, the period in which it was written?; What questions does it raise for you?; How does the document contribute to your understanding of gender, feminism, and/or intersecting hierarchies?

## Guidelines for Book Review

Your book review should be a summary and critical evaluation and assessment of the book you select from the following list:

### Women's and Gender Studies/Global Women's Movements/Feminist Theory Reading List

- Abramowitz, Mimi. Regulating the Lives of Women
- Aguilar, Delia D. and Anne E. Lacsamana, eds. Women and Globalization.
- Alexander, M. Jacqui and Chandra Talpade Mohanty. Feminist Genealogies, Colonial Legacies, Democratic Futures
- Antrobus, Peggy. The Global Women's Movement: Origins, Issues, and Strategies
- Baehr, Ninia. Abortion Without Apology: A Radical History for the 1990s
- Basu, Amrita. The Challenge of Local Feminisms: Women's Movements in Global Perspective
- Bauer, Gretchen and Hannah Britton, eds. Women in African Parliaments.
- Beneria, Lourdes. Gender, Development, and Globalization: Economics as if All People Mattered
- Bookman, Ann and Morgen, Sandra. Women and the Politics of Empowerment
- Boserup, Ester. Women's Role in Economic Development
- Britton, Hannah E. Women in the South African Parliament: From Resistance to Governance
- Braidotti, Rosi, et al. Women, the Environment and Sustainable Development: Towards a Theoretical Synthesis
- Bulbeck, Chilla. Re-Orienting Western Feminisms: Women's Diversity in a Postcolonial World
- Brown, Wendy. States of Injury: Power and Freedom in Late Modernity
- Butler, Judith. Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity; Bodies That Matter
- Carver, Terrell. Gender is Not a Synonym for Women
- Chaudhuri, Nupur and Strobel, Margaret. Western Women and Imperialism: Complicity and Resistance
- Collins, Patricia Hill. Black Feminist Thought
- Collinson, Helen. Women and Revolution in Nicaragua
- Coole, Diana. Women in Political Theory: From Contemporary Misogyny to Contemporary Feminism
- Dalla Costa, Mariarosa and Giovanna F. Dalla Costa. Women, Development and Labor of Reproduction:
- Daly, Mary. Gyn/Ecology: The Metaethics of Radical Feminism
- Darcy de Oliveira, Rosiska. In Praise of Difference: The Emergence of a Global Feminism.
- de Beauvoir, Simone. The Second Sex
- Deighton, Jane, Horsley, Rossana, et al. Sweet Ramparts: Women in Revolutionary Nicaragua
- Disney, Jennifer Leigh. Women's Activism and Feminist Agency in Mozambique and Nicaragua
- Donovan, Josephine. Feminist Theory: The Intellectual Traditions of American Feminism
- Escobar, Arturo and Alvarez, Sonia. The Making of Social Movements in Latin America
- Eisenstein, Hester. Contemporary Feminist Thought; Feminism Seduced: How Global Elites Use Women's Labor and Ideas to Exploit the World
- Eisenstein, Zillah. Capitalist Patriarchy and the Case for Socialist Feminism; The Radical Future of Liberal Feminism; Against Empire: Feminisms, Racism, and the West
- Elshtain, Jean Bethke. Public Man. Private Woman: Women in Social and Political Thought
- Engels, Friedrich. The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State
- Enloe, Cynthia. Bananas, Beaches and Bases: Making Feminist Sense of International Politics; Maneuvers: The Politics of Militarizing Women's Lives; Globalization & Militarism: Feminists Make the Link; Nimo's War, Emma's War: Making Feminist Sense of Iraq War
- Ferguson, Ann. Sexual Democracy: Women, Oppression, and Revolution
- Ferree, Myra Marx and Martin. Feminist Organizations: Harvest of the New Women's Movement
- Ferree, Myra Marx and Aili Mari Tripp, eds. Global Feminism: Transnational Women's Activism, Organizing, and Human Rights
- Firestone, Shulamith. The Dialectic of Sex
- Fried, Marilyn Gerber. From Abortion to Reproductive Freedom: Transforming a Movement
- Goldberg, Gertrude Schaffner and Eleanor Kremen, eds. The Feminization of Poverty
- Gordon, November. Transforming Capitalism and Patriarchy: Gender and Development in Africa
- Gould, Carol (ed) Beyond Domination: New Perspectives on Women and Philosophy
- Grewal, Inderpal. Transnational America: Feminisms, Diasporas, Neoliberalisms.
- Hansen, Karen & Ilene Philipson, eds. Women, Class and the Feminist Imagination: A Socialist-Feminist Reader
- Hartsock, Nancy. Money, Sex and Power: Toward a Feminist Historical Materialism



- Held, Virginia. Feminist Morality: Transforming Culture, Society and Politics
- Hennessy, Rosemary. Materialist Feminism and the Politics of Discourse
- Holcombe. Managing to Empower: The Grameen Bank
- hooks, bell. Ain't I a Woman: Feminist Theory From Margin to Center
- Hoyt, Katherine. The Many Faces of Sandinista Democracy
- Hull, Gloria, Scott, Patricia and Smith Barbara eds. All the Women are White, All the Blacks are Men, But Some of Us Are Brave
- Jayawardena, Kumari. Feminism and Nationalism in the Third World
- Jones, Kathleen and Jonasdottir, Anna. The Political Interests of Gender: Developing Research w/ Feminist Face
- Kaplan, Caren, Norma Alarcón, Minoo Moallem, Between Woman and Nation: Nationalisms, Transnational Feminisms, State
- Kaplan, Temma. Crazy for Democracy: Women in Grassroots Movements.
- Kennedy, Elizabeth and Mendus, Susan Women in Western Political Philosophy: Kant to Nietzsche
- MacKinnon, Catherine. Toward a Feminist Theory of the State
- Mamdani, Mahmood and Ernest Wamba dia Wamba, eds. African Studies in Social Movements and Democracy
- Mansbridge, Jane. Beyond Adversary Democracy
- Octoberand, Marianne and Jane Parpart, eds. Feminism/Postmodernism/Development
- Mies, Maria. Patriarchy and Accumulation on a World Scale
- Mikell, Gwendolyn. African Feminism: The Politics of Survival in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Millet, Kate. Sexual Politics
- Mohanty, Chandra, Russo, Ann and Lourdes, Torres. Third World Woman and the Politics of Feminism
- Moghadam, Valentine M. Globalizing Women: Transnational Feminist Networks
- Moraga, Cherrie and Anzaldua, Gloria eds. This Bridge Called My Back: Writings By Radical Women of Color
- Narayan, Uma and Harding, Sandra, eds. Decentering the Center: Philosophy for a Multicultural, Postcolonial World
- Nicholson, Linda. Feminism/Postmodernism
- Okin, Susan Moller. Women in Western Political Thought: Justice, Gender, and the Family
- Oyewumi, Oyeronke. The Invention of Women: Making an African Sense of Western Gender Discourses
- Oyewumi, Oyeronke, ed. African Women & Feminism: Reflecting on the Politics of Sisterhood
- Parpart, Jane and Stichter, Sharon (eds). Women, Employment and the Family in the International Division of Labor.
- Parpart, Jane and Kathleen A. Staudt. Women and the State in Africa
- Pateman, Carol. The Sexual Contract, The Problem of Political Obligation, The Disorder of Women
- Petchesky, Rosalind. Abortion and Women's Choice: The State, Sexuality, and Reproductive Freedom
- Piven, Frances Fox and Richard Cloward. Regulating the Poor: Poor People's Movements
- Radcliffe, Sarah A. and Sallie Westwood. eds. 'Viva': Women and Popular Protest in Latin America
- Rajan, Rajeswari Sunder. Real & Imagined Women: Gender, Culture and Postcolonialism
- Randall, Margaret. Gathering Rage: The Failure of 20th Century Revolutions to Develop a Feminist Agenda
- Rose, Nancy. Workfare or Fair Work: Women, Welfare and Government Work Programs
- Ruchwarger, Gary. Struggling for Survival: Workers, Women and Class on a Nicaraguan State Farm
- Sargent, Lydia ed. Women and Revolution: A Discussion of The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism
- Sassoon, Anne Showstack, ed. Women and the State
- Sawicki, Jana. Disciplining Foucault: Feminism, Power and the Body
- Schechter, Susan. Women and Male Violence
- Sen, Gita and Cowan, Caren. Development Crises and Alternative Visions (DAWN)
- Shanley, Mary and Pateman Carole. Feminist Interpretations and Political Theory
- Sheldon, Kathleen. Pounders of Grain: Women, Work, History in Mozambique
- Shiva, Vandana and Maria Mies. Ecofeminism
- Sparr, Pamela ed. Mortgaging Women's Lives: Feminist Critiques of Structural Adjustment
- Spelman, Elizabeth. Inessential Woman: Problems of Exclusion in Feminist Thought
- Stephen, Lynn. Women and Social Movements in Latin America: Power From Below
- Terborg-Penn, Rosalyn and Andrea Benton Rushing eds. Women in Africa and the African Diaspora
- Tetreault, Mary Ann. Women and Revolution in Africa, Asia and the New World
- Tronto, Joan. Moral Boundaries: A Political Argument for an Ethic of Care

Urdang, Stephanie. And Still They Dance: Women, War and the Struggle for Change in Mozambique  
Visvanathan, Nalini, et.a. The Women, Gender, and Development Reader  
Wieringa, Saskia ed. Subversive Women: Women's Movements in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the  
Caribbean  
Young, Iris Marion. Justice and the Politics of Difference

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

---

## **The Bridge Poem**

by Donna Kate Rushin

I've had enough  
I'm sick of seeing and touching  
Both sides of things  
Sick of being the damn bridge for everybody

Nobody  
Can talk to anybody  
Without me Right?

I explain my mother to my father my father to my little sister  
My little sister to my brother my brother to the white feminists  
The white feminists to the Black church folks the Black church folks  
To the Ex-hippies the ex-hippies to the Black separatists the  
Black separatists to the artists the artists to my friends' parents...

Then  
I've got the explain myself  
To everybody

I do more translating  
Than the Gawdamn U.N.

Forget it  
I'm sick of it

I'm sick of filling in your gaps

Sick of being your insurance against  
The isolation of your self-imposed limitations  
Sick of being the crazy at your holiday dinners  
Sick of being the odd one at your Sunday Brunches  
Sick of being the sole Black friend to 34 individual white people

Find another connection to the rest of the world  
Find something else to make you legitimate  
Find some other way to be political and hip

I will not be the bridge to your womanhood  
Your manhood  
Your human-ness

I'm sick of reminding you not to  
Close off too tight for too long

I'm sick of mediating with your worst self  
On behalf you your better selves

I am sick  
 Of having to remind you  
 To breathe  
 Before you suffocate  
 Your own fool self

Forget it  
 Stretch or drown  
 Evolve or die

The bridge I must be  
 Is the bridge to my own power  
 I must translate  
 My own fears  
 Mediate  
 My own weaknesses

I must be the bridge to nowhere  
 But my true self  
 And then  
 I will be useful

-from *This Bridge Called My Back*, edited by: Cherrie Moraga and Gloria Anzaldua, New York: Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press, 1983.

### **I Ain't the Right Kind of Feminist**

**By Cheryl L. West**

I Ain't the Right Kind of Feminist  
 First off I'm too confused  
 Secondly you know my blackness envelops me  
 Thirdly my articulateness fails me  
 When the Octobering feminists come by  
 I walk with them for awhile  
 And then I trip over pebbles I didn't see  
 My sexist heels are probably too high  
 I'm stuck in the sidewalk cracks

Oh were Oh were has my feminsim gone...  
 Don't you know it's chasing after  
 blackness  
 Somewhere in the white sea

I'am in the movement  
 No chile  
 I'm not talking about dancing  
 I'm in the liberation movement  
 Yeah I'm talking baout the PLO  
 Yeah I'm talking about South Africa and

apartheid  
 No I did not say you were fit to be tied

I am a woman  
 You are a lady  
 We are sisters in the movement  
 It's about neapolitan ice cream  
 Mixed and oh so sweet  
 It's not about white and sterility

Girl what are you talking about  
 I can have kids  
 My people have always had kids  
 No it's about oppression of all oppressees  
 But they never come in peace  
 They just go some different labels  
 Tell me  
 Is sisterhood the same as the 60's brotherhood

Oh where Oh were has my blackness gone  
 Don't you know it's chasing after Ms. Feminism  
 Somewhere in the white sea

I belong to a consciousness raising group  
 I have rhetoric  
 I am a sociologist  
 I study race, pride, sex, class, humanity  
 I also make mention of all the "isms"  
 I am a feminist

Well I am a sister  
 I am fluid in the dozens  
 I study us  
 I study urban renewal

Which includes my bathroom roaches  
 And my kitchen mice  
 And the animals down at Public Aid  
 Tell me about the man that has filled my  
 belly  
 and ten others with babies

Come share with me sister feminist  
 Let us dance the movement  
 Let my blackness catch your feminism  
 Let your oppression peek at mine  
 After all

I ain't the right kind of feminist

I'm just woman

from *Third World Woman and the Politics of Feminism*, edited by Mohanty, Chandra, Russo, Ann and Lourdes, Torres (editors), Indiana University Press, 1991

**Film Documentary: THE F WORD ([HQ1421.F2 2007](#))**  
**Definitions of Feminism from Various Sources: Evaluate and Discuss**  
**Dr. Jennifer Leigh Disney**

“Feminism is the principle that women should have political, economic, and social rights equal to those of men and the movement to win such rights” (Webster’s New World Dictionary).

“Feminism asks the world to recognize at long last that women aren’t decorative ornaments, worthy vessels, members of a ‘special interest group;’ they are half of the national population” (Susan Faludi).

“The feminist agenda is...about a socialist, anti-family political movement that encourages women to leave their husbands, kill their children, practice witchcraft, destroy capitalism, and become lesbians” (Pat Robertson).

“Feminism is the political theory and practice to free all women: women of color, working women, poor women, physically challenged women, lesbians, old women, as well as white, economically privileged, heterosexual women” (Barbara Smith).

“I myself have never been able to find out what precisely feminism is: I only know that people call me a feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a doormat” (Rebecca West).

“If the feminist movement does not address itself to issues of race, class and imperialism, it cannot be relevant to alleviating the oppression of most of the women of the world” (Cheryl Johnson-Odim).

“Feminism is a method of approaching life and politics, a way of asking questions and searching for answers, rather than a set of political conclusions about the oppression of women” (Nancy Hartsock).

“There is and must be a diversity of feminisms responsive to the different needs and concerns of different women and defined by them for themselves” (Nilufer Catatoy, Caren Grown, Aida Santiago).