Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies Senior Seminar II
Spring 2013

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Office Hours: Monday 3-4, Tuesday 3-5, & by appointment

Requirements

1. Deadlines to be faithfully observed.
2. Portions of the thesis required for a given class to be e-mailed to members of the class and me by the end of the weekend before class
3. Reading all 3 of your colleagues’ pieces
4. Responding in a full paragraph to these pieces (1 copy to your peer, 1 to seminar director)
5. Attendance of all group meetings, conferences, and the presentation session at the end of the semester
6. Completed senior thesis (40-60 pages)

Grading

Your final grade in the class will be based on your thesis, on your work in the seminar itself, and on comments from your faculty thesis advisor. Your grade will be influenced by missed deadlines and late work.

Learning objectives

1. Demonstrated familiarity with two or more major theoretical perspectives and concepts of feminist (as well as that of gender and sexuality studies) thought and practice
2. Ability to identify and denaturalize core assumptions that are attached to present-day systems of gender;
3. Demonstrated understanding of gender as a social system and a site of power relations, and an ability to apply gender as an analytic lens, rather than merely a "category" of difference;
4. Integration of a crucial theoretical framework in gender studies along with a critical awareness of the politics of knowledge production in the conception and writing of an original, long research paper;
5. Engagement in productive, critical collaborative work with peers

Schedule

January 23  Introductions and discussion of research progress. Setting up individual conferences.

January 30  **No group meeting.** Individual conferences with seminar director in 423 Barnard Hall.

February 6  Thesis writing strategies. Please email to your classmates and me 5 reasonably polished pages of your thesis from any portion of your work. Contextualize the pages (i.e., where from the thesis they are coming, what you are trying to do with them, etc.) Respond to your peers’ work by class time and be sure you bring (or e-mail )them and me copies of your comments.

February 13 Discussion of first drafts to come. Shared rhetorical and conceptual problems. Sharing work as above (5 pages, preferably new work, and comments.)

February 20  Discussion of thesis development; of central argument and its unfolding. Use of concrete examples. Sharing work as above.

February 27  Structure, strategies for proceeding on several intellectual and discursive fronts. Please e-mail us a detailed outline of what you will be turning in for your first draft instead of the usual pages. No responses required. Bring the outlines to class.
March 6  Discussion of the drafts and the process of expansion and revision. Email 5 pages of new work to members of the class as well as me.

March 13  No group meeting. First draft due. Please leave your copy in my mailbox in 417 Barnard Hall by 5 pm the latest. Provide your faculty advisor with a copy as well. Your first draft should contain the best, most complete version of your work to date. Please indicate missing sections, and feel free to “talk” to me in the text. By the latter I mean that you should tell me if a certain section will be developed, possibly dropped, re-arranged, that sort of thing. Please attach a full bibliography as well. Post your draft on Courseworks.

SPRING BREAK
Take some time off and get some good rest, but do not let go of the project completely.

March 27  Discussion of the first drafts and report on progress made over spring break. Please read each others’ drafts by class time and bring to class notes on everyone’s works to be shared in group (so you don’t have to turn it in to me but you may of course give it to your classmates. No new pages are due.

April 3  We will continue addressing practical and intellectual questions before you. Please email 5 new pages to colleagues and me as always.

April 10  No group meeting; Second drafts due (again by 5 PM the latest in my mailbox in 417 Barnard). Again, please post your draft on Courseworks.

April 17  Documentation. The presentation session. Continuing issues, concerns regarding the thesis. Last minute questions and concerns about the final drafts. Email 5 new pages to us as always.

April 24  Group meeting. Thesis, presentation, any other matters. Email pages to us only if you need group help on specific pages.

May 1  No group meeting. Final copies due. One copy goes to the advisor, one to the director. The director will send you comments by e-mail, including also your thesis and final grade (not necessarily identical). The thesis grade will be based on your faculty adviser’s and the directors’ sense of your contribution to the class (discussion, presence, meeting deadlines, etc. etc) Send electronic copy to Riya Ortiz sortiz@barnard.edu

May 2  Presentation of Senior Theses (4-6 PM, Sulzberger Parlor, Barnard Hall)