

**Western University**  
**Department of Women's Studies and Feminist Research**

**WS 2220E: FEMINIST THEORY & PRACTICE**  
**ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES (2014-15)**

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Term:</b>	Dr. Rita Gardiner	LWH 3239	rgardin2@uwo.ca
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Term:</b>	Dr. Kate Lawless	LWH 3239	klawless@uwo.ca
<b>TA:</b>	TBD		

**LECTURES:** Tuesdays 10:30 am - 1:30 pm

**OFFICE HOURS:**

T.A.	TBD
<b>Dr. Rita Gardiner</b>	Tuesdays 1:30pm-2:30pm
<b>Dr. Kate Lawless</b>	TBD

How have feminists working across the disciplines changed the ways we see, read, and think? Against what traditions have they resisted, and in what new directions do their works lead us? What are the relationships between feminist analyses, artistic/imaginative production, research methodologies and tabulations, the politics (even *violence*?) of representation, and ... *women's material realities*? How does theory inform practice, and vice versa? What are the ethical implications – and responsibilities – of feminist research?

Studying feminist articulations on the (de)construction of historically raced, classed, and sexed subjectivities (and working with a diverse range of theoretical approaches in the various disciplines of the arts, social sciences, sciences, media, medicine/health studies and the law), this course explores how the practices of producing knowledge have real-life effects. Attentive to the ways feminist in(ter)ventions at once resist, expand, and explode conventional approaches and ways of knowing, we will examine the implications of feminist analyses and methods, with a focus on ever-creative feminist resistance and recuperation.

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

Attendance & Participation	10%
Sparker with Writeup (in pairs; discussion facilitation)	10%
Critical Reading Response (4-5 pages)	10%
Mid-Term Exam (2 hours; short answer & essay format)	20%
Annotated Bibliography with tentative thesis statement (prep for major essay; 4 sources; Due February 12)	10%
Major Research Paper (8-10 pages; due March 19)	20%
Final Exam (2 hours; short answer & essay format; in April exam period)	20%

**TEXTS:**

In 2014-15, you will need to purchase the following texts: Term 1: Kate Chopin's *The Awakening and Other Stories* (Oxford: 2008); and a custom course anthology M10508. All texts can be purchased at the University Bookstore (please bring a hard copy of required readings to class). There may be additional readings on the website.

**ENJOY THE COURSE!**

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Work in WS 2220E should enable students to:

- recognize and critically engage some of the major feminist approaches and debates (across research, theory, and practice) in various academic disciplines;
- understand how theory and its practices across disciplines are shaped by the intersecting axes of race, class, sexuality, gender, and (dis)ability;
- develop nuanced awareness of how socio-political and historical factors (in addition to the above) impact canonical and other understandings of cultural, theoretical, and aesthetic “value”;
- reflect, both personally and analytically, on the implications of feminist theory and its applications in relation to our gendered material and everyday realities;
- improve oral and written communication;
- augment proficiency in critical thinking, research, and analytical skills.

### TERM I:

**Dr. Rita Gardiner**

*...The point is to learn to remember that we might have been otherwise,  
and might yet be, as a matter of embodied fact.*

--- Donna Haraway

## I. INTRODUCTION: FEMINIST THEORY, FEMINIST PRACTICE

- Sept.
- 9: **Welcome & session objectives;** terms and relations: ‘feminist,’ ‘theory,’ ‘practice’;  
Discussion: ‘on the usefulness of theory’; Thinking about action & actioning thought;  
YouTube: *Montreal Massacre*; Discussion: commemoration, action, community, **change?**  
**Sign up for sparkers**
- 16: **Language, Voice, Power:** Maria Lugones and Elizabeth Spelman, “Have We Got a Theory for You!?”; Mari Matsuda, “Introduction” from *Where Is Your Body?: And Other Essays on Race, Gender, and the Law*;  
**Recommended:** Audre Lorde, “The Master’s Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master’s House”

## II. REPRESENTATION: Feminist In(ter)ventions in the Visible

- 23: **Un/Making Conventions, Un/Making Canons: Feminism and The Visual Arts**  
Amelia Jones, “Tracing the Subject with Cindy Sherman;” Griselda Pollock, “Visions of Sex c. 1920”  
**Recommended:** John Berger, from *Ways of Seeing*.
- 30: **Feminist Film Theory and the Gaze**  
Laura Mulvey, “Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema;” bell hooks, “The Oppositional Gaze.”
- Oct. **Other Ways of Seeing and Knowing**  
**07** Gloria Anzaldúa, “Feminist Architecture;” Michelle Bogre, *Photography as Activism – Images for Social Change*, intro and cameos on the work of Ellen Mark, Susan Meiselas and Donna Ferrato

**14 Storytelling, Selfhood & Inter/Subjectivity**

Hannah Arendt, “The Disclosure of the Agent in Speech and Action” and “The Web of Relationships and the Enacted Stories”; Adriana Cavarero, “In A New York Bookstore”

**Oct. CRITICAL READING RESPONSE (10%); RESPONSE MUST BE IN RELATION TO A TEXT NOT YET COVERED IN LECTURE; PLEASE SUBMIT TO TURNITIN, AND BRING HARD COPY TO CLASS**

21: Kate Chopin, *The Awakening*; Discussion: **Feminist Literary Theory**

**III. EMBODIMENT: TRADITIONS, TRANSLATIONS, TRANSPOSITIONS**

28: **Discussion: the Body in Western Enlightenment tradition, other traditions, and in feminism;**

**Feminism in/and/against Philosophy and Psychoanalysis: Embodying Language & Desire:** Luce Irigaray, “When Our Lips Speak Together”; Hélène Cixous, from “The Laugh of the Medusa”; Luce Irigaray, from “This Nothingness Which Separates Us”.

Nov 4 Judith Butler, “Subjects of Sex/Gender/Desire”; Judith Butler, “Conclusion: From Parody to Politics” in *Gender Trouble*; Judith/Jack Halberstam, “An Introduction to Female Masculinity”; **Recommended:** Judith Butler, “Introduction” from *Bodies that Matter*.

11 Rosemarie Garland-Thomson, “Re-shaping, Re-thinking, Re-defining: Feminist Disability Studies”; Nancy J. Hirschmann “Disability is the New Gender”

18 Isabel Karpin and Roxanne Mykitiuk, “Feminist Legal Theory as Embodied Justice”; Paisely Curriah, “The Transgender Rights Imaginary”; Mari Matsuda, from “We the People: Jurisprudence in Color”

**IV: FEMINISM, APPROPRIATION, AND FEMINIST APPROPRIATION*****Voices and Ethical Relations***

25: **Feminism and Post/colonialism: Voices & Ethical Relations to Others:** Gayatri Spivak from “Can the Subaltern Speak?”

Dec 2: **Feminism and Econ-Politics:** Deborah Root, from *Cannibal Culture*: “Conquest, Appropriation, & Cultural Difference;” **prep for December’s mid-term exam.**

**MID-TERM EXAM (20%) IN DECEMBER EXAM PERIOD, DATE TBA. BEST WISHES!**

**TERM II:****Dr. Kate Lawless**Feminist Theory and Practice

Jan. 13: Introduction to Feminist Theory and Practice (37pp)

Ahmed, Sara. 1996. “Beyond Humanism and Postmodernism: Theorizing a Feminist Practice.” *Hypatia*. 11(2): 71-93

hooks, bell. 1994. “Theory as Liberatory Practice.” In *Teaching to Transgress: Education as the Practice of Freedom*. New York: Routledge, pp. 59-74.

Jan. 20: Speaking from the Margins (48pp)

Hawkesworth, Mary. 2010. "From Constitutive Outside to the Politics of Exclusion: Critical Race Theory, Feminist Theory and Political Theory." *Political Quarterly*, 63(3): 686-696.

Smith, Andrea. 2005. "Native American Feminism, Sovereignty and Social Change." *Feminist Studies*, 31(1): 116-132.

**Case Study:** Jiwani, Yasmin and Young, Mary Lynn. 2006. "Missing and Murdered Women: Reproducing Marginality in News Discourse." *Canadian Journal of Communication*. 31: 895-917.

Jan. 27: Setting the Terms (57pp)

Frye, Marilyn. 1983. "Oppression" and "Sexism" from *The Politics of Reality: Essays in Feminist Theory*. pp. 1-40.

Carpenter, Sara et al. 2013. "The Dialectics of Praxis." *The Journal of the Society of Socialist Studies*. 9(1): 1-17.

Feb. 3: Minding the Gaps (25pp)

### **\*\*ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY WITH TENTATIVE THESIS STATEMENT DUE (10%)**

Nagar, Richa. 2002. "Footloose Researchers, 'Traveling' Theories, and the Politics of Transnational Feminist Praxis." *Gender, Place and Culture*. 9(2): 179-186.

**Case Studies 1:** Denner, Jill. 2001. "The Gap Between Feminist Theory and Practice: Lessons from Teenage Women in California." *Feminism & Psychology*, 11(2): 162-166.

**2:** Walsh, Martha. 1998. "Mind the Gap: A Missed Opportunity in Bosnia and Herzegovina." *The European Journal of Women's Studies*. 5: 329-343.

### Epistemology

Feb. 10: Introducing Epistemology (27pp)

Scheman, Naomi. 1995. "Feminist Epistemology." *The Metaphilosophy Foundation and Blackwell Publishing Ltd.*, pp. 177-189.

Collins, Patricia H. 1991. "Learning from the Outsider Within: The Sociological Significance of Black Feminist Thought." In Fargaret Fonow and Judith Cook (eds.), *Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn. New York, NY: Routledge, pp. 332-340.

Narayan, Uma. 2003. "The Project of Feminist Epistemology: Perspectives from a Non-Western Feminist." In Carole McCann and Seung-kyung Kim (eds), *Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn. New York, NY: Routledge, pp. 308-317.

Feb. 17: **READING WEEK**

Feb. 24: Confronting Masculine Epistemologies (35pp)

Harding, Sandra. 1991. "Introduction: After the Science Question in Feminism." *Whose Science, Whose Knowledge?: Thinking from Women's Lives*. New York: Cornell University Press, pp. 1-16.

Wajcman, Judy. 2010. "Feminist Theories of Technology." *Cambridge Journal of Economics*, 34, 143-152.

**Case Study:** Sundberg, Juanita. 2003. "Masculinist Epistemologies and the Politics of Fieldwork in Latin Americanist Geography," *The Professional Geographer*, 55(2): 180-190.

**Film:** *Asking Different Questions*

Mar. 3: Debates in Feminist Epistemology (59pp)

Hawkesworth, Mary. 1989. "Knowers, Knowing, Known: Feminist Theory and Claims of Truth." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*. 14(3): 533-557.

Hekman, Susan. 1990. "Comment on Hawkesworth's 'Knowers, Knowing, Known: Feminist Theory and Claims of Truth.'" *Signs*. 15(2): 417-419.

Hekman, Susan. 1997. "Truth and Method: Feminist Standpoint Theory Revisited." *Signs*. 22(2): 341-365.

Harding, Sandra. 1997. "Comment on Hekman's 'Truth and Method: Feminist Standpoint Theory Revisited': Whose Standpoint Needs the Regimes of Truth and Reality?" *Signs*. 22(2): 382-391.

### Methodology

Mar. 10: Introducing Methodology (33pp)

Eichler, Margrit. 1997. "Feminist Methodology." *Current Sociology*, 45(2): 9-36.

Harding, Sandra and Norberg, Kathryn. 2005. "New Feminist Approaches to Social Science Methodologies: An Introduction." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, 30(4): 2009-2015.

Mar. 17: Feminist Anthropology (46pp)

### **\*\*MAJOR RESEARCH PAPER DUE (20%)**

Walter, Lynn. 1995. "Feminist Anthropology?" *Gender & Society*, 9(3): 272-288.

Aggarwal, Ravina. 2000. "Traversing the Lines of Control: Feminist Anthropology Today." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. 571 (*Feminist Views of the Social Sciences*): 14-29.

**Case Study:** Smith, Linda. 2002. "Research Adventures on Indigenous Land." *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples*. London & New York: Zed Books Ltd, 78-93.

Mar. 24: Debates in Feminist Methodologies (40pp)

Chafetz, Janet. 2004. "Bridging Feminist Theory and Research Practice." *Journal of Family Issues*, 25(7): 963-977.

Walker, Alexis J. 2004. "Methods, Theory, and the Practice of Feminist Research: A Response to Janet Chafetz." *Journal of Family Issues*, 25(7): 990-94.

**Case Study:** Achebe, Nwando. 2002. "Getting to the Source: Nwando Achebe – Daughter, Wife, and Guest: A Researcher at the Crossroad." *Journal of Women's History*, 14(3): 9-31.

Ethics

Mar. 31: Ethics in Feminist Research (32pp)

Riley, Donna. 2013. "Hidden in Plain View: Feminists Doing Engineering Ethics, Engineers Doing Feminist Ethics." *Sci Eng Ethics*. 19: 189-206.

Little, Nicole J. "Feminist Ethical Development: From Wonder Woman to Wondering Woman." *Child & Youth Care Forum*, 34(2): 111-126.

**Case Study:** Paradis, Emily K. 2000. "Feminist and Community Psychology Ethics in Research with Homeless Women." *American Journal of Psychology*. 28(6): 839-858.

Apr. 7: Final Thoughts (11pp)

**\*\*EXAM REVIEW; FINAL EXAM WILL BE HELD DURING THE SCHEDULED EXAMINATION PERIOD (APR 11-30), DATE TBA**

Ackerley, Brooke and True, Jacqui. 2010. "Back to the Future: Feminist Theory, Activism, and Doing Feminist Research in An Age of Globalization." *Women's Studies International Forum*, 33: 464-472.

Khamis, Sahar, 2011. "The Arab 'Feminist' Spring." *Feminist Review*, 37(3): 692-695.

## COURSE POLICIES

**Submitting Assignments:** Please hand in hard copies of all written assignments in WS 2220E; you are also required to submit electronic copies of all written assignments (excluding tests/exams) to Turnitin.com through the course Owl Sakai links. Here's the statement on use of Turnitin from the University:

"All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under licence to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licencing agreement currently between the University and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>"); (<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/courseoutlines.pdf>)

**Deadlines** are registered as the date/time these assignments are due to Turnitin, and late penalties are assessed based on the submission time to the turnitin site – so please don't forget to load your paper to Turnitin on time! Again, we need hard copies to mark, so assignments not handed in during class must be deposited in the WS essay drop box, located outside the WSFR Main Office doors, Lawson Hall 3260.

**Essays not submitted to Turnitin will receive grades converted to 0. You cannot submit assignments in WS 2220E prepared for other courses.**

### Late & Missed Assignments:

Regarding the University's medical policy, UWO Senate requires that "Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness see: <http://www.westerncalendar.u4999wo.ca/2011/pg117.html> and (<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>)."

(See also [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf) and the Student Medical Certificate (SMC) at <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medicalform.pdf>)

Requests for accommodation must be made as soon as possible and, according to A&H requirements, no later than within 28 days from the missed assignment.

**Please note that where medical/compassionate accommodation does not apply, we will deduct the standard penalty of 2% per day for work submitted late, unless you have made arrangements with your instructor *in person* prior to the deadline.**

**Attendance in classes:** UWO Senate stipulates that “Students whose absences from classes and/or tutorials are deemed excessive by the instructor can be debarred from writing the final exam in the course, according to the procedures established under “Examinations/Attendance” in the 2009 *Western Academic Calendar* (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/operations/proofing/academiccalendar2011.pdf>).”

**Prerequisites:** “Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.” **Prerequisite for WS 2220E: WS 1020E, or permission from the Department Chair or Undergrad Chair.**

**Antirequisites:** WS 256E, 257E, 2256E or 2257E prior to 2012-13.

**Scholastic Offences:** “Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2009/pg113.html>.”

**Plagiarism:** “Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see the ‘Scholastic Offense Policy’ in the Western Academic Calendar). Plagiarism checking: The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form for plagiarism checking.”  
--- U.W.O. Senate statement on plagiarism

**Electronic devices in tests and exams:** No electronic devices are permitted during tests and exams.

**Owl:** Use of Owl is necessary for successful completion of this course. This includes accessing readings as required in the course outline, downloading instructions and guidelines for assignments, receiving course announcements and submitting assignments to Turnitin.com.

**Contact Info:** You may contact your professors in WS 2220E by email (see page 1). However, please note that we often receive an overwhelming volume of email daily (!) and so may require a few days to respond. Please use your UWO email accounts (rather than hotmail or others), with “WS 2220E” in the subject header. We are likely not able to answer substantive requests electronically.

**LET’S HAVE A FABULOUS YEAR!**