

GENDER IN POLITICAL THOUGHT

Spring 2005
 Room 104 PAC
 Mon. 1:10 – 3:30 p.m.

Office: 310 PAC, x. 2489
 Hours: Mon. 11-12, Tues. 3-4,
 Thurs. 3-3:30, & by appointment

What is the relation of gender to politics? Is politics a sphere of power, authority, and action that inevitably privileges certain men? Or is it the sphere of freedom? Feminist theory questions women's relative exclusion from politics, and recently has problematized the concept of gender. Is participation in politics predicated on certain gender identities? Do different experiences of gender lead to different conceptions of justice? We will read classical and contemporary theorists on the embodiment of desire, the emotions, and public reason; and on conflict, coalitions, and leadership in forming justice.

Books for purchase (All books are also on reserve at Olin library)

Beauvoir, Simone de. The Second Sex (Knopf)
 Butler, Judith. Gender Trouble (Routledge)
 Dinnerstein, Dorothy. The Mermaid and The Minotaur (Other Press)
 Mill, John Stuart. Basic Writings (Random House)
 Okin, Susan. Is Multiculturalism Bad for Women? (Princeton University Press)
 Pitkin, Hanna Fenichel. Fortune Is a Woman (University of Chicago Press)
 Plato. The Republic (Cambridge University Press)
 Squires, Judith. Gender in Political Theory (Polity Press)
 Taylor, Charles. Multiculturalism (Princeton)

Course Structure and Expectations

This is an upper-level seminar, and while I will lecture for background and setting frameworks – presenting themes and posing questions – it is primarily discussion. We will also have class presentations. Readings should be completed by the date for which they are assigned, so we can have good discussions. (Readings in parentheses are optional; those marked passim can be skimmed.) Class participation is important and attendance weekly is expected.

Written work will include a short essay, a class presentation and short paper, and a term paper. The essay, on a topic set by me for the class, is due February 14. The short (5 pp.) paper is a class presentation due one of the days of the course, addressing a key theme in the reading for that session, to be worked out in consultation with me beforehand. The term paper (10-15 pp.) will be on a theoretical topic of your choice, approved by me. Term paper topics are due in class on April 4, a bibliography April 18, and a short outline or précis April 25. The paper is due Monday, May 9.

Molly Chafetz will serve as Teaching Apprentice and is available to help with the assignments, as am I.

Syllabus

- Jan. 24 Introduction
- Jan. 31 Dialectical idealism
Plato, Republic, Bks. I-IV
- Feb. 7 Bks. V-IX
- Feb. 14 Challenging power
Squires, Gender in Political Theory, Chs. 1 & 3

ESSAY DUE

- Feb. 21 Civic republicanism
Pitkin, Fortune Is a Woman, Ch. 1; in Ch. 2, pp. 25-29, 34-37, 48-51; in Ch. 3, pp. 52-t.59; Chs. 4, 5, 6, & 8; in Ch. 9, pp. 230- t.231; in Ch. 11, pp. 285-294; in Ch. 12, pp. 307-316
Squires, Ch. 6, "Citizenship"
- Feb. 28 Challenging gender
Butler, Gender Trouble, Preface (1990); Ch. 1
Squires, Ch. 2, "Framing Gender"

Spring break

- Mar. 21 Challenging gender (cont.)
Butler, Preface (1999), (Ch. 3), Concl.
"Angels in America," (VHS or DVD)
- Mar. 28 Liberalism
Mill, The Subjection of Women
Squires, Ch. 4, "Equality"
- Apr. 4 Dialectical materialism
Beauvoir, The Second Sex, Intro.; Chs. 1, 3; Pt. II, Chs. 4-8; Ch. 9; pick one chapter in either Pt. IV or V; Ch. 25; Concl.
Squires, Ch. 5, "Justice"

TERM PAPER TOPIC DUE

- Apr. 11 Psychoanalytic theory
Dinnerstein, Mermaid and Minotaur, Pt. I; Pt. II, esp. Chs. 4 & 7; in Ch. 9, pp. 208-210, 223-224, & 227; in Ch. 10, pp. 258-264
Pitkin, Ch. 7, passim.

Apr. 18 Multiculturalism

Taylor, Multiculturalism, esp. "The Politics of Recognition," pp. 25-73, and Michael Walzer, "Comment," pp. 99-103 (also, Jurgen Habermas, 107-148, and K. Anthony Appiah, 149-163.) Omit Intro. and pp. 87-98

TERM PAPER BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE

Apr. 25 Multiculturalism (cont.)

Okin, Is Multiculturalism Good for Women?

TERM PAPER OUTLINE DUE

May 2 Representing political subjects
Squires, Ch. 7

May 9 TERM PAPER DUE