



GS345 The Poetics and Politics of Gender in France: From French Feminism to Gender Studies, IES Abroad Paris

Description:

This course offers a transdisciplinary approach to the question of French feminism, notably after the publication of Simone de Beauvoir's *Second Sex* in 1949. We will retrace the genesis of French feminism and analyze the philosophical struggle against what Derrida called "phallogocentrisme," and Bourdieu's sociological point of view and "masculine domination." This will allow us to distinguish the different movements and positions in feminism: Simone de Beauvoir's universalism, Christine Delphy's materialism, as well as Antoinette Fouque's "differentialism." Consequently, we will analyze the different steps in feminism according to gender, leading to present-day queer studies. In addition, with the help of Monique Wittig, the study of political claims and stances will take into account poetic works that allow for the restructuring of language and its representations. As a result, we will study the notion of "feminine writing" as well as gay and lesbian literature, without forgetting the importance of literary testimony. Artistic revolutions and transgressions will also be considered: Claude Cahun, Niki de Saint Phalle, Colette Deblé, and Orlan. Finally, we will consider present-day controversies associated with these subjects; for example, the relationship between violence and virility, the law against headscarves and the hijab, pornography, the legalization (and abolition) of prostitution, and gay marriage will inform many of our in-class discussions.

CREDITS : 3

CONTENT HOURS : 45

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: FRENCH

PREREQUISITES : None

SUPPLEMENTARY COSTS : Additional costs will be invoiced to the student's IES ABROAD account. These charges will cover printing costs and other expenses. Prices will vary depending on the course. In addition, students must purchase two books at the Violette and Co bookstore (approximately 12 Euros total):

- Ernaux, Annie. *L'Événement*. Paris : Folio, 2000. [Fall]
- Virginie Despentes, *King Kong théorie*, éditions Le livre de poche, 2006. [Fall]
- Leonora Miano. *Écrits pour la parole*. Paris : édition de l'Arche, 2012. [Spring]

Method of presentation:

Courses are based on lectures and in-class discussions, based on various texts associated with the course program. Students must read the texts indicated on the syllabus (for each lesson!) as well as deepen their personal knowledge by consulting various texts in the course bibliography. Students are asked to purchase and read Annie Ernaux's *L'Événement* (Poche, 2000) as well as Leonora Miano or Virginie Despentes' *King Kong Théorie* (Editions Le Livre de poche, 2006). The course evaluation is based on oral participation, two in-class exams, a critical essay based on a reading, a presentation, a cultural visit associated with the course's theme(s), and a work of research to be done in association with the professor and to be presented orally at the end of the semester. Information about the essay and the work of research can be found on Moodle

Required work and form of assessment:

- 2 Exams- 25% + 25%
- Essay - 25%
- Literary Analysis or essay concerning a visit - 15%
- Class participation - 10%

**Participation**

Students must be able to participate spontaneously in response to the instructor's questions. They must also ask questions, participate in small-group discussions as well as discussions with the entire class.

Mid-term exam

Questions based on coursework, readings, and textual analysis

Final exam

Questions based on coursework, readings, and textual analysis

Presentation

The oral presentation should be based on a PowerPoint that contains clear and concise writing, as well as a presentation outline, a thesis, key words, concepts, and their explanation, and (potentially) images, including a precise appendix.

The presentation should contain three parts: introduction to the presentation, development and description, and a conclusion, which should include a question that opens up a class discussion.

The presentation is an individual assignment and should last 10 minutes.

Learning outcomes:

After this course, students will be able to:

- Understand feminist theory and the question of gender in a French context
- Debate and think critically about gender issues and questions
- Understand contemporary problems in French society (gay marriage, gender equality, the female image in the media, etc.)

ATTENDANCE POLICY:



Attendance is mandatory for all sessions, including visits. Absences and lateness will affect your ability to master class content. In addition, your final grade will be lowered for each absence.

Example:

- Final grade: A-
- 1 absence = A-, 2 absences = B+, 3 absences = B, 4 absences = B-

Being more than 15 minutes late to a course counts as an absence. 3 late arrivals (less than 15 minutes) count as an absence.

If a student misses more than 25% of class time, s/he will receive an F in the course.

Assignments and presentations missed because of absences will be given the grade of F.

When absences occur, students must inform their teacher and the French Studies Academic Coordinator as soon as possible (mfedon@iesabroad.org). In some instances (sickness with doctor's note for example), absences may be excused. If a student believes that an absence should be excused, they must contact Meghann or Seth.

Students should always inform their professor of their absence, as well as Meghann (mfedon@iesabroad.org).

CONTENT:

Session	Content	Reading and assignments
Session 1	Feminism in the French context: the "first wave" • Juliette, « Rimes féminines » (song, lyrics in booklet 1, p.3) • « Rokhaya Diallo on Joséphine Baker's panthéonisation: an ambiguous symbol» (2021, p.2) • Rokhaya Diallo sur Paris Première (2022) • Entretien avec Michelle Perrot (2010, p. 3)	Reading on the syllabus. Explanation of consistent check-up on coursework. Sign up for presentations.
Session 2	Feminism in the French context: the "first wave" • Olympe de Gouges, <i>Déclaration des droits de la femme et de la citoyenne</i>, 1791 (Moodle) • Françoise Vergès, pour un féminisme décolonial (vidéo) • Françoise Vergès, <i>Un féminisme décolonial</i> (2019, p.8) • Bibia Pavard, « Faire naître et mourir les vagues : comment s'écrit l'histoire des féminismes », <i>Itinéraires</i> (2018, p.6)	What is a "wave"? (text by Pavard) What is "the first wave"? What is Françoise Vergès' point of view?

Session 3	Towards the “second wave”: <i>The Second Sex</i>, Simone de Beauvoir - Simone de Beauvoir, <i>Le Deuxième sexe</i> (1949, livret 1, p.8 et 9) - Documentary on Simone de Beauvoir <i>On ne naît pas soumise, on le devient</i> par Manon Garcia (2021, p.9)	Read extracts from <i>The Second Sex</i> (Booklet 1, p. 6 et 7) What differences do you see in the terms “woman,” “women,” “feminism,” “the eternal feminine,” “femininity,” and “the female human being”? What is the philosophical meaning behind the word “submission”? What does Beauvoir on the “women” identity? Presentation: Present Manon Garcia’s text p.9
Session 4	The “second wave” 1. The MLF - Documents in booklet 1 p.4 et 9 - Agnès Varda, <i>L’Une chante, l’autre pas</i>, 1976 (film) - INA Video - Anthem and manifest (MLF, Coordination of Black Women, p.15)	Document booklet 1, p. 4: - What happened in France in 1968? - How, where, and who started the Women’s Movement? Presentation: present the anthem and the manifest p.15
Session 5	Purchase books at the Women’s bookshop, a feminist bookshop that specializes in gender studies, Antoinette Fouque	Meet at the bookshop, Saint-Germain-des-Prés
Session 6	The “second waves” 2. The materialist feminists - Christine Delphy, <i>Penser le genre. L’ennemi principal</i> (2001, booklet 1, p.17-20) - Monique Wittig, « On ne naît pas femme » (1980, booklet 1, p. 16)	Read pages 10-13 in booklet 1: what do you understand by the “materialist” perspective? What is gender? Presentation: The appropriation of women/sex and race — Colette Guillaumin (documents on Moodle) or text p.16
Session 7	La “second wave” 3. “Differentialist feminism” - Antoinette Fouque, « Il y a deux sexes » (1990, booklet 1, p.20-22) - Luce Irigaray, <i>Ce sexe qui n’en est pas un</i> (1977, booklet 1, p.8) - Documentary on Antoinette Fouque - Françoise d’Eaubonne, « Écologie et féminisme » (1974, p. 25)	Read the Irigaray text, p. 8. What kind of critique does Luce Irigaray say about the theory of sexuality as elaborated through psychoanalysis? What is ecofeminism? Presentation: Present the text of Francoise D’Eaubonne, « Écologie et féminisme », booklet 1, p.24

	Mandatory visit Compte-rendu about the visit, to present in class	Exhibition “Parisiennes citoyennes !” at the Carnavalet Museum in Paris Visit the exhibition and prepare an oral report to present on October 6 in class: -how does this exhibition echo our course? What information can you relate to your class notes? -choose one or two documents to present in particular.
Session 8	Viewing in class of extracts from One sings, the other does not by Agnès Varda Oral report of the exhibition “Parisiennes citoyennes! »	In class discussion
Session 9	La “second wave” 4. Feminist writings « Quand les femmes deviennent éditeurs » (booklet 1, p. 5 et 9) - Hélène Cixous, <i>Le Rire de la méduse</i> (1975, booklet 2, p. 2 et 3)	<i>P. 5, booklet 1, how do you understand the project of publishing the “repressed works from other publishing houses”?</i> <i>P. 9, booklet 1, how does Marie Dedieu describe the first edition of Torchon brûle? Why does she speak about “weaving”?</i> Presentation: Present on these documents p.12 and 14
Session 10	Testimonial writing: Annie Ernaux - Annie Ernaux, <i>L’Evènement</i>, 2000 (livre) - Conférence «Writing life» (vidéo sur Moodle)	Read L’Evènement. - How is the novel constructed? Discuss the important dates, the narrative style, text’s genre - What is the literary genre of this book? - What are the “feminist” aspects of the novel? Justify your answers. Presentation: Present on a passage of your choice.
Session 11	Testimonial writing: Annie Ernaux	Presentation: Present on a passage of your choice.
Session 12	Mid-term exam	Everything we have seen up until this point in the semester (including Annie Ernaux)

Session 13	The “third wave” 1. Gender trouble - Eric Fassin, introduction to Judith Butler, <i>Gender trouble</i>, trad. franç. (2005, Livret 2, p. 4) - Marie-Hélène Sam Bourcier, « Politiques queer » in <i>Queer zone</i> (2001, Livret 2, p.5) - Monique Wittig, « Paradigmes » (1979) ed. by Marie-Hélène Sam Bourcier, 2001 (booklet 2 p.6) - Judith Butler video	Eric Fassin’s introduction to Judith Butler’s essay (p.4): - What does Fassin discover about the ways that the French and the Americans think about gender? - What is “gender” for Judith Butler? What is hetero centrism? What is lesbianism? Presentation: Marie-Hélène/Sam Bourcier « Queer Move/ments » (document on Moodle) Or Monique Wittig, <i>La Pensée Straight</i>, « Paradigmes », p.30-31
Session 14	The “third wave” 2. Queer performances - Marie-Hélène Bourcier <i>Queer zone</i> (2001, livret 2, p. 11) - The works of Claude Cahun, Orlan, Emilie Juvet - Manifeste de l’Art Charnel d’Orlan, p.36-37	Read the manifesto of Orlan’s carnal art (booklet 2, p.15): what does feminist art consist of? Presentation: Orlan the artist and her (link on Moodle and the manifesto p.15)
Session 15	Screening of the film <i>Tomboy</i>, Céline Sciamma	Take notes during the screening. What questions related to gender are mentioned and highlighted in the movie?
Session 16	Screening of the film <i>Tomboy</i>, Céline Sciamma	In class discuss around the movie. Presentation: Present the book <i>Contre les jouets sexistes</i>
Session 17	The “third wave”: 2. Queer performances 2 – who decides gender? - Michel Foucault, « Le vrai sexe » (1980, p.33) - Michel Foucault, <i>Histoire de la sexualité</i> (1976, p.35) - Forum on bioethics : who decides gender?	What is Foucault criticizing when he speaks of “real sex”? of “sterile”? of “wild sex”? How does society deal with intersex? Presentation: European Bioethics Forum (video) on intersex “Who decides to define gender? (see Moodle)
Session 18	The “third wave” 4. A family “for everyone” - Sylviane Agacinski, <i>Corps en miettes</i> (2009, booklet 2, p. 8, 9) - Irène Théry, interview (Moodle)	What are the authors’ point of views? Presentation: Paul B. Preciado, « Exciter et contrôler », p. 37

	Paul B. Preciado, <i>Testo Junkie, sexe, drogue et biopolitique</i> (2008, p.37)	
Session 19	The “third wave” 5. Pro-sex feminists and the question of prostitution - Article, 2012, p.44-46 - Article by Mona Cholet, « Surprenante convergence sur la prostitution », 2014, p.47-50 - Virginie Despentès, « Coucher avec l’ennemi », 2006, p.51	<i>What is prostitution?</i> <i>How to tackle this activity with a feminist’s point of view?</i> <i>How does the State manage this discussion and this reality?</i> Presentation: Stéphane Corbin’s musical documentary against homophobia, <i>Les Funambules</i> (music on Moodle) OR Mona Cholet’s text.
Session 20	The “fourth wave”. A new tool: intersectionality - Hélé Béji, <i>Islam Pride : derrière le voile</i>, 2011 (p.53-56) - Entretien avec Zahra Ali, p.57-61 - Entretien avec Françoise Héritier (2004, p.52)	<i>Who are the « suffragettes du voile »?</i> <i>What do they stand for?</i> Presentation: Present the interview of Zahra Ali
Session 21	The “fourth wave”. Decolonizing feminism - Leonora Miano, <i>Ecrits pour la parole</i> (livre) - Émission avec Leonora Miano, France Culture - Françoise Vergès, « Féminisme décolonial et antiraciste », 2020, p.62	<i>What does Françoise Vergès say about the category “women”?</i> <i>Read the part “in-tranquilles” by Leonora Miano</i> Presentation: Present the excerpt.
Session 22	Screening of the film <i>Ouvrir la voix</i>, Amandine Gay (2017)	Presentation: Amandine Gay, <i>Ouvrir la voix</i>, 2017 (film) (Moodle) (<u>show excerpts in class</u>)
Session 23	The “fourth wave”. Afrofeminisms - Elsa Dorlin, <i>La Matrice de la race</i> (2006, p. 63) - Leonora Miano, <i>Ecrits pour la parole</i> (livre)	<i>Introduction to the Matrix of Race: how has the deconstruction of race factored into gender studies?</i> <i>Discussion on the movie.</i> Presentation.
Session 24	The “fifth wave”. Cyberfeminism - Geneviève Fraisse, <i>Les excès du genre</i> (2014, p.65) - Manifeste contre le publisexisme, p.63	Bring in class a picture of an ad from a magazine and comment the representation of gender. What does it imply? What is it teaching? Presentation: Choose an episode and comment it.

	- Collectifs Femen et La Barbe. Images montrées en classe #Kiffe ta race (YouTube)	
Session 25	Conclusion : male domination, and after? - Pierre Bourdieu, <i>La Domination masculine</i>, adaptation cinématographique de Patrick Jean (2009) - Virginie Despentes, <i>King Kong Théorie</i> (2006, p.64)	Review
Exam	Final exam.	Review all coursework since the mid-term exam

VISITS:

- A visit to the Women's Library (Paris)
- A visit to *l'Espace des Femmes* (bookshop/gallery), 35 Rue Jacob (Paris, 6th)
- A visit to the *Librairie Violette et cie*, "the library of lost boys and girls" (102, Rue de Charonne, 11th)
- A visit with the artist Colette Deblé

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Despentes, Virginie. *King Kong théorie*. Paris : Le Livre de Poche, 2006.
- Ernaux, Annie. *L'événement*. Paris : Folio, 2000.
- Textes des livrets IES et documents sur Moodle.

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- Agacinski, Sylviane. *Corps en miettes*. Paris : Flammarion, 2009. *Femmes entre sexe et genre*. Paris : Seuil, 2012.
- Ali, Zahra. *Féminismes islamiques*. Paris : La Fabrique, 2012.
- Beauvoir, Simone De. *Le Deuxième sexe*. Paris : Gallimard, 1949.
- Bibard Laurent. *Terrorisme et féminisme*. Paris : éd. Aube, 2016.
- Bourcier, Marie-Hélène. *Queer zone. Politique des identités sexuelles et des savoirs*. Paris : Éditions Amsterdam, 2001/2006.
- Bourdieu, Pierre. *La domination masculine*. Paris : Seuil, 1998.
- Butler, Judith. *Trouble dans le genre. Le féminisme et la subversion de l'identité* (1990). Tr. Cynthia Kraus. Paris : La Découverte Poche, 2005.
- Cixous, Hélène. *Le Rire de la Méduse et autres ironies*. Paris : Galilée, 2010.
- Collin, Françoise. Pisier, Eveline. Varikas, Eleni. *Les femmes de Platon à Derrida. Anthologie critique*. Paris : Plon, 2000.
- Delphy, Christine. *L'Ennemi principal vol.2 : Penser le genre*. Paris : Syllepses, 2001.
- Derrida, Jacques. Calle-Gruber, Mireille. « Scènes des différences. Où la philosophie et la poétique, indissociables, font événement d'écriture » in *La Différence sexuelle en tous genres*, revue *Littérature* n°142, juin 2006.
- Dorlin, Elsa. *La Matrice de la race*. La Découverte, 2006 ; *Sexe, genre et sexualités. Introduction à la théorie féministe*. Paris : PUF, 2008.
- Duby, Georges. Perrot, Michelle (dir.). *Histoire des femmes en Occident* (V tomes). Paris : Perrin, 2002.
- Duras, Marguerite. Gauthier, Xavière. *Les parleuses*. Paris : Minuit, 1974.

- Foucault, Michel. *Histoire de la sexualité 1. La Volonté de savoir*. Paris : Gallimard, 1976.
- Foucault, Michel. « Le vrai sexe » in *Dits et écrits 4*. Paris : Gallimard, 1980, p. 117-123.
- Fouque, Antoinette. *Il y a deux sexes. Essais de féminologie* (1995). Paris : Gallimard, 2004.
- Fraisse, Geneviève. *Les excès du genre*. Paris : Lignes, 2014.
- Héritier, Françoise. *Masculin, féminin. La pensée de la différence*. Paris : Jacob, 1996.
- Huston, Nancy. *Reflets dans un œil d'homme*. Paris : Actes sud, 2012.
- Irigaray, Luce. *Ce sexe qui n'en est pas un*. Paris : Minuit, 1977.
- Kofman, Sarah. *Le respect des femmes (Kant et Rousseau)*, Paris : Galilée, 1982.
- Kristeva, Julia. *Seule une femme*. Paris : L'Aube, 2007.
- Leclerc, Annie. *Parole de femme*, 1974.
- Malabou, Catherine. *Changer de différence. Le féminin et la question philosophique*. Paris : Galilée, 2009.
- Mestriri Soumaya, *Décoloniser le féminisme*. Paris : Vrin, 2016.
- Perrot, Michelle. *Mon histoire des femmes*. Paris : Seuil, 2006. (avec CD audio)
- Preciado, Paul. *Manifeste Contra-sexuel*, trad. MH Bourcier. Paris : Diable Vauvert, 2011.
- Wittig, Monique. *La Pensée Straight*. Paris : Amsterdam, 2007.

COLLECTIONS:

- *Dictionnaire des féministes*. PUF, 2017.
- *Dictionnaire universel des créatrices*, éd. des Femmes, 2013
- *Contre les jouets sexistes*. Ed. de l'Échappée, 2007.
- *Contre les publicités sexistes*. Ed. de l'Échappée, 2012.
- *Les féminismes en questions : éléments pour une cartographie* (entretiens avec Christine Bard, Marie-Hélène Bourcier, Christine Delphy, Eric Fassin, Françoise Gaspard, Nacira Guénif-Souilamas et Marcela Iacub) dirigé par Christelle Taraud, Paris : éd. Amsterdam, 2005.
- *La polysémie du voile*. Paris : Vrin, 2013.

Books:

- Arcan, Nelly. *Putain*. Paris : Seuil, 2001.
- Desportes, Virginie. *Baise-moi*. Paris : J'ai lu, 1994.
- Duras, Marguerite. *La Maladie de la mort*. Paris : Minuit, 1982.
- Ernaux, Annie. *Mémoire de fille*. Paris : Folio, 2016.
- Garréta, Anne. *Sphinx*. Paris : Grasset, 1986.
- Leduc, Violette. *Thérèse et Isabelle* : Gallimard, 1966.
- Miano, Leonora. *Écrits pour la parole*. L'Arche, 2012.
- Wittig, Monique. *Les Guérillères*. Paris : Minuit, 1969. *Le Corps lesbien*. Paris : Minuit, 1973.

Films:

- Benyamina, Houda. *Divines*. 2016.
- Dolan, Xavier. *Laurence Anyways*. 2012.
- Féret, René. *Le mystère Alexina*. 1985.
- Fourest, Caroline et Nadia El Fani. *Nos seins, nos armes*. 2013.
- Gay, Amandine. *Ouvrir la voix*, 2017.
- Kechiche, Abdellatif. *La Vie d'Adèle*. 2013.
- Provost, Martin. *Violette*. 2013.
- Sciamma, Céline. *Tomboy*. 2011. *Bande de filles*. 2014.
- Varda, Agnès. *L'une chante l'autre pas*. Ciné Tamaris, 1976.

Websites:

- -Portail du Ministère des Droits des femmes : <http://femmes.gouv.fr/>
- -Portail de l'Observatoire des questions sexuelles et raciales :

- http://observatoire2.blogs.liberation.fr/normes_sociales/
- -Institut Emilie du Châtelet : <http://www.institutemilieduchatelet.org/>
- -Blog Féministes en tous genres :
- <http://feministesentousgenres.blogs.nouvelobs.com/>
- -Blog « La place des femmes » : <http://egalite.blogs.liberation.fr/sexes/>
- -Revue *Sexe, genre et société* : <http://gss.revues.org/index.html>
- -Revue *Point[s] d'accroche* : <http://www.pointsdaccroche.com/>