Syllabus  
HS 148 • EN 1205 • PS 125 • SC 225  
Spring 2008

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Office hours: By appointment

Required Reading

Boston Women’s Healthbook Collective, *Our Bodies, Ourselves* (optional, but highly recommended)

A number of required articles are available at the library’s Online Reserves site. To access them, go to the Library’s site and under Resources bring up the Course Reserves Catalog. All of the articles are filed under my name, but it will be easier to find them if you search by author or by title. You will be able to open the article on-line and print it for your own use. (The Course Reserves Catalog is referred to in the assignments as CR)

Note on buying texts: They are available in the college bookstore. They may also be available from on-line booksellers. If you are going to get these outside the BC system, be sure you get the seventh edition of *Feminist Frontiers* and the third edition of Seager. If you are going to use an on-line seller, I encourage you to use independent bookstores: I recommend Powells Books ([www.powells.com](http://www.powells.com)) or a very good feminist bookstore, A Room of One’s Own, ([www.roomofonesown.com](http://www.roomofonesown.com)). Copies of all books are on reserve in the BC library.

In addition, you should look regularly at the web-based feminist news service, [www.womensenews.org](http://www.womensenews.org). Also, check out the section on women in the Human Rights Watch web site: [http://www.hrw.org/women/](http://www.hrw.org/women/)

Course Requirements

PARTICIPATION

You are expected to attend all classes (Tuesdays 4:30 – 5:30) and all discussion group meetings (Thursdays 4:30 – 6:15). The discussion groups offer an innovative opportunity for interactive learning, not one that you will find in most other courses. This is both an opportunity and an obligation: we expect you to engage in your own education in a conscientious and serious manner – at a minimum, this means you must have done the readings and be prepared to participate in discussions in a thoughtful, engaged, and respectful manner. The Thursday discussions are led by teams of student-leaders who have taken this class previously and who have been selected through a rigorous screening process.

Attendance and participation in discussion sections constitutes 35% of the final grade.

WEEKLY ESSAYS

Each student will write a weekly reaction paper based on readings, lectures, discussion, and current events. This essay is designed to provoke written reflection on the course materials. 1) evidence that you have done the reading 2) evidence of critical thought and assessment 3) internal coherence and consistency 4) evidence of self-reflection (including examples from personal experience if appropriate) 5) evidence of an accumulation of understanding (drawing on past readings, for example, to illustrate a current issue). On occasion, discussion-group teachers may assign a particular theme or topic.

Essays should be typed or written legibly on individual sheets of paper, which should be stapled together (no paper clips, no expensive plastic report covers--manila folders okay). Do not e-mail your paper unless, under exceptional circumstances, your discussion leader gives you permission to do so. If you use a computer, please spell-check your paper. In any case, please proofread for spelling errors or typos.

The essays are to be handed in at Thursday discussion sections. Essays will be graded weekly on a system of 1-10 points; late essays will be graded down one point per day.

The essays constitute 35% of the final grade.
Final Exam

There will be a take-home exam consisting of essay questions related to the assigned readings, lectures and discussions. The nature of the exam will be explained in more detail in the weeks prior to the end of the semester.

The final exam constitutes 30% of the final grade.

Reading assignments:

1/15 - Introduction
Marge Piercy, “Unlearning to Not Speak” in Piercy, Circles on the Water, CR
Adrienne Rich, “Diving into the Wreck” in Rich, Diving into the Wreck, CR
Alice Walker, “Womanist,” FF, p. 93
Maureen Dowd, “What’s a Modern Girl to Do?” New York Times Magazine, 10/30/05, CR
Jennifer Baumgardner and Amy Richards, “Prologue” & “What is Feminism?” from ManifestA., CR
ATLAS, Maps 1, 2, 3

1/22 - The Women’s Rights Movement from the 14th to 20th centuries
Mary Wollstonecraft, excerpt from A Vindication of the Rights of Women, CR
Olympe de Gouges, The Rights of Women. CR
Sojourner Truth, “Ain’t I a Woman?” FF, p. 33
Simone de Beauvoir, The Second Sex, Introduction, CR
Taylor, Whittier, Pelak, “The Women’s Movement: Persistence through Transformation, FF, #47
Aronson, “Feminists or Postfeminist”? Young Women’s Attitudes toward Feminism and Gender Relations,” FF #48
Jervis, “The End of Feminism’s Third Wave,” FF, p. 532
Cynthia Enloe, “Nationalism and Masculinity,” in Bananas, Beaches & Bases, pp. 42-64.
Zinn & Dill, “Theorizing Difference from Multiracial Feminism,” FF, #8
Mohanty, “Feminism without Borders,” FF #9
ATLAS, Map 40.

1/29 – Images of Women: Body Image – PLEASE NOTE SPECIAL TIME & PLACE
Film and panel discussion: Absolutely Safe, 7:00 pm, Higgins 300
Gimlin, “Cosmetic Surgery: Paying for Your Beauty,” FF #12
Galler, “The Myth of the Perfect Body,” FF, p. 119-120
Larry Rohter, IDEAS & TRENDS; REFRAMED; In the Land of Bold Beauty, A Trusted Mirror Cracks," NY Times, 1/14/07, CR
Davies, “Loose Lips Sink Ships,” FF #35
Sarah Green, “Plastic Makes Perfect,” Boston Phoenix, 4/15/05, CR
Daphne Merkin, “Our Vaginas, Ourselves,” NY Times, 1/1/06, CR
“Barbie Doll,” in Marge Piercy, To Be of Use, CR
Sam Dillon, “Sorority Evictions Raise Issue of Looks and Bias,” NY Times, 2/25/07, CR.

2/5- Images of Women: Cultural Representations
Film: Dreamworlds
Richardson, “Gender Stereotyping in the English Language,” FF # 11
Allen, “Where I Come From is Like This,” FF # 4
Women, FF #34
Cheryl L. Keyes, “Empower Self, Making Choices, Creating Spaces: Black Female Identity via Rap Music Performance,” FF #14
Patricia Hill Collins, “Black Sexual Politics,” FF #30
Bob Herbert, “Why Aren’t We Shocked?” NY Times, 10/16/06, CR
Maureen Dowd, “What’s up Slut?” NY Times, 7/15/06, CR
“Bikini Lawn Care – Tiger Time Lawn Care,” Fox News, on Youtube – url: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z0ICJ7E3CuS
Vanessa E. Jones, “Hip-Hop Lyrics and Videos…,” Boston Globe, 3/22/05, CR

2/12 - Violence against Women
Martin & Hummer, “Fraternities and Rape on Campus,” FF #38
Allen & Kivel, “Men Changing Men,” FF, p. 426
Steinem, “Supremacy Crimes,” FF #39
Crenshaw, “Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color,” FF #40
Robin Warshaw, Foreward, Introduction, “Reality of Acquaintance Rape,” in I Never Called it Rape, CR
“2 Academies Faulted on Treatment of Women,” NY Times, 8/26/05, CR
John R. Ellement, “Woman describes alleged assault by lawyer,” Boston Globe, 1/10/08, CR
12/10/07, CR

“In Memoriam,” Boston Globe, 12/31/08, CR
Jon Elliston & Catherine Lutz, “Hidden Casualties: An epidemic of domestic violence when troops return from war,” in Southern Exposure (Spring 2003), CR
Donna St. George, “Many New or Expectant Mothers Die Violent Deaths,” Washington Post, 12/19/04, CR
Healey & Barrios, “Technology Against Violence,” Boston Globe, 1/11/07, CR
Nicholas Kristof, “A Policy of Rape,” NY Times, 6/5/05, CR
Sharon LaFraniere, “Sex Abuse of Girls is Stubborn Scourge in Africa,” NY Times, 12/1/06, CR
Carlotta Gall, “Pakistan Bid to End Abuse of Women Reporting Rape Hits Snag,” NY Times, 9/14/06, CR

Traci Wilkinson, “Turkey tries to take the ‘honor’ out of killing women,” Boston Globe, 1/21/07, CR
Nicholas D. Kristof, “Another Face of Terror,” NY Times, 7/31/05, CR
Nicholas Kristof, “The Good Daughter, in a Brothel,” NY Times, 12/17/06, CR
ATLAS Maps 7, 8, 19, 21

2/19 - Images of Women: But what if I’m not white?
McIntosh,” White Privilege and Male Privilege,” FF #2
Lopez & Hasso, “Frontlines and Borders: Identity Thresholds for Latinas and Arab American Women,” FF #3

Lorde, “The Master’s Tools will Never Dismantle the Master’s House, “ FF #5
Twine, “Brown-Skinned White Girls: Class, Culture, and the Construction of White Identity in Suburban Communities,” FF #18
bell hooks, “Learning in the Shadow of Race and Class,” CR
Cherie Moraga, “La Guera,” in This Bridge Called My Back. Writings by Radical Women of Color, CR
2/26 – Women in Iraq: A Firsthand Account

Talk by Dahlia Lamy, Iraqi Fulbright Scholar
Sandler, “The Ms. Of Baghdad,” FF, p. 104
Nicholas Kristof, “Iraq’s Little Secret,” NY Times, 10/1/02

Peter Beaumont, “Hidden victims of a brutal conflict: Iraq’s women,” The Observer, 10/8/06, CR
Terri Judd, “For the women of Iraq, the war is just beginning,” The Independent, 8 June 2006, CR
Ruth Rosen, “The Hidden War on Women in Iraq,” 7/13/06, CommonDreams.org, CR
Marie Colvin & W. Moussa, “Men in black terrorise Iraq’s women,” The Sunday Times, 6/4/06, CR
Brian Bennett, “Stolen Away,” Time, 4/23/06, CR
Kavita N. Ramdas, “Women’s rights another victim of the Iraq catastrophe,” Baltimore Sun, 12/22/06, CR

“Who is Killing the Women of Basra,” MADRE.org, url:
http://www.madre.org/articles/me/womenbasra010908.html

3/11 – Women and Militarism

Lecture: “Where are the Women in the Iraq War?„„Why does it matter?” - Professor Cynthia Enloe, Research Professor, International Development and Women’s Studies, Clark University

Chapters 4, 5 and 6 in Cynthia Enloe, Globalization and Militarism: Feminists Make the Link, CR

Cynthia Enloe, “Macho, Macho Military,” The Nation, 3/20/06, CR

Cynthia Gorney, “A Mother’s War,” NY Times, 5/29/05, CR
Naomi Klein, “The Mother of all Anti-War Forces,” AlterNet, 3/29/06
Richard W. Stevenson, “Of the Many Deaths in Iraq, One Mother’s Loss,” NY Times, 8/8/05, CR
Damien Cave, “A Military Town Talks of Casualties,” NY Times, 6/27/05, CR
Lizette Alvarez, “Jane, We Hardly Knew Ye Died,” NY Times, 9/24/06, CR
Sara Corbett, “The Women’s War,” NY Times, 3/18/07

ATLAS, Maps 28, 29, 30

ADDITIONAL READINGS MAY BE ASSIGNED

3/18 Women, Health Care, and the Medical Profession

Suzanne Kessler, “The Medical Construction of Gender,” FF #7
Anne Fausto-Sterling, “Hormonal Hurricanes: Menstruation, Menopause, and Female Behavior, FF # 33
Barbara Ehrenreich, “Welcome to Cancerland,” FF #3
Karen Houppert, “Final Period,” NY Times, 7/17/07, CR
Nicholas D. Kristof, “Mr. Bush, This is Pro-Life?” NY Times, 10/23/05, CR
Ronald Kotulak, “Medical Professions undergoes major changes as women take over,” Chicago Tribune, 1/12/05, CR

“Women’s Health Risks,” Health & Medicine Week, 10/11/04, CR
Ingrid Walter, “No woman, no cry,” The Black Commentator, 9/28/06, CR

Look through Our Bodies, Ourselves

3/25 - Women and Politics
Lecture by Dr. Evelyn Murphy, former Lt. Governor of Massachusetts
Robin Toner, “Women Feeling Freer to Suggest ‘Vote for Mom,’” NY Times, 1/29/07
Marcia Angell, “Hillary Clinton and the Glass Ceiling,” Boston Globe, 2/19/07, CR
Ellen Goodman, “Trumped by the gender card,” Boston Globe, 11/9/07
Maureen Dowd, “Rush to Judgment,” NY Times, 12/19/07
Gloria Steinem, “Women are Never Front-Runners,” NY Times, 1/8/08
Jodi Kantor, “Women’s Support for Clinton Rises in Wake of Perceived Sexism,” NY Times, 1/10/08
Ellen Goodman, “Hillary’s Fine Line,” Boston Globe, 1/1/08
Alison Bowen, “Political Moms Make Family Values their Baby,” Women’s eNews, 1/9/08
Brenda Gazzar, “Women’s Middle East Peace Movement Marks 20 Long Years,” Women’s eNews, 12/27/07

4/1 Women, Work and Family
Hondagnue-Sotelo, “Maid in L.A.,” FF #22
Segura, “Working at Motherhood: Chicana and Mexicana Immigrant Mothers and Employment,” FF #25
Enloe, “The Globe Trotting Sneaker,” FF #42
Chang, “From the Third World to the ‘Third World Within,’ Asian Women Workers Fighting Globalization,” FF #43
Navarro, “Las Mujeres Invisibles/The Invisible Women,” FF, #44
Jenny Anderson, “Wall Street’s Women Face a Fork in the Road,” NY Times, 8/6/06, CR
Barbara Ehrenreich and Arlie Hochschild, “Introduction,” in Ehrenreich and Hochschild, Global Woman, CR
Susan Cheever, “The Nanny Dilemma,” in Ehrenreich and Hochschild, Global Woman, CR
Lizette Alvarez & John M. Broder, “More and More, Women Risk all to Enter US,” NY Times, 1/10/06, CR
Lizette Alvarez, “Fear and Hope in Immigrant’s Furtive Existence,” NY Times, 12/20/06, CR
Louise Story, “Many Women at Elite Colleges Set Career Path to Motherhood,” N.Y. Times, 9/20/05, CR
Katha Pollitt, “Desperate Housewives of the Ivy League?,” The Nation, 10/17/05, CR
Terry Martin Hekker, “Paradise Lost (Domestic Division),” NY Times, 1/10/06, CR
Ellen Goodman, “Desperate Ex-Housewives,” Boston Globe, 1/6/06, CR
Lisa Belkin, “After Baby, Boss Comes Calling,” NY Times, 5/17/07, CR
David Leonhardt, “He’s Happier, She’s Less So,” NY Times, 9/26/07
Look through Our Bodies, Ourselves, “Women and Work”
Atlas, Part 5, Work, Maps 22-27

4/8 AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AND SEX DISCRIMINATION IN THE WORKPLACE
Bose & Whaley, “Sex Segregation in the U.S. Labor Force,” FF #19
Padavic & Reskin, “Median Annual Earnings of Full-Time, Year-Round Workers by Education, Race and Hispanic Origin,” FF, p. 204
Boris, “The Living Wage as a Women’s Issue,” p. 250
Fran Hawthorne, “For Women, Greater Obstacles to Retirement,” NY Times, 10/23/07, CR
Julie Creswell, “How Suite it Isn’t: A Dearth of Female Bosses,” NY Times, 12/17/06, CR
Lisa Belkin, “Jobs the Revolution Passed By,” NY Times, 5/21/06, CR
Maureen Dowd, “How Carly Lost Her Gender Groove,” 11/11/06, CR
Timothy L. O’Brien, “Why Do So Few Women Reach the Top of Big Law Firms?” NY Times, 3/19/06, CR
Cornelia Dean, “Institutions Hinder Female Academics, Panel Says,” NY Times, 9/18/06, CR
Cornelia Dean, “Women in Science: The Battle Moves to the Trenches,” NY Times, 12/19/06, CR
Alan Finder, “Women on Faculty Still Lag at Harvard, Report Finds,” NY Times, 6/14/06, CR
Nicolai Ouroussoff, “Keeping Houses, Not Building Them,” NY Times, 10/31/07, CR
Neela Banerjee, “Clergywomen Find Hard Path to Bigger Pulpit,” NY Times, 8/26/06, CR

Claudia Deutsch, “A Woman to be Chief at PepsiCo,” NY Times, 8/15/06, CR

Natalie Angier, “Girls Make History by Sweeping Top Honors at a Science Contest,” NY Times, 12/4/07, CR

Jen Ross, “Chile’s New Sex-Harassment Law Takes Off,” Women’s eNews, 6/30/05, CR

Jen Ross, “Chile’s New Sex-Harassment Law Takes Off,” Women’s eNews, 6/30/05, CR

Martin Fackler, “Career Women in Japan Find a Blocked Path,” NY Times, 8/6/07, CR


ATLAS, Map 24

4/15 The Construction of Sexuality
Lecture by Helene Norton-Russell
Risman & Schwartz, “After the Sexual Revolution: Gender Politics in Teen Dating,” FF # 29
Leila J. Rupp, “Toward a Global History of Same-Sex Sexuality,” FF # 31
Marjorie Gerber [sic], “Introduction: Vice Versa,” CR
“Supporting Boys or Girls When the Line Isn’t Clear,” NY Times, 12/2/06, CR
Dinita Smith, “Love that Dare not Squeak its Name,” NY Times, 2/7/04, CR
Gloria Steinem, “Erotica vs. Pornography,” in Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellions, CR

ATLAS, Map 6

Marge Piercy, “Right to Life,” in Circles on the Water: selected poems of Marge Piercy, CR
Planned Parenthood, “Bush administration record on reproductive rights,” CR
Susan Faludi, “Reproductive rights under the backlash: the invasion of women’s bodies, in Backlash, CR
Wagle, “Abstinence-Only: Breeding Ignorance,” FF, p. 257
Dorothy Samuels, “Reflections on the New Abortion Ruling and the Roberts Court,” NY Times, 4/27/07,

CR
Kenneth C. Edelin, “Risking women’s health,” Boston Globe, 4/22/07, CR
Judith Warner, “Poisonous Choices: Women at Risk,” NY Times, 8/7/07, CR
Katha Pollitt, “With Facts on our Side,” The Nation, 11/5/07, CR
Gretchen Voss, “My Late-Term Abortion,” Boston Globe Magazine, 1/25/04, CR
Jack Hitt, “Pro-Life Nation,” NY Times Magazine, 4/9/06, CR
Russell Shorto, “Contra-Contraception,” NY Times, 5/7/06, CR
Susan Brownmiller, “Abortion is a Women’s Right,” in In our Time: Memoir of a Revolution, CR
Monica Davey & Pam Belluck, “Pharmacies Balk on After-Sex Pill,” NY Times, 4/19/05, CR
Natalie Angier, “One Thing They Aren’t: Maternal,” NY Times, 5/9/06, CR
Natalie Angier, “For Motherly X Chromosome, Gender is Only the Beginning,” NY Times, 5/1/07, CR
Naples, “Queer Parenting in the New Millennium,” FF #27

ATLAS, Maps 4, 5, all of Part 3

4/29 - The Global State of Women
Film: “Beyond Beijing”
Darraj, “It’s Not an Oxymoron: The Search for an Arab Feminism,” FF #50
“UN Commission Approves Declaration…,” FF, p. 556
“Fourth World Conference on Women Beijing Declaration,” FF p. 557
Katha Pollitt, “The Cheese Stands Alone,” The Nation, 3/21/05, CR
“Promoting a United Nations 5th World Conference on Women,” Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly, Doc. 10643
Nicholas D. Kristof, “In India, One Woman’s Stand Says ‘Enough,’ NY Times, 1/15/06, CR
Hassan M. Fattah, “First Time Out, Kuwaiti Women Become a Political Force,” NY Times, 6/26/06, CR
Helene Cooper, “Waiting for their Moment in the Worst Place on Earth to be a Woman,” NY Times, 11/16/05, CR
Hassan M. Fattah, “Saudis Rethink Taboo on Women Behind the Wheel,” NY Times, 9/28/07
ATLAS, Maps 20, 96, 98