Advanced Seminar in Sociology
Feminist Theory
(Soc 503/Fall 2009)

Instructor: Zakia Salime
Place: Lucy Stone Hall A256
Livingston Campus
Time: Th: 4.10-6:50
Place: Seminar room
Office Hours: or by appointment Thur 5-4, July 8
Office number: A263 Lucy Stone
Email: zsalamie@sociology.rutgers.edu

Required Books
Other readings will be available on Sakai and will be referred to as (Sakai)

Course Description: Feminist theory has uncovered the structural, institutional, social, cultural and global forces shaping gender identifications, differences and hierarchies. It has shown that gender is an organizing principle of societies, culture, politics and the economy. Analyses of gender are linked to analyses of power. Since power is inherent to the production of knowledge, the course themes are organized as debates among liberal, postmodern, postcolonial, and transnational feminist perspectives on knowledge/epistemology, methodology and practice, structure and agency, body and body politics, sex and sexualities, politics and political economy, race and empire. These debates reflect the way in which race, culture, class, sexual identity and localities shape other hierarchies within feminist theory itself and contribute to its development.
**Course Objectives:** This course will allow students (1) become familiar with the main conceptual and theoretical framework in feminist theory; (2) improve their critical thinking through cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary analyses of gender dynamics in different contexts and historical moments; (3) locate their own work and interests within wider perspectives; (3) understand feminist theory as a field of power and struggles over recognition, territory and legitimacy among feminist voices and scholarship. By the end of the semester students will be able to identify, critique, compare and chose among these perspectives ones that best respond to their interests.

**Class Format:** The class is organized as a seminar with students taking an active role in the learning process. This involves reflecting on the readings, leading class discussions and bringing provocative thoughts and questions to the class.

**Course Requirements:** The students are expected to (1) read all assigned texts and write one page comments addressing the content and concepts on the reading. You may bring outside sources but the main focus should remain on the readings. (2) Present their comments in class and bring provocative questions to the rest of the class; (3) Post their comments and questions on Sakai every Wednesday before noon

2) **Twice during the semester** students will present a proposal for their final paper. The goal of these presentations is to help the students reflect on one another’s work and explore possibilities to integrate the themes and readings to their research area.

3) **A term paper.**

Your grade is divided between all these assignments. You will get 40% of your grade on your weekly comments and class participation and 60% on the final paper. The final paper is due the last day of class.

Attendance: Your Grade will automatically drop to B if you miss two classes.

My policy on plagiarism is to award an F for the course.
Schedule (Subject to Revision)

September
Week one/ Sep 3
Introductions
Week two/Sep 10
(FTR) Part one: Definitions, Hartman, Narayan, lorde, Gwendolyn
Week three/ Sep 17
(DC) Jaggar, Code, Mediator, Hurtado, Collins, Cudd,
Stacy and Thorne (Sakai)
Week four/Sep 24
(FTR) Mani, Scott, Butler, Calhoun, Hartsock, wittig

October
Week 5/Oct 1
(RG) Intro, Roschelle, Acker, Collins
Week 6/Oct 8
(RG) Walters S; Rothman K. B; Connell; Lorber; Dworkin and Messner
Week 7/Oct 15
No reading: Meeting with students
Week 8/Oct 22
Moollem
Week 9/Oct 29
Politics of Piety (chapter 1 and 5) Sakai.

November
Week 10/ Nov 5
Moollem
Week 11/Nov12
Eisenstein
Week 12/Nov 19
Students’ presentations
Week 13/Nov 26
No class (Thanksgiving)

December
Week 14 /Dec 3
Mernissi
Week 15/Dec 10
Final Papers Due