Women of Color Feminisms

Dr. Rocío Zambrana  
zambrana@uoregon.edu  
Office Hours: T 12-2  
SCH 242

PHIL 407/507  
M&W 4-5:50  
373 MCK

Course Description:
This is part one of a series of courses devoted to women of color feminism. This course will examine key figures within Black feminism, Latina feminism, and Postcolonial/Decolonial feminism. The course will consider how oppression and resistance are conceptualized by these women, focusing on their attention to the intersection of gender, race, and class. We will read seminal texts by bell hooks, Audre Lorde, Patricia Hill Collins, Kimberlé Crenshaw, Gloria Anzaldúa, María Lugones, Mariana Ortega, Linda Alcoff, Gayatri Spivak, Chandra Talpade Mohanty, Uma Narayan, Chela Sandoval, and Yuderkis Espinosa-Miñoso.

Acknowledgment:
Mariana Ortega’s “Women of Color and Philosophy: Intersectionality and Identity” served as a model for this course. My thanks to Professor Ortega, who will be visiting us, for making her syllabus available.

Required Texts:
1. Alcoff, Visible Identities  
2. Anzaldúa, Borderlands: La Frontera  
3. Anzaldúa and Moraga, This Bridge Called My Back  
4. Collins, Black Feminist Thought  
5. hooks, Ain’t I a Woman?  
6. Lorde, Sister Outsider  
7. Lugones, Pilgrimages/Peregringajes  
8. Mohanty, Feminism Without Borders  
9. Narayan, Dislocating Cultures

All texts are available at the Duckstore, and on reserve at Knight Library. Texts marked * on the schedule below are available on Canvas.

Some Texts Related to the Course to Explore on Your Own:
1. Angela Davis, Women, Race, & Class  
2. Angela Davis Reader  
3. Chela Sandoval, Methodology of the Oppressed  
4. Alexander and Mohanty, Feminist Genealogies, Colonial Legacies, Democratic Futures

Course Structure and Requirements:

Attendance:
You are expected to attend classes regularly and promptly. More than 3 absences will result in a failing final grade, unless proof of illness or emergency is provided.

Participation:
The lecture will presuppose familiarity with the assigned readings for the class session. Having read the assigned text and coming prepared to participate in class discussion are requirements. Abiding by our collectively established rules of conduct is also a requirement.
Commentaries:
On Friday of weeks, 2, 4, and 6, you will hand in a 2-page commentary on one concept of your choice discussed in the weeks prior to the commentary (in week 2, engaging texts read in weeks 1 and 2; in week 4, engaging texts discussed in weeks 3 and 4, so on).

Prospectus:
You will submit a one-page prospectus stating the topic of your paper and the argument that you intend to pursue. Graduate students must include an annotated bibliography with secondary sources you intend to use.

Final Paper:
Undergraduate Students: This 2,000 wd. paper should develop further—both exegetically and critically—one of your commentaries.

Graduate Students: This 3,000 wd. paper should develop a thesis about a text or problem discussed.

Guidelines for papers:
• clarity: the paper should have a clearly defined topic and thesis.
• accuracy: the paper should present an author’s position in a fair way.
• assessment: the paper should evaluate the author’s position, and bring to bear on the text or issue your own view; you must defend your view.

All of your work must be typewritten (12 pt. font, double-spaced). Cite philosophical texts that you are using appropriately, including secondary literature and online resources.

All papers are due by 4pm at the Philosophy Department. The prospectus is due on Friday of week 8. The final paper is due on Wednesday of finals week. No late papers will be accepted, unless accompanied by proof of illness or emergency.

Statement on Plagiarism:
Plagiarism is the intentional or unintentional unacknowledged use of someone else’s work as one’s own in all forms of academic endeavor (such as essays, theses, examinations, research data, creative projects, and so on). Plagiarized material may be derived from books, journals, Internet postings, student or faculty papers, and so on including the purchase or “outsourcing” of written assignments for a course. See http://www.libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/. Plagiarism is grounds for failing the course.

Grading Standard:
A+ = superb. No mistakes, well-written, well-researched, and pursues an original thesis.
A = excellent. No mistakes, well-written, and distinctive in some way or other.
B = good. No significant mistakes, well-written, but not distinctive in any way.
C = OK. Some errors, but basic grasp of the material.
D = poor. Several errors. A tenuous grasp of the material.
F = failing. Problematic on all fronts indicating either no real grasp of the material or complete lack of effort.
**Grades:**

- Class participation: 10%
- Commentaries (3): 30% (10% each)
- Prospectus: 10%
- Final paper: 50%

**Accommodation for a Disability:**
If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with me soon.

**Sexual Violence and Survivor Support:**
The UO is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence and gender-based stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences gender-based violence (intimate partner violence, attempted or completed sexual assault, harassment, coercion, stalking, etc.), know that you are not alone. UO has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more: safe.uoregon.edu or 541-346-SAFE.

**Schedule of Readings:**
The schedule is subject to change during the quarter with advance notice over email.

**Wk. 1**

M  Introduction to the Course
   *Truth, “Ain’t I a Woman” and “Women’s Rights”
   *Frances Beale, “Double Jeopardy”

W  hooks, *Ain’t I a Woman?* chaps. 5, 4, 3
   Recommended: *Ain’t I a Woman?* chaps. 1-2

**Wk. 2**

M  hooks, *Talking Back: Thinking Feminist, Thinking Black*, chaps. 2, 4, 6, 8:
   “Talking Back,” “Feminism a Transformational Politic,” “Toward A Revolutionary Feminist Pedagogy,” and “Feminist Theory as Radical Agenda”


**Wk. 3**

M  Collins, *Black Feminist Thought*, chaps. 1-4

W  Collins, *Black Feminist Thought*, chaps. 11-12

**Wk. 4**

M  *Crenshaw, “Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex,” and “Mapping the Margins”*

W  Ortega Visit, “Being Lovingly, Knowingly Ignorant: White Feminism and Women of Color,” and “Wounds of Self”

R  Ortega: Colloquium Series talk
Wk. 5
W  Class cancelled – Professor giving a talk at SUNY Buffalo

Wk. 6
M  Anzaldúa, *Borderlands: La Frontera*, chaps. 2, 5, 7
W  Lugones, *Pilgrimages/Peregringajes*, chaps. 4-6

Wk. 7
M  Alcoff, *Visible Identities*, chaps. 10-12
   Recommended: *Visible Identities*, chaps. 1-4
W  *Lugones, “Toward a Decolonial Feminism,” “The Coloniality of Gender,” and “Heterosexualism and the Colonial/Modern Gender System”*

Wk. 8
M  *Spivak, “Can the Subaltern Speak?”*
W  Mohanty, *Feminism Without Borders*, chaps. 1, 2, 9: “Cartographies of Struggle: Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism,” “Under Western Eyes,” and “Under Western Eyes Revisited”

Wk. 9
   *Amrita Basu, “Globalizing Local Women’s Movements”*
W  Narayan, *Dislocating Cultures*, chaps. 1, 4

Wk. 10
M  Narayan, *Dislocating Cultures*, chap. 3