

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History

HISTORY OF FEMINIST THEORIES

History 703
Fall 1988
Tuesday 1:20 - 3:20

Professor Gerda Lerner
5123 Humanities
Office Hours:
Wednesday 10:00-12:00
or by appt.

I. Enlightenment Theories: Natural Rights

Required Reading: Lerner, Patriarchy, Appendix, "Definitions."
Rossi, Feminist Papers (hereafter FP) pp. 1-86
Intro.; Adams Correspondence; J.S. Murray; M.
Wollstonecraft.
Linda Kerber, Women of the Republic, ch. 1 (7-32)
B. Taylor, Eve and the New Jerusalem, ch. 1
Rousseau, Emile, Book VIII ("Education of Girls")
Xerox Reader 1 (hereafter XR) Ellen Moers,
"Vindicating Mary Wollstonecraft"

Suggested Reading: Read Vindications in its entirety
Margaret George, "From Goodwife to Mistress..." in
Science and Society, vol. 37 (Summer 1973), 152-77.
(On reserve)

II. Utopian Socialism, Romantic Individualism, Free Love

Required: FP, pp. 86-118 (Frances Wright); 144-182 (Margaret
Fuller)
Chevigny, Woman and Myth, 1-11; 18-30; 65-83; 94-115;
all of Part IV; 281-303; 313-316; 366-402; 440-442;
483-497
Taylor, Eve..., ch. 2
XR 2 (Emma Goldman, "Woman's Emancipation"; "Traffic
in Women"; "Marriage and Love")

Suggested: Chevigny, entire.
Ann Douglas, The Feminization of American Culture,
ch. 8

III. The Woman's Rights Movement and its Theory - 1

Required: FP, pp. 282-306 (A. Grimke, Pastoral Letter)
Sarah Grimke, Letters on the Equality of the Sexes,
ch. 1, 3, 4
XR 3 (S. Grimke, "Education of Women")
Angelina Grimke, Letters to Catharine Beecher, Letters
12 and 13

Required (Con't.): DuBois, Stanton-Anthony, pp. 27-36; 131-138; 146-151;
246-254

Suggested: DuBois, Introductions to all the chapters

IV. The Woman's Rights Movement and its Theory - 2

Required: XR 4 (Woman's Rights Documents (Seneca Falls Resolutions; Rose, Hunt; Minor vs. Hapersett; Anthony; NOW resolutions; Houston Resolutions)
H.T. Mill, "The Enfranchisement of Women" in J.S. Mill, Essays on Sex Equality (A. Rossi, ed.). The same essay is reprinted in Roberta Salper, Female Liberation, pp. 33-52
FP, pp. 183-268 (John s. Mill)
Jaggar, Feminist Politics..., pp. 173-top of 186
XR 5 (G. Lerner, Majority, ch. 4, "Woman's Rights and American Feminism")

Suggested: Wm. Chafe, Women and Equality, (Oxford UP, 1977) 3-11;
43-114

V. The Traditional Marxist Approach to the "Woman Question".

Required: F. Engels, Origin of the Family..., Introd. to the 1891 edition; ch. 1, 2, 6, 9
FP, pp. 473-477, 496-505 (Introd.; Bebel)
Carroll, Liberating Women's History, pp. 4-25
K. Sacks, "Engels Revisited..." in Reiter, Toward an Anthropology of Women, 211-234
Blanche Cook, Crystal Eastman, pp. 41-63

Suggested: Alexandra Kollontai, Autobiography of a Sexually Emancipated Woman (1972)
K. Honeycutt, "Clara Zetkin," Feminist Studies, III, (Spring/Summer 1976).

VI. Marxist-Feminist Theory

Required: Juliet Mitchell, Woman's Estate, ch. 3, 4, 5, 7, 10
Zillah Eisenstein, Capitalist Patriarchy..., pp. 41-55; 355-361; 373-387
Heidi Hartmann, "Capitalist Patriarchy and Job Segregation" in SIGNS, I, #3, Part 2, (Spring 1976) 137-169
Jaggar, Feminist Politics, pp. 307-332
Joan Kelly-Gadol, "The Social Relations of the Sexes" SIGNS, I, #4 (Summer 1976), pp. 809-825

Suggested: Eli Zaretsky, Capitalism, The Family and Personal Life
Ann Foreman, Feminity as Alienation: Women and the
Family in Marxism and Psychoanalysis (London: Pluto
Press, 1977)

VII. Woman as "Other"

Required: Simone de Beauvoir, The Second Sex (Bantam, 1970), ch.
1, 2, 3, 11, 13, 15, 16, 17, 21, 25

VIII. Housework as the Cause of Women's Oppression

Required: Charlotte P. Gilman, Women and Economics, Intro.; chs.
1-3; 9-14.
XR 6 (Mary Inman, Pat Mainardi, M. Dalla Costa;
W. Secombe)
Heidi I. Hartmann, "The Family as the Locus of Gender,
Class, and Political Struggle: The Example of
Housework," SIGNS, VI, #3, (Spring 1981), 366-394

Suggested: Nona Glazer-Malbin, "Housework," SIGNS, I, #4, (Summer
1976), 905-922
Lerner, The Female Experience, 108-135

IX. Radical-Feminist Theory

Required: XR 7 (Radical Feminists; K. Millet; Redstockings;
Solanis; NOW)
Kate Millet, Sexual Politics, ch. 2
Shulamith Firestone, The Dialectic of Sex, ch. 1, 4,
and ch. 10
Gayle Rubin, "The Traffic in Women," in Rayna Reiter
(ed.), Toward an Anthropology of Women, pp. 157-210
Juliet Mitchell, Woman's Estate, ch. 3, 4, 5, 7
A.K. Shulman, "Sex and Power: Sexual Bases of Radical
Feminism" in C. Stimpson and E. Person (eds.),
Women: Sex and Sexuality, 21-35

Suggested: Stimpson/Person, entire or selections of your choice

X. Sexuality and Reproduction as Causes of Women's Oppression

Required: XR 8 (S. Grimke, "Marriage"; Sigmund Freud)
L. Gordon, Woman's Body, Woman's Right, chs. 1-3, 5,
12, 14
Nancy Chodorow, The Reproduction of Mothering, ch. 2,
4, 9, 10, 12

Required (Con't): Adrienne Rich, Of Woman Born, ch. 3, 6, 7, 10,
Afterword
Lerner, Creation of Patriarchy, ch. 1, 2, 4, 5, 6

Suggested: Chodorov, entire
Rich, entire

XI. Woman as Force - 1

Required: Ann Lane, Mary Ritter Beard: A Sourcebook, 31-71;
89-94; 108-128; 172-191
Carroll, Liberating Women's History, articles by B.
Carroll, Gordon-Buhle-Dye; and Johannsson
XR 9 (Lerner, Majority, ch. 1, 10; Kelly, "Doubled
Vision."
Virginia Woolf, Three Guineas

Suggested: Rosaldo and Lamphere, Woman, Culture and Society
Rayna Rapp, Toward an Anthropology of Women
These volumes of anthropological essays are rich in
methodological suggestions and in evidence of
women's civilization-building work.

XII. Woman as Force - 2 Lesbian Theory

Required: Catharine Stimpson, Where the Meanings Are, ch. 4
("The Androgyne and the Homosexual")
A. Rich, "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian
Existence," in SIGNS, V, #4, (Summer 1980) 631-660
Ferguson, Zita and Adelson, "Reply to Rich," in SIGNS,
VII, #1, (Fall 1981), 158-199
Selections in Lerner, Female Experience, pp. 448-453,
(Radical Lesbians; A. Koedt)
Blanche Cook, "Women Alone Stir My Imagination,"
SIGNS, IV, #4, pp. 718-739
XR 10 (Charlotte Bunch, "Not for Lesbians Only")
Martha Vicinus, "Sexuality and Power..." Feminist
Studies, VIII, #1, (Spring 1982), pp. 133-157

Suggested: Browse in the Lesbian Issue of SIGNS, IX, #4, and use
it as a source for further reading. See esp. J.
Kennard, pp. 647-662

XIII. Universality and Differences

Required: C. Stimpson, Meanings, ch. 2
XR 11 (Combahee River Collective; F. Beal; M. Wallace;
A. Walker)
Lerner, Majority, chs. 5-7
Chafe, pp. 45-78

Suggested: Lerner, Black Women in White America, selections of your choice
 Diane K. Lewis, "A Response to Inequality" in SIGNS, III, #2, (Winter 1977), 339-361

XIV. The Search for Woman's Culture

Required: C. Smith-Rosenberg, "The Female World of Love and Ritual...", SIGNS, I, #1, (Fall 1975)
 "Politics and Culture in Women's History: A Symposium," Feminist Studies, VI, #1, (Spring 1980), 26-64
 E. Freedman, "Separatism as Strategy..." Feminist Studies, V, #3, (Fall 1979), 512-29
 XR 12 (E. Minnich)
 L. Kerber, "Separate Spheres, Female Worlds, Woman's Place: The Rhetoric of Women's History," Journal of American History, Vol. 75, #1, (June 1988), 9-39

Suggested: Sherry Ortner, "Is Female to Male as Nature is to Culture," in Rosaldo-Lamphere, 67-88
 M.Z. Rosaldo, "The Use and Abuse of Anthropology...", SIGNS, V, #3, (Spring 1980), 389-417

XV. Synthesis

No reading assignment.