

## Rutgers DSW Program Syllabus

**Module Title:** Feminist Theory and Practice, Part I

**Instructor:**

**Residency:** February 2019

**Date:**

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### Module I Description:

Feminists are defined by their commitment to end women's subordination. This shared commitment, however, masks marked differences among feminists over the nature and causes of women's oppression, the kinds of 'women' included in transformative projects, the kinds of change needed to eliminate subordination, the appropriate strategies for social change, and the characteristics of a just feminist social order. Given the enormity of the transformative challenges feminists face, there is also significant disagreement about priorities for social change and immediate tactics for feminist activism. How feminists define oppression and act to change oppressive practices is intricately linked to feminist theory, a vibrant intellectual practice that raises new questions, brings new evidence, and poses significant challenges to the social, economic, and political order and to academic disciplines spanning the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences.

### Module Objectives:

- Introduce students to feminist theorizations of gender, sex, sexuality, and injustice.
- Enable students to identify, analyze, and critique social, political, and economic hierarchies grounded in race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class, and nationality.
- Encourage students to interrogate cultural stereotypes and naturalizations of socially-created differences.
- Attune students to complexity and variety of women's and men's lives and livelihoods

### Required Readings (1-3):

Mary Hawkesworth, "Sexed Bodies: Provocations," *Gender and Political Theory*. Polity, 2019, 1-21.

Mary Hawkesworth, "Conceptualizing Gender," *Gender and Political Theory*. Polity, 2019, 22-59.

Mary Hawkesworth, "Reconceptualizing Injustice," *Gender and Political Theory*. Polity, 2019, 152-193.

### Recommended Readings:

Jocelyn Bosley, "From Monkey Facts to Human Ideologies: Theorizing Female Orgasm in Human and Nonhuman Primates, 1967-1983," *Signs* 35(3): 647-672 [Spring 2010].

Erika Lorraine Milam, "Making Males Aggressive and Females Coy: Gender Across the Human-Animal Boundary," *Signs* 37(4): 935-960 [Summer 2012].

Talia Mae Bettcher, "Evil Deceivers and Make-Believers: On Transphobic Violence and the Politics of Illusion," *Hypatia* 22(3):43-65, Summer 2007.

Talia Mae Bettcher, "'Trapped in the Wrong Theory': Re-Thinking Trans Oppression and Resistance," *Signs*, 39( 2):383-406 [Winter 2014].