Sociology 450  
Selected Issues in Sociological Theory  
4

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:**

An examination of the ideas of a particular thinker or group of thinkers, or of the different approaches to a particular theoretical problem.

**RATIONALE:**

**COURSE PREREQUISITES:** 60 credits, to include at least 9 credits of sociology. (SOC 350 recommended.)

**COURSE COREQUISITES:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOURS PER TERM FOR EACH STUDENT</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>30 hrs</th>
<th>Student Directed Learning hrs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory</td>
<td></td>
<td>hrs</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>30 hrs</td>
<td></td>
<td>Other - specify: hrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Experience</td>
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<td>hrs</td>
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**MAXIMUM ENROLMENT:** 25

**Is transfer credit requested?**  Yes  No

**AUTHORIZATION SIGNATURES:**

Course Designer(s): Stephen Piper  
Chairperson: (E. Davis)  
Curriculum Committee  
Department Head:  
Dean:  
J. Ballard

**PAC:** Approval in Principle (Date)  
Final Approval: December 16, 1998 (Date)
SOC 450
NAME & NUMBER OF COURSE

SYNONYMOUS COURSES:

(a) replaces ______________
    (course #)

(b) cannot take _____________ for further credit
    (course #)

SUPPLIES/MATERIALS:

TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS  (List reading resources elsewhere)

Humm, Maggie. 1992. Modern Feminisms: Political, Literary, Cultural

An additional package of readings will be available through the bookstore.

OBJECTIVES:

In this course we will trace the development and diversity of feminist thought. This will be accomplished through the examination of the work of selected feminist theorists, grouped into the major streams of feminist thought. Emphasis will be on the analytical issues addressed by each theorist, how these are linked to classical sociological thought, and how they contribute to our understanding of gender difference.

METHODS:

The format of this course includes lectures, class and small group discussions, students presentations, and readings.

STUDENT EVALUATION PROCEDURE:
Assignments  50% (two analytical essays)
Midterm        20%
Laboratory work/  Quizzes/Final Exam  30%
COURSE CONTENT

WEEK TOPIC

1 Course Introduction

2-3 I. LIBERALS FEMINIST THOUGHT
In this section of the course, we examine classic formulations of liberal feminism found in the work of Mary Wollstonecraft and John Stuart Mill. We then move on to the work of Bett Friedan, a contemporary liberal feminist. The liberal concept of human nature and the public/private dichotomy which underpin liberal feminist though will be emphasized.

4-5-6 II. MARXIST FEMINIST THOUGHT
In this section of the course we examine Marxist Feminist Thought, beginning with traditional Marxist concepts which are utilized in this stream of feminist thought. These will be contrasted with liberalism and liberal feminism. Marxist feminist examinations of women's work related concerns will be emphasized, focusing on Marxist feminist analysis of the social construction of the gendered division of labour.

7 MID - TERM

8-9-10 III. RADICAL FEMINIST THOUGHT
This stream of feminist thought is more diversified than the others studies in this course. Overall, this group of theorists locates the root of women's oppression in a male dominated sex/gender system rather than in the economic structure. Our emphasis will be on radical feminist analyses of women's reproductive role and on their analyses of gender and sexuality.

11-12 IV. SOCIALIST FEMINIST THOUGHT
Socialist feminist thought seeks to inter-relate the diverse forms of women's oppression and to produce a theory which explains this diversity. In this section of the course we will look at the limits of Marxist and Radical feminism and the efforts of Socialist feminists to overcome these limitations.

13-14 V. COURSE CONCLUSION
Feminist analysis and thought crosses disciplinary boundaries and this section of the course touches on Post-Structuralist Feminism as an example of such an approach. Major theories and theorists will be reviewed.