

Feminist Political Thought

7.1 Module Overview									
Module Number		Module Title	Feminist Political Thought						
Stage of Principal Programme			2	Semester	1	Duration. <i>(Weeks F/T)</i>	12	ECTS	5
Mandatory / Elective (M/E)	E	Hours of Learner Effort / Week	2						
Analysis of required hours of learning effort									
Teaching and Learning Modalities					✓if relevant to this module	Approx. proportion of total (hours)			
Contact Hours									
In person face-to-face					✓	24			
Synchronous									
Indirect/Non-Contact Hours									
Asynchronous									
Work Based									
Other:									
• Independent self-directed reading					✓	46			
• Research, Preparation and Completion of Assessments					✓	55			
Total						125			

Pre-Requisite Module, if any. Module # and Title	N/A
Co-Requisite Module, if any. Module # and Title	N/A
Maximum number of learners per instance of the module	120
Specification of the qualifications (academic, pedagogical and professional/occupational) and experience required of staff working in this module.	
Role e.g., Tutor, Mentor, Lecturer, Research Supervisor, etc.	Qualifications & experience required
Lecturer	A minimum level 9 qualification in Philosophy or closely cognate area
	Staff - Learner Ratio X:Y
	1:120

Assessment Techniques – percentage contribution				
Continuous Assessment	100%	Proctored Exam – in person		Practical Skills Based
Project		Proctored Exam - online		Work Based
Capstone (Y/N)?	N	If Yes, describe		

7.2 Minimum Intended Module Learning Outcomes (MIMLOs)	
MIMLO	Related MIPLO #
On completion of this module a learner will be able to:	
1. Identify and explain concepts such as; feminism, gender vs sex, public and private sphere, historical and ahistorical human nature, intersectionality, etc.	1, 2
2. Summarise the main arguments and principles of the major schools of feminist thought - Liberal, Marxist, Radical and Socialist.	1, 2, 3

3. Compare and critique the different feminist analyses of the subordination of women.	5, 8
4. Analyse and evaluate a particular feminist position and its contribution to the development of feminist thought.	8

7.3 Indicative Module Content, Organisation and Structure

This module will provide an introduction to Feminist Political Thought through an historical overview and engagement with major concepts, definitions and themes. It will look at the ideas of major thinkers from Liberal Feminism, Marxist Feminism, Radical Feminism, Socialist and Postmodern Feminism.

- Liberal Feminism: characteristics of Liberal political theory, discriminatory laws and political institutions as the cause of the subordination of women. Proposed remedy. Assumptions about human nature; rational, autonomous, irrelevance of the body. Consideration of Wollstonecraft's *Vindication of the Rights of Woman* and Mill's *The Subordination of Women*. Criticisms of Liberal Feminism.
- Marxist Feminism: characteristics of Marxist political theory, property ownership and capitalism as the cause of the subordination of women. Proposed remedy. Assumptions about human nature: historical and material. Implications. A look at Engels' *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*. Criticisms of Marxist Feminism.
- Radical Feminism: characteristics of the movement, mode of analysis and responses to women's subordination, notion of patriarchy. Proposed remedy – activism vs theorising. Assumptions about human nature- biological determinism. A consideration of the main ideas in De Beauvoir's *Second Sex* and Millett's *Sexual Politics*. Criticisms of Radical feminism
- Socialist Feminism: Amalgamation of Radical and Marxist notions. Assumptions of human nature. Analysis of women's subordination. Reproduction as part of the base structure of society. Assumptions about human nature. Criticisms of Socialist Feminism.
- Postmodern Feminism: Criticisms of traditional mainstream feminism. Influence of different and multiple identity markers on gender. Intersectionality. A look at bell hooks' *Ain't I a Woman?* Criticisms of postmodern feminism.

It will consider how each school of thought engages with the question of the causes of the subordination of women, and their proposed solutions to this situation.

The structure of the module allows learners to understand the chronological development of feminist political thought in the Western tradition. It will look at concepts such as gender vs sex, public vs private patriarchy, intersectionality through a close reading of some of the significant texts in each of these feminist schools. Lectures will be delivered in two-hour lectures over a twelve-week period.

The content of the module will address the programme themes of equality and inclusion.

7.4 Work-based learning and practice-placement (if applicable)

N/A

7.5 Specific module resources required (if applicable)

N/A

7.6 Application of programme teaching, learning and assessment strategies to this module

The content of this module is delivered in lectures. The lecturer models the skills of exposition, analysis and critique in delivering the content and draws attention to the process. In keeping with the principles of UDL, material will be made available in a variety of modes on the VLE; text, video, podcast, with lecturer's slides posted the day before so that learners may download in advance, should they wish. Lecturing will involve both exposition, recap questions on concepts and specialised vocabulary at the beginning of each lecture.

The two assessments are linked so that the learner can use the feedback from the first assignment (the Presentation) to inform the second assignment (the Book Review).

Assessment

Presentation: The Presentation allow learners to demonstrate their ability to present their ideas to the class. This requires them to explain complex ideas to their classmates in a clear and attractive fashion, and to take feedback and use it to improve their book review (MIMLOs 1 ,2, 3, 4).

Book Review: The academic book review provides learners with the opportunity to engage with a primary text, analyse it in relation to the theories covered in class and evaluate the various theories used. This addresses MIMLOS 1, 2, 3, 4.

7.7 Summative Assessment Strategy for this module

MIMLOs	Technique(s)	Weighting
1, 2, 3, 4	Oral Presentation: This assignment is linked to the second assignment. It is a ten-minute presentation to the class on the book chosen for the book review. The questions and comments from the lecturer and class mates' should inform the writing of the book review.	20%
1, 2, 3, 4	Academic Book Review; This involves reading a significant text in one of the schools of feminist thought, explicating the main ideas and comparing them to ideas from other feminist schools of thought.	80%

7.8 Sample Assessment Materials

Assessment will be composed of two parts;

- (i) **Presentation:** 10-minute presentation, 3 minutes fielding questions, (20%).
- (ii) **Book Report:** 2,000 to 2,500 words, (80%).

The two assignments are interconnected. The presentation will be a 'work-in progress' based on your Book Report. The questions and feedback you receive on your Presentation should be incorporated into your Book Report.

- (i) The presentation will be based on your Book Report (see below). It will be assessed using the Dissertation Oral Presentation Criteria. All members of the audience should have some observation or question to offer on their colleagues' presentation that will help in sharpening the final analysis piece. The presentations dates are to be negotiated. Feedback will be given on the day. Results will be available when everyone has presented.
- (ii) Choose a book from the list below. Titles will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis. If you wish, you may use a book of your own choice, but run it by me first. In the Book Report, you should offer 1. A brief summary of the author's argument, 2. An analysis of the argument that refers to at least two theories we have studied in class, and 3. Provide an evaluation of the book for your colleagues. The analysis should incorporate a discussion and critical evaluation of the feminist theories you use.

The Book Report will be assessed using the Written Assessment Marking Criteria Guidelines. It should use the MHRA style for referencing. It should show some evidence of incorporating the questions and suggestions from the presentation into the analysis. It is to be submitted through Turnitin. Feedback will be made through Turnitin.

Marking of assessments will be in line with the Marking Assessment Guidelines as outlined in Section 3.3 of the College's [Regulations in Relation to Assessment and Standards](#) unless otherwise indicated.

7.9 Indicative reading lists and other information resources

Indicative Core Reading:

De Beauvoir, *Second Sex* (New York: Vintage Books, 1952, 1989)

Engels, Friedrich, *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State* (London: Penguin, 1972, 2010)

hooks, bell, *Ain't I a Woman?: Black Women and Feminism* (London: Pluto, 1981)

Mill, J. S., *The Subjection of Women* (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1988)

Millett, Kate, *Sexual Politics* (London: Virago, 1977)

Wollstonecraft, Mary, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, 3rd edn rev. (London: Penguin, 2004)

Indicative Other Reading:

Bryson, Valerie, *Feminist Political Theory: An Introduction*, 3rd edn (Basingstoke, Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016)

Jagger, Alison, *Feminist Politics and Human Nature* (Totowa, NJ: Rowan and Allanheld, 1983)

Rowbotham, Sheila, Lynne Segal and Hilary Wainwright, *Beyond the Fragments: Feminism and the Making of Socialism*, 3rd edn (London: Merlin Press, 2013)

Tong, Rosemarie, *Feminist Thought: A More Comprehensive Introduction*, 3rd edn (Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 2009)