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Women of Color in Third Wave Feminism—WST 486
Wednesdays 4-6:30

This course is an introduction to women of color and their general participation in “Third Wave Feminism.” We will begin this course with a brief overview and introduction of First and Second Wave Feminism via a discussion/lecture about the major figures such as Susan B. Anthony, Mary Wollstencraft, Betty Friedan, Simone de Beauvoir, etc... Then, we will shift to the works of some of the early women of color in First and Second Wave Feminism, including Anna Julia Cooper and Alice Walker. However, most of the course will be spent reading, analyzing, and writing about the positions of women of color in the Third Wave, with an emphasis on African American and other African Diaspora women. We will look closely at the exclusion of women of color from the First and Second Waves, and discuss whether or not this has dramatically changed, or if they remain on the periphery of even the most contemporary segment of the women's movement.

We will discuss issues of “race” and class, as well as gender, and how these notions are complicated in the Third Wave. Each reading assignment should be completed prior to the date of discussion.

Required Texts:

Barbara Findlen—Listen Up: Voices from the Next Feminist Generation
Rebecca Walker—To Be Real: Telling the Truth and Changing the Face of Feminism
_Hooks, bell—Feminism is for Everybody
Amy Richards and Jennifer Baumgardner—Manifesta: Young Women, Feminism, and the Future
Leslie Heywood—Third Wave Agenda: Being Feminist, Doing Feminism
Daisy Hernandez and Bushra Rehman—Colonize This: Young Women of Color on Today's Feminism

Several Handouts will also be available in the library and the Women's Studies office

Assignments and Grading:

Weekly Queries	30%
Mid-Term	20%
Final Paper	20%
Attendance and Participation	15%
Group Discussions/Presentations	15%

Each week you will be given a question, which will be taken directly from the class readings. You are to respond, in beautiful prose, to each question in a one-page, double, spaced, typed response. These will be due at the beginning of class each week.

September 3—Class introductions, syllabi distribution—Lecture: Women of Color in First and Second Wave Feminism (Peggy Rivage-Seul and Barbara Wade)—Assignment—Walker—To Be Real—Forward, Introduction, “Brideland,” Naomi Wolf; “Kicking Ass,” Veronica Cabrerros-Sud, “Pushing Away the Plate,” Min Jin Lee, “Sexism and the Art of feminist hip-hop maintenance,” Eisa Davis, “Identity Politics,” Jennifer Allyn and David Allyn, and “Testimony of a Naked Woman,” Jocelyn Taylor

September 10—Discussion of Readings—Lecture, Billy Wooten, “Third Wave Feminism”—Assignment—First Group Discussion—Presentation on readings—bell hooks—Feminism is for Everybody—Chapters 1-10

September 17—Discussion of hooks—1st Group discussion/presentation—assignment-- Hooks—Chapters 11-19—2nd group discussion

September 24—Complete bell hooks—2nd group discussion—assignment—Third Wave Agenda—“Introduction,” Part One—“Living in McJobdom: Third Wave Feminism and Class Inequity,” Part Two—“A Tale of Two Feminisms: Power and Victimization in Contemporary Feminist Debate,” Part Three—“Feminism and a Discontent,” Part Four—“Doin it for the Ladies—Youth Feminism: Cultural Productions/Cultural Activism,” “Hip-Hop Matters: Rewriting the Sexual Politics of Rap Music”—3rd Group Discussion/Presentation

October 7—Preparation for Mid-term exam—Film—“Imitation of Life”

October 15—Midterm exam—assignment--

October 22—Mountain Day—Classes Cancelled

October 29—3rd Group Discussion/Presentation—Discussion of Readings—Assignment—Findlen—Listen Up—“Introduction,” “Betrayal Feminism,” Veronica Chambers, “Better in the Bahamas: Not if You’re a Feminist,” Lisa Bowleg, “Word Warrior,” Jennifer DiMarco, “Ghosts and Goddesses,” Bhargavi C. Mandava, “Lustin for Freedom,” Rebecca Walker, “Tight Jeans and Chania Chorris,” “Sonia Shah,” “Lessons from a Young Feminist Collective,” Tiya Miles

November 5—4th Group Presentation/Discussion of Readings—Assignment—Listen Up—Continue—“Beyond Bean Counting,” JeeYeun Lee, “Two Jews, Three Opinions,” Robin M. Neidorf, “Weaving an Identity Tapestry,” Sonja D. Curry-Johnson, “Reality Check,” Aisha Hakim-Dyce

November 12—5th Group Presentation/Discussion of Readings—Assignment—Manifesta: Young Women, Feminism, and the Future—“Introduction and Prologue,” Chapters 1, 2,6,8, “Epilogue and Appendix 1”

November 19—6th Group Presentation/Discussion of Readings—Assignment—Colonize This— “Foreward and Introduction,” “browngirlworld,” “Love Feminism but Where’s My Hip-Hop/ Shaping a Black Feminist Identity,” “Black Feminism in Everyday Life,” “Because You’re a Girl,” Heartbroken: Women of Color Feminism and the Third Wave”

November 26—Thanksgiving Holiday—Enjoy!

December 3—Discussion of Readings—Work on Final Papers—Assignment—Colonize This—“The Black Beauty Myth,” “In Praise of Difficult Chicas,” “Bringing Us Back into the Dance,” “Dutiful Hijas,” “Can I Get a Witness? Testimony from a Hip Hop Feminist”

December 10—Discussion of Readings—Discussion of Final Papers

December 17—Final Exam Period—To be Announced—Final Paper Due