

Feminist Studies 250AF
Feminist Theory: Marxism and Feminism

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 11:00 am—12:00 pm
and by appointment

Winter 2020
Wednesdays, 4-6:50 p.m.

Feminist Studies Conference Room

Course Description

What are the affects of class and where does intimate labor fit into Marxist notions of use and exchange value? Is commodification and decommodification gendered? How does an intersectional perspective illuminate such processes as the wage? What is the sex of class and the class of pleasure? This graduate seminar explores that which economist and feminist theorist Heidi Hartmann called “the unhappy marriage of Marxism and Feminism” by considering key texts in the historical construction of the woman question, the traffic in women, double and triple oppression, the domestic labor debate, the political economy of women’s liberation, alternative household economy, commodity fetishism, reproductive labor, the dialectic of sex, and queering class. Including classic Marxist and other radical writings from the 19th century through WWII, it also turns to more recent works of socialist feminism, materialist feminism, and queer theory, taking account of intersectionality, settler colonialism, racial capitalism, and anti-imperialism. It explores how the Marxist tradition considered gender, sexuality, the home, the family, women, and reproductive labor in relation to race and sexualities.

Course Requirements

I expect students to take an active role in the class. To facilitate discussion, some of you will take charge each week. This is essentially a reading colloquium. For your week, in advance, you may select complementary readings, especially from “authorities” cited or discussed by the texts under consideration. In this way, we will further probe feminist appropriations and commentary as well as to make sense of original writings. For those of you who would like a primer or refresher on Marxist terms, I have a url on Garuchospace under Instructor Assignments

- **Reaction Journal**
You are expected to record queries, comments, critiques, and other observations to the weekly readings in an informal reaction journal. Here is a place for you to think out loud, make connections between the readings and between what you are coming into contact with in this class and other classes, between your own discipline and others, between the work of other scholars and your own. These can be handwritten and need not be more than a page or

two, but can be longer if you wish (within reason!) The journals serve two purposes: the first, they help you order thoughts for class; the second, they provide a record for your future reference. I will collect these weekly. I will record done, comment where appropriate but not grade.

- Paper of your own choice
Think of this as an opportunity for you to pull together what you've thought about over the course of the quarter. It will serve as your own capstone to the course and as a reflection on your own work in terms of our discussions and readings. This will be around 10 pages.
- Self-Evaluation
This is a space to assess your own efforts over the quarter. 2-3 pages due at the end of the quarter .

Instead of class on January 22 the class will attend the Hull Lecture featuring Susan Stryker. We will have to reconfigure our schedule but this lecture is not to be missed!

Grading Policy

My role is to help you get what you need out of this class. I expect everyone to do well. The self-evaluation will help me determine your grade. The journals are a participation measure. The paper is the product of your labor.

Books for Purchase The following books need to be purchased or found. Articles and some other readings are available on Gauchospace.

Lisa Lowe, *The Intimacies of Four Continents* (Duke, 2015) ISBN: 978-0-8223-5875-6

Leopoldina Fortunati, *Arcane of Reproduction* (Autonomedia, 1989) ISBN: 0936756144

Tithi Bhattacharya, ed., *Social Reproduction Theory: Remapping Class, Recentering Oppression* (Pluto Press, 2017) ISBN: 978-0-7453-9988-1

Leigh Claire La Berge, *Wages Against Artwork: Decommodified Labor and the Claims of Socially Engaged Art* (Duke 2019) ISBN 978-1-4780-0482-0

Kalindi Vora, *Life Support: Biocapital and the New History of Outsourced Labor* (Minnesota 2015) ISBN 978-0-8166-9396-2

Kathi Weeks, *The Problem with Work* (Duke, 2011) ISBN-13: 978-0822351122

Agenda (Subject to Modification and Class Interests)

January 8: Introductions: Unhappy Marriages and Alienated Labors

On Gauchospace:

Marx, "Estranged Labor," from *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844*

Adrienne Rich, "Alienated Labor" from *Of Woman Born: Motherhood as Experience and Institution* (Norton: 1986), chapter 7

Heidi Hartmann, "The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism," *Capital & Class* 1979 3: 1-33 [this is original article version]

Combahee River Collective, "A Black Feminist Statement"

Jimenez, “Capitalism and the Oppression of Women: Marx Revisited”
“Women’s Unpaid Labor in Political Economy Revisited”

January 15: Capital, Value, and Commodification

On Gauchospace

Marx, in *Selected Workers of Karl Marx*

Grundrisse (1857), Selections

Introduction (1857)	74
(1) Production	74
(2) The General Relation of Production to Distribution, Exchange, Consumption	76
(3) The Method of Political Economy.....	82
(4) Production. Means of Production and Relations of Production.	86
Marx, <i>Capital</i> , Vol. I (1865)	
Chapter 1	115
§1 The Two Factors of a Commodity: Use-Value and Value	115
§2 Two-Fold Character of Labour Embodied in Commodities	118
§3 The Form of Value	120
§4 The Fetishism of Commodities and the Secret thereof	121

Sarah Ahmed, “Affective Economies,” *Social Text* #79, vol. 22 (Summer 2004), 117-39

Grace Kyungwon Hong, “Existentially Surplus: Women of Color Feminism and the New
Crises of Capitalism,” *GLQ* 18:1 (2011), 87-106

Leopoldina Fortunati, *Arcane of Reproduction* (first half)

Recommended:

Tithi Bhattacharya, *Social Reproduction Theory*, Chapters 1-4

January 22: Intimacies, Racial Capitalism, and Settler Colonialism

Lowe

All on Gauchospace:

Jodi A. Byrd, Alyosha Goldstein, Jodi Melamed, and Chandan Reddy, “Predatory Value:
Economies of Dispossession and Disturbed Relationalities,” *Social Text*, 135,
Vol.36, June 2018: 1-18 (0360001)

Jodi Kim, “Settler Modernity, Debt Imperialism, and the Necropolitics of the Promise,”
Social Text, 135, Vol.36, June 2018: 41-61 (0360041)

Recommended:

Anne-Maria Makhulu, “A Brief History of the Social Wage: Welfare before and after
Racial Fordism,” *The South Atlantic Quarterly* 115:1, January 2016, 113-124

Alyosha Goldstein, “The Ground Not Given: Colonial Dispositions of Land,
Race, and Hunger,” *Social Text*, 135, Vol.36, June 2018: 83-106 (0360083)

January 29: The Great Transition

All on Gauchospace

Silva Federici, *Caliban and the Witch* (Autonomedia, 2004)
Karl Marx, "Pre-Capitalist Economic Formations"
Nikhil Pal Singh, "On Race, Violence, and So-Called Primitive Accumulation," *Social Text* 128, Vol 34 September 2016: 27-50

Recommended:

Joanne Barker, "Territory as Analytic: The Dispossession of Lenapehoking and the Subprime Crisis," *Social Text*, 135, Vol.36, June 2018: 19-39 (0360019)
Cecilia Rio, "'On the Move': African American Women's Paid Domestic Labor and the Class Transition to Independent Commodity Production," *Rethinking Marxism* 17 (2005), 489-510
Silvia Federici, "Women, Reproduction, and the Commons," *The South Atlantic Quarterly* 118:4 October 2019, 711-724 (1180711SF)

February 5: Out of the Family

All on Gauchospace:

Frederich Engels, *The Origins of Private Property, the Family, and the State*, selections
Marx, *Capital*, chapter 15
Jacquilyn Weeks, "Un-/Re-Productive Maternal Labor: Marxist Feminism and Chapter Fifteen of Marx's Capital," *Rethinking Marxism* 23 (2011): 31-40

Historical

Emma Goldman, "The Traffic in Women," 1910
Alexandra Kollontai, "Theses on Communist Morality in the Sphere of Class Struggle," 1921; "Sexual Relations and the Class Struggle," 1921
Mary Inman, *In Women's Defense* (1940), selections
Claudia Jones, "An End to the Neglect of the Problems of the Negro Woman!" 1949, From *Worlds of Fire*, ed. Guy-Sheftall (New Press 1995), 107-23
Karen Brodtklin (Sacks), "Engels Revisited," in *Toward an Anthropology of Women*, ed. R. Reiter (Monthly Review Press, 1975), 211-34
Gayle Rubin, "The Traffic in Women" in *Toward an Anthropology of Women*, 157-210

Recommended

Michael Hardt, "Red Love," *The South Atlantic Quarterly* 116: 4, October 2017, 781-796 (007 red)

February 12: The Domestic Labor Debate

On Gauchospace:

Selma James (and Mariarosa Dalla Costa), "The Power of Women and the Subversion of the Community," from *Sex, Race and Class* (PM 2012), 43-59
New York Wages for Housework Committee, "Wages for Housework," n.d.
Beth Capper and Arlen Austin, "'Wages for housework means wages against heterosexuality': On the Archives of Black Women for Wages for Housework and Wages Due Lesbians," *GLQ*, 24:4, October 2018, 445-466

Angela Davis, "Reflections on the Black Women's Role in the Community of Slaves," *Massachusetts Review*, 13, No. 1/2, (Winter - Spring, 1972), 81-100
Wally Secombe, "The Housewife and Her Labor Under Capitalism," *New Left Review* 83 (1974), 3-24.
Marlene Dixon, "Wages for Housework and Strategies of Revolutionary Fantasy," 1977
Angela Davis, "The Approaching Obsolescence of Housework: A Working-Class Perspective," 1981

Leopoldina Fortunati, *Arcane of Reproduction* (read second half)

Recommended On Gauchospace:

Evelyn Nakano Glenn, "From Servitude to Service Work: Historical Continuities in the Racial Division of Paid Reproductive Labor," *Signs*, (Autumn, 1992), 1-43
Rohini Hensman, "Revisiting the Domestic Labor Debate: An Indian Perspective," *Historical Materialism* 19.3 (2011), 3-28
Maud Bracke, "Between the Transnational and the Local: mapping the trajectories and contexts of the Wages for Housework campaign in 1970s Italian feminism," *Women's History Review*, 22:4 (2013), 625-642
Lise Vogel, "Domestic Labor Revisited"

February 19: Queering Marxism

On Gauchospace

Andrea Smith, "Queer Theory and Native Studies: The Heteronomativity of Settler Colonialism," *GLQ* 16:1-2 (2010), 41-68
Meredith Beloso, "Sex, Work, and the Feminist Erasure of Class," *Signs* 38 (September 2012), 47-70
"Queer Studies, Materialism, and Crisis: A Roundtable Discussion," *GLQ* 18 (2011), 127-47 (127)
Meg Wesling, "Queer Value," *GLQ* 18 (2011), 107-27 (107)
Nat Rahna, "Transfeminine Brokenness, Radical Transfeminism," *The South Atlantic Quarterly* 116:3 July 2017, 632-646
Bhattacharya, chapter 9

Recommended: Debate between Nancy Fraser and Judith Butler

February 26: Creative Labor and Knowledge Workers

La Berge

On Gauchospace:

Cristina Morini, "The feminization of labour in cognitive capitalism," *Feminist Review* No. 87 (2007), 40-59

March 4: Globalization and Biocapital

Vora

On Gaucho Space:

Lourdes Benería and Gita Sen, "Accumulation, Reproduction, and "Women's Role in Economic Development": Boserup Revisited," *Signs* 7 (Winter 1981), 279-298

Hester Eisenstein, "A Dangerous Liaison? Feminism and Corporate Globalization," *Science and Society*, 69 (July 2005), 487-518

Selma James, "The Global Kitchen," from *Sex, Race and Class* (PM 2012), 161-73

Delia D. Aguilar, "Current Challenges to Feminism: Theory and Practice," 2006, MR Zine 18/10/06

March 11: **Beyond Work. Feminist Futures**

Kathi Weeks, *The Problem with Work* (Duke, 2011)