

Carleton University
Winter 2018
Pauline Jewett Institute of Women's and Gender Studies

WGST 2801 A: *Activisms, Feminisms, and Social Justice*

Friday 8:35 am -10:25 am
Location: Mackenzie Building 3275

Instructor: Anuppiriya Sriskandarajah
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Phone: ext. 4209
Office Hours: Friday 12:30 am-1:30 pm

*Prerequisite: Second-year standing and 1.0 credit in WGST or permission of the Institute

Course Description: This course encourages critically examines the various ways feminists have pursued and continue to effect social, political, economic, and cultural change. This course has a heavy 'practice' component whereby students will engage in feminist activism projects using both traditional strategies and new media. The course will focus on both local forms of feminist activism and global and transnational feminist social justice movements.

Learning Objectives:

Through this course, you will:

- Gain a critical understanding of feminist activism and social justice
- Students (both individually and in groups) will plan, research, and execute their own feminist social justice campaigns
- Students will learn both local and global feminist social justice movements and their intersections
- Learn communication, presentation, and dialogical learning skills

Required Texts:

Available on CuLearn through library e-reserves.

Learning Assessments:

YouTube assignment: 25% -February 16

In-Class Exam: 30%-March 16

Academic activism write-up: 5%-April 6

Participation Mark for Discussion Group: 10%

Activism in Practice: 30%-April 11

Course Requirements

The aim of this course is to teach students to think critically about feminisms, activism, and social justice. All written work should be in a 12-point Times New Roman font, with page numbers and appropriate citations for all sources. Late assignments will be deducted 5% per day, this includes weekends. Students must hand in a hard-copy of the assignment. Students should keep a hard-copy for their records. No video or audio-recording of lectures. Emails will be answered within 48 hours (not counting weekends).

***Please contact your discussion group TA before contacting instructor if you need guidance. ***

In-Class Exam (30%): Short answer and essay questions.

Mid-Term Assignment (25%)-YouTube Post: This assignment requires you to engage in online activism. This assignment is composed of two parts: YouTube video and written critical analysis (4-6 pages). YouTube is worth 10% and written component worth 15%. You will pick a topic (different from your final Activism in Practice topic) that is related to feminist activism. You will be required to write a critical piece interrogating your chosen issue. You are permitted to draw on course material or outside academic material. Your written piece should demonstrate your knowledge of the issue. Your second piece will be an online activism piece. You will create a video that is minimum 5 minutes in length, maximum 10 minutes. Your video should supplement your written piece. You should be able to creatively articulate your message through this format. You will send your link to you TA through CuLearn. The video does not have to be made public.

Activism and Academia Reflection: You will attend the Joint Chair in Women's Studies Presents: "Always a Zero-sum Game?: Exploring the Tensions between Academic Freedom and Anti-Oppression" panel. You should attend for a minimum of an hour (or more). You will be expected to write a 2-page critical reflection on issues discussed at the event. This exercise is to illustrate the intersection of academia and activism. The event is a two-day event to be held Monday, March 19 and Tuesday March 20. You are welcome to attend both days for the entire day. If you are not able to attend then you will make arrangements to attend another conference or event hosted by any activism group on campus or in your community. Please plan ahead and put it in your calendars. There will be no class this week.

Activism in Practice (30%): This assignment requires group work. As a group you will choose an issue (different from your YouTube assignment), research the issue, publish information about the issue, and organize a campaign around the issue to raise awareness and foster social change. The campaign will be presented in the Tory Building Lobby on April 11 during class time. You will submit a formal group report 5-7 pages providing your academic rationale for your issue and why choose to design your campaign in the way you did. Your group will consist of 5-6 people in your discussion group. You will choose your group and your topic in your discussion group (to be approved by your TA).

REQUEST FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the [Student Guide](#).

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the [Student Guide](#).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your *Letter of Accommodation* at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). **Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.** After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website (www.carleton.ca/pmc) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence, which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

The university's Academic Integrity Policy can be found at:

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

January 12: Introduction to the course [No discussion group]

January 19: Introduction to Feminist Activism

What constitutes activism? What is feminist activism? How do issues become movements?

Bromley, Victoria L. 2012. "Chapter 2: What's Feminism Done (For Me) Lately? Feminist Contributions." Pp. 13-36 in *Feminisms Matter: Debates, Theories, Activism*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press Incorporated. [E-book available on Carleton University Library website]

Bromley, Victoria L. 2012. "Chapter 10: The Strategies That Empower Us: Feminist Activism." Pp. 173-188 in *Feminisms Matter: Debates, Theories, Activism*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press Incorporated. [E-book available on Carleton University Library website]

Basu, Amrita. 2010. "Introduction." Pp. 1-28 in *Women's Movements in the Global Era: The Power of Local Feminisms*, edited by Amrita Basu. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. [On Library Reserve]

Discussion Group Readings:

Sundstrom, Lisa McIntosh. 2010. "Russian Women's Activism: Two Steps Forward, One Step Back." Pp. 229-254 in *Women's Movements in the Global Era: The Power of Local Feminisms*, edited by Amrita Basu. Boulder, CO: Westview Press. [On Library Reserve]

January 26: Transnational Feminist Activism

What is transnational feminist activism? How has feminism contributed to the field of international relations?

Moghadam, Valentine M. 2015. "Chapter 2: Transnational Feminist Activism and Movement Building." Pp. 53-81 in *Oxford Handbook of Transnational Feminist Movements*, edited by Rawwida Baksh and Wendy Harcourt. New York: Oxford University Press. [E-book available on Carleton University Library website]

Dufour, Pascale, Masson, Dominique, Caouette, Dominique. 2010. "Introduction." Pp. 1-31 in *Transnationalizing Women's Movements: Solidarities Beyond Borders*, edited by Pascale Dufour, Dominique Masson, and Dominique Caouette. Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press. [On Library Reserve]

Discussion Group Reading:

Edwards, Louise. 2010. "Chapter 4: Chinese feminism in a transnational frame: Between internationalism and xenophobia." Pp. 53-74 in *Women's Movements in Asia: Feminisms and Transnational Activism*, edited by Mina Roces and Louise Edwards. New York: Routledge. [On Library Reserve]

February 2: Feminist Anti-Globalization Activism

What is antiglobalization activism? How was feminism figured within anti-globalization movements?

Eschle, Catherine and Manguashca, Bice. 2010. "Chapter 2: Skeleton Woman at the World Social Forum: Feminist Struggles for Visibility, Voice, and Influence, 2001-2005." Pp. 19-36 in *Making Feminist Sense of the Global Justice Movement*. Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. [On Library Reserve]

Eschle, Catherine and Manguashca, Bice. 2010. "Chapter 5: Naming the Enemy: Feminist Antiglobalization Activists Confront Oppression." Pp. 81-104 in *Making Feminist Sense of the Global Justice Movement*. Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. [On Library Reserve]

Eschle, Catherine and Manguashca, Bice. 2010. "Chapter 6: Imagining Other Worlds: The Utopian Dimension of Feminist Antiglobalization Activism." Pp. 105-130 in *Making*

Feminist Sense of the Global Justice Movement. Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. [On Library Reserve]
Discussion Group Reading:

Eschle, Catherine and Maiguashca, Bice. 2010. "Chapter 7: Collective Action: The Political Practices of Feminist Antiglobalization Activists." Pp. 131-154 in *Making Feminist Sense of the Global Justice Movement*. Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc. [On Library Reserve]

February 9: Muslim Women and Activism

What is 'colonial feminism'? How does republican ideology figure in Muslim women's experiences and activism?

Kemp, Anna. 2010. "Chapter 1: Colonial Daughters, Feminist Sisters: 'Colonial Feminism' and the Muslim Woman." Pp. 8- 39 in *Voices and Veils: Feminism and Islam in French Women's Writing and Activism*. London: Modern Humanities Research Association and W.S. Maney & Son Ltd. [On Library Reserve]

Kemp, Anna. 2010. "Chapter 2: Voices and Ventriloquisms: 'Nativist Feminism' and the Muslim Woman." Pp. 40- 70 in *Voices and Veils: Feminism and Islam in French Women's Writing and Activism*. London: Modern Humanities Research Association and W.S. Maney & Son Ltd. [On Library Reserve]

Discussion Group Reading:

Kemp, Anna. 2010. "Chapter 5: Rereading the Republic: Muslim Women's Activism in France." Pp. 112-136 in *Voices and Veils: Feminism and Islam in French Women's Writing and Activism*. London: Modern Humanities Research Association and W.S. Maney & Son Ltd. [On Library Reserve]

February 16: From Black Panthers to Black Lives Matter

Gore, Dayo F. 2009. "Chapter 3: From Communist Politics to Black Power: The Visionary Politics and Transnational Solidarities of Victoria "Vicki" Ama Garvin." Pp. 71-94 in *Want to Start a Revolution? Radical Women in the Black Freedom Struggle*, edited by Dayo F. Gore, Jeanne Theoharis, and Komozi Woodard. New York: New York University Press. [On Library Reserve]

James, Joy. 2009. "Chapter 6: Framing the Panther: Assata Shakur and Black Female Agency." Pp. 138-160 in *Want to Start a Revolution? Radical Women in the Black Freedom Struggle*, edited by Dayo F. Gore, Jeanne Theoharis, and Komozi Woodard. New York: New York University Press. [On Library Reserve]

Huggins, Ericka and LeBlanc-Ernest, Angela D. 2009. "Chapter 7: Revolutionary Women, Revolutionary Education: The Black Panther Party's Oakland Community School." Pp. 161-184 in *Want to Start a Revolution? Radical Women in the Black Freedom Struggle*, edited by Dayo F. Gore, Jeanne Theoharis, and Komozi Woodard. New York: New York University Press. [On Library Reserve]

Crawford, Margo Natalie. 2009. "Chapter 8: Must Revolution Be a Family Affair? Revisiting *The Black Woman*." Pp. 185-204 in *Want to Start a Revolution? Radical Women in the Black Freedom Struggle*, edited by Dayo F. Gore, Jeanne Theoharis, and Komozi Woodard. New York: New York University Press. [On Library Reserve]

Discussion Group Reading:

Cohen, C. J., & Jackson, S. J. 2016. "Ask a feminist: A conversation with Cathy J. Cohen on Black Lives Matter, feminism, and contemporary activism." *Signs*, 41(4): 775-792.

YOUTUBE ASSIGNMENT DUE

February 23: Reading week [no class]

March 2: "A Woman's Place Is in the Armed Struggle?"

Is feminist nationalism an oxymoron? What are the relationships between women's movements and nationalist movements?

O'Keefe, Theresa. 2013. "Chapter 3: A Woman's Place Is in the Armed Struggle?" Pp. 53-83 in *Feminist Identity Development and Activism in Revolutionary Movements*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. [On Library Reserve]

O'Keefe, Theresa. 2013. "Chapter 4: The Mini-Skirt Brigade: Distorting Women's Participation in Armed Conflict" Pp. 84-115 in *Feminist Identity Development and Activism in Revolutionary Movements*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. [On Library Reserve]

Discussion Group Reading:

Banner, Francine. 2008. "Mothers, Bombers, Beauty Queens: Chechen Women's Roles in the Russo-Chechen Conflict." *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs* 9 (2): 77- 88

March 9: Feminism and Peace Activism

What has been women's role in nonviolent revolutions? What is the feminist case against NATO?

Cockburn, Cynthia. 2012. "Chapter 2: War Resisters and Pacifist Revolution." Pp. 46-73 in *Antimilitarism: Political and Gender Dynamics of Peace Movements*. New York: Macmillan Publishers Ltd. [On Library Reserve]

Cockburn, Cynthia. 2012. "Chapter 5: Saying No to NATO: Divergent Strategies." Pp. 103-125 in *Antimilitarism: Political and Gender Dynamics of Peace Movements*. New York: Macmillan Publishers Ltd. [On Library Reserve]

Discussion Group Reading:

Cockburn, Cynthia. 2012. "Chapter 8: Guns and Bodies: Armed Conflict and Domestic Violence." Pp. 211-236 in *Antimilitarism: Political and Gender Dynamics of Peace Movements*. New York: Macmillan Publishers Ltd. [On Library Reserve]

March 16: In-Class Exam

Discussion Group: [Activism in Practice work period]

March 23: Joint Chair in Women's Studies Presents: "Always a Zero-sum Game?: Exploring the Tensions between Academic Freedom and Anti-Oppression" panel. [Academia and Activism] [No class] [no discussion group]

March 30: Statutory Holiday [No class] [no discussion group]

April 6: Governmentality, Neo-liberalism, and Women's activism?

What is governmentality? How has neo-liberalism impacted feminist activism? Is collectivity possible in times of neo-liberalism?

Newman, Janet. 2012. "Chapter 3: Perverse Alignments: Women's Activism and the Governmentalization of Community." Pp. 40-60 in *Working the Spaces of Power: Activism, Neoliberalism and Gendered Labour*. London: Bloomsbury Collections. [E-book available on Carleton University Library website]

Newman, Janet. 2012. "Chapter 8: Activism, Neoliberalism and Gendered Labour." Pp. 151-170 in *Working the Spaces of Power: Activism, Neoliberalism and Gendered Labour*. London: Bloomsbury Collections. [E-book available on Carleton University Library website]

Academia and Activism reflection due

Discussion Group: [Activism in Practice work period]

April 11: ACTIVISM IN PRACTICE (in Tory Lobby)
