

Marxism, Feminism, Poststructuralism

Course Director: David McNally

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This course examines key Marxist and feminist debates and collaborations in light of the theoretical and political challenges posed by poststructuralism. Questions of language, culture and identity are explored, with emphasis on the interconnections of gender, race, class and sexuality in late capitalism.

Required Readings:

R. Hennessy and C. Ingram, *Materialist Feminism: A Reader in Class, Difference, And Women's Lives*

David McNally, *Bodies of Meaning: Studies on Language, Labor, and Liberation*

Rosemary Hennessy, *Profit and Pleasure: Sexual Identities in Late Capitalism*

Various readings from Marx and Engels available at www.marxists.org

The following readings are available at davidmcnally.org under the "Courses" tab:

Dorothy Smith, "Sociology from Women's Experience" *Sociological Theory*, v. 10, n. 1 (Spring 1992)

Himani Bannerji, "Building from Marx," *Social Justice* v. 32, n. 4 (2005)

Alan Sears, "Sex after Citizenship," *Historical Materialism* (forthcoming)

Sue Ferguson, "Canadian Contributions to Social Reproduction Feminism: Race and Embodied Labor," *Race, Gender & Class*, vol. 15, n. 1-2 (2008)

Jennifer Nash, "Rethinking Intersectionality," *Feminist Review*, n. 89 (2008)

Leslie McCall, "The Complexity of Intersectionality," *Signs*, v. 30, n. 3 (2005)

Rita Dhamoon, "Mainstreaming Intersectionality," *Political Research Quarterly* v. 64 (2013)

Sue Ferguson and David McNally, "Precarious Migrants . . ." *Socialist Register* 2015

Recommended

Nancy Holmstrom, ed., *The Socialist Feminist Project* (In order to minimize costs I have not ordered this book, but inexpensive second-hand copies are often available through online booksellers. You can also download it for free here: <http://opticapuerto31.com/602899-the-socialist-feminist-project-a-contemporary-reader-in-theory-and-politics.html> .)

Course Grading Scheme

First expository paper (1500 words) – 25% – *Due date:* November 9
Final paper (3500 words) – 40% – *Due date:* December 4
Five-minute presentation of discussion questions – 15%
Seminar participation – 20%

COURSE SCHEDULE

September 14 – **Introduction**

September 21 – **Marxism, Feminism, Poststructuralism: Problems Posed**

Readings: --Carlo Salzani, Review of *Marx Through Poststructuralism*, available at:

<http://marxandphilosophy.org.uk/reviewofbooks/reviews/2011/284>

David McNally, "Introduction" to *Bodies of Meaning*; --Carol Stabile (Ch. 33) in *Materialist Feminism*; Nancy Holmstrom, "Introduction" in *The Socialist Feminist Project*; Rosemary Hennessy, "Reclaiming Marxist Feminism" in *The Socialist Feminist Project* [Background: Willy Maley, "Structuralism and Post-structuralism," available at davidmcnally.org]

September 28 – **Problems of Language and Materialism**

Readings: McNally, *Bodies of Meaning*, Ch.2 and Ch. 3, p. 79-80, 94-109

October 5 – **Dialectics and Materialism**

Readings: -- Marx and Engels, *The German Ideology*, selections from Part One

--Bertell Ollman, *Alienation*, Chs. 1-3 available at:

<http://www.nyu.edu/projects/ollman/books/a.php>

--Dorothy Smith, "A Sociology of Women's Experience"

[Also: Nancy Holmstrom, "A Marxist Theory of Women's Nature" in *The Socialist Feminist Project*]

October 12 – **Capitalism and the Question of Systemic Analysis**

Readings: Karl Marx, "Introduction" to *The Grundrisse*

Christine Delphy, "For a Materialist Feminism;" Barbara Ehrenreich, "What is Socialist Feminism;" Martha Gimenez, "The Oppression of Women" all in *Materialist Feminism*

[Also: Ellen Meiksins Wood, "Capitalism and Human Emancipation" and Dorothy Allison, "A Question of Class," both in *The Socialist Feminist Project*]

October 19 – **Culture and Political Economy in Late Capitalism**

Readings: Rosemary Hennessy, *Profit and Pleasure*, Chs. 1, 3

Nicola Field, "Identity and the Lifestyle Market" in *Materialist Feminism*

October 26 – **Intersections and Mediations, 1: Black Feminist Interventions**

Readings: Gloria Joseph, "The Incompatible Ménage à Trois;" Hazel Carby, "White Women Listen!" Rose Brewer, "Theorizing Race, Class and Gender;" and Barbara Smith, "Where's the Revolution?" all in *Materialist Feminism*

[Also: Johanna Brenner, "Intersections, Locations, and Capitalist Class Relations" in *The Socialist Feminist Project*]

November 2 – **Intersections and Mediations, 2: Race, Gender and Class**

Readings: Himani Bannerji, "Building from Marx"

Sue Ferguson, "Canadian Contributions to Social Reproduction Feminism: Race and Embodied Labor"; Jennifer Nash, "Rethinking Intersectionality;" Leslie McCall, "The Complexity of Intersectionality" [all available at www.davidmcnally.org]

November 9– STUDY WEEK -- NO CLASS

November 16 – **Questions of Identity: Sexuality in Late Capitalism**

Readings: Rosemary Hennessy, *Profit and Pleasure*, Ch. 4, 6

Lillian Robinson, "Touring Thailand's Sex Industry" in *Materialist Feminism*

Recommended: Sears, "Sex After Citizenship" and Ann Ferguson, "On Conceiving Motherhood" in *The Socialist Feminist Project*

[Also Recommended: Kevin Floyd, "Making History: Marxism, Queer Theory and Contradiction in the Future of American Studies," *Cultural Critique*, No. 40, *The Futures of American Studies* (Autumn, 1998)]

November 23 – **Language, Culture and Class Struggle: New Marxist Interventions, 1**

Readings: McNally, *Bodies of Meaning*, Ch. 4-5

November 30 – **Language, Culture and Class Struggle: New Marxist Interventions, 2**

Readings: McNally, *Bodies of Meaning*, Conclusion; Rosemary Hennessy, *Profit and Pleasure*,

Ch. 7; Sue Ferguson and David McNally, "Precarious Migrants: Race, Gender and the Social Reproduction of a Global Working Class," *Socialist Register* 2015, available at davidmcnally.org