<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Introduction to Feminist Theory</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Course Code</td>
<td>ENG 500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course Type</td>
<td>Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level</td>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year / Semester</td>
<td>3rd and 4th year students; students taking the Minor in Gender Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teacher’s Name</td>
<td>Maria Margaroni</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECTS</td>
<td>7.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lectures / week</td>
<td>3 hours per week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laboratories / week</td>
<td>none</td>
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**Course Purpose and Objectives**

The aim of this course is to offer students the basic theoretical background required for the comprehension and analysis of issues relating to Gender Studies. Given the multiplicity of methodologies and perspectives, the course is not designed to be comprehensive and will not cover systematically the history of women’s movements. It will focus, instead, on key issues and debates in Feminist and Gender Theory. Through the study of selected texts (both classic and more recent contributions to feminist thought), the students will have the opportunity to discuss the major concerns and intellectual developments in Feminist Theory. They will also be encouraged to compare and evaluate different theoretical approaches by bringing them into dialogue and by considering each in light of specific literary texts or films.

**Learning Outcomes**

**Knowledge & Understanding (Theory Component)**

- Develop familiarity with the history of women’s movements and an understanding of the major traditions of feminist theory;
- Appreciate the benefits of interdisciplinary research in the comprehension and analysis of issues relating to Gender Studies;
- Investigate the social and psychic complexity of gender issues, their inextricability from concerns that relate to class, race, sexuality, legality, physical or mental ability;
- Examine the key concerns and debates in feminist theory; develop the ability to comparatively discuss and evaluate different positions in these debates.

**Key Skills (Practical Component)**

- Apply the required skills in scholarly research to evaluate the bibliography studied and to put forward a theoretically-informed argument in a well-written academic essay;
- Debate the validity of different arguments and compose informed responses to the competing theoretical perspectives examined in the course and to controversial issues that continue to be central in contemporary Gender Studies;
- Develop effective presentation and argumentation skills.

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<tr>
<th>Prerequisites</th>
<th>N/A</th>
<th>Required</th>
<th>N/A</th>
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**Course Content**

**Week 1:** Introduction to the course.

**Liberal Feminism: Women and “The Rights of Man”**


**Week 3:** Rosemarie Tong, “Critiques of Liberal Feminism” (37-47).
#genderissues: *The Case of Malala Yousafzai*

**Week 4:** Materialist Feminism: The Gendered Division of Labour
Rosemarie Tong, “Marxist and Socialist Feminism: Classical and Contemporary.”

**Week 5:** #genderissues: *the sweatshop economy*


**Week 6:** Radical Perspectives on Sexuality and Reproduction

Rosemarie Tong, “Radical Feminism: Libertarian and Cultural Perspectives.”


#genderissues: FEMEN

**Week 7:** #genderissues: *Pornography*


[youtube.com/watch?v=UnijCPWOK0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UnijCPWOK0)

**Week 8:** Rosemarie Tong, “Critiques of Radical-Libertarian and Radical-Cultural Feminism” (90-95).
Midterm Quiz

Week 9: Psychoanalytic Feminism: Desire, Language and the Production of Femininity
Rosemarie Tong, “Psychoanalytic Feminism”.


#genderissues: écriture feminine

Week 12: Multicultural, Global and Postcolonial Feminism
Rosemarie Tong, “Multicultural, Global, and Postcolonial Feminism”.

*genderissues: The headscarf controversy*

**Week 14:** Postmodern Feminism: Performativity and Irony

Rosemarie Tong, “Postmodern and Third-Wave Feminism”.

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**Teaching Methodology**

A combination of lecturing (use of power-point, audio-visual material), open seminar discussion and student interventions/presentations.

**Bibliography**


_____. *A Quiet Revolution: The Veil’s Resurgence from the Middle East to America* (New Haven: Yale UP, 2011).


| **Assessment** | **In-class Midterm quiz:** Week 8; 25%  
**Final essay:** The essay (approx. 3000 words) is due on the day of the final exam. In Week 12 students need to submit a one-page outline of the main argument of their essay plus working bibliography (50%)  
**Oral Performance (25%):** Students’ oral grade includes:  
  a) the completion of assigned reading *before* each meeting;  
  b) *active* participation in class-discussions;  
  c) *regular* attendance; and  
  d) 15-min. interventions/presentations on either one of the #genderissues or on one of the literary texts/films included in the syllabus. |
| **Language** | English |