

Winthrop University

COMPARATIVE INTERSECTIONAL FEMINISMS PLSC 510/510H/WMST 450, Sec 001, 3 credits

Dr. Jennifer Leigh Disney
Fall 2018
Mondays 6:30pm-9:15pm
Owen G-05

My Contact Information: (803) 323-4668; Bancroft Room #328, disneyj@winthrop.edu
PLSC Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:00-4:00pm and by appointment
PLSC Office Location: Bancroft Hall 328
WMST Office Hours: Mondays 5:00-6:00pm and by appointment
WMST Office Location: Bancroft 107

Required Texts

Barvosa, Edwina. *Wealth of Selves: Multiple Identities, Mestiza Consciousness, and the Subject of Politics*. Rio Grande, 2008.

Disney, Jennifer Leigh. *Women's Activism and Feminist Agency in Mozambique and Nicaragua*. Temple University Press, 2008.

Enloe, Cynthia. *The Big Push: Exposing and Challenging the Persistence of Patriarchy*. University of California Press, 2018.

Moraga, Cherrie and Gloria Anzaldúa (eds). *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings By Radical Women of Color*. Kitchen Table/Women of Color Press, 1981.

Narayan, Uma. *Dislocating Cultures: Identities, Traditions, and Third World Feminism*. Routledge Press, 1997.

The texts listed above have been ordered at the Bookstore. You are expected to read each required reading **before** the class period the reading is assigned.

Course Description

This course is designed to explore the theories and practices of what I will define as comparative intersectional feminisms. We will examine a variety of approaches toward intersectional feminisms in a global, comparative context and how global feminists seek to explain and understand women's social, political, and economic conditions around the world. We will examine Intersectionality, Third World Feminisms, Western Feminisms, Mestiza Consciousness, and Patriarchy within the context of the US and several countries from around the world. This course participates in Winthrop University's Global Learning Initiative by its very nature.

Women's Studies generally and global women's engagement specifically are arguably a necessary part of any curriculum for a variety of reasons: (1) the existing *misogyny* in much of the disciplinary treatment of women; (2) the *absence* of women within most disciplinary discourses; (3) claims of *universality* within theory and practice which are actually based on male experience; (4) claims of internationality within theory and practice which are actually based on First World, Western, Eurocentric experiences. This course seeks to offer a *critique* of such biases by bringing the experiences and perspectives of women from around the world into the discourse. In addition, this course is designed to offer *feminist reconceptualizations* of: (1) basic concepts used within the study of global politics; (2) existing structures and institutions of power in our society; and (3) visions of what a just world would look like. Throughout this course, we will pay particular attention to the relationships between the micro and macro levels of analysis, and the identities, realities and interlocking oppressions of gender, race, class, culture, ethnicity, nation and post-coloniality. I contend that the best way to construct an inclusive human community is to do so from the perspective of those who live at the intersections of multiple oppressions. An understanding of how interlocking systems of oppression operate is crucial to working toward their demise.

Course Goals

The goals of this course are to interrogate five provocative texts attempting to engage in what I call "comparative intersectional feminisms" collectively and for each of you to pursue an individual and independent research project on a question or topic of interest in the field which emerges for you from this process. Some of the questions you should feel comfortable answering by the end of this course include: What are Comparative Intersectional Feminisms? What is Intersectionality? What is Mestiza Consciousness? How are women engaging global politics? How are global politics engaging women? What impact does globalization have on these processes? What is the relationship between gender, race, class, ethnicity, sexuality, nationality, post-coloniality and culture in the lives of women and men around the world? How do these differences affect the lived experiences of women globally? What kinds of women's movements and constructions of 'feminism' exist around the world? What have women done in various political, cultural, and economic settings to challenge oppression and create a better world for themselves, their communities, other women, and their families? To what extent can Third World Feminisms and notions of 'intersectionality' offer a theory and a practice which unite women and men in a common fight against multiple systems of oppression?

Course Requirements

ORAL PARTICIPATION: This is a seminar for advanced undergraduates and graduate students. The enrollment is purposely kept low to ensure a class environment conducive to conversation, interaction, and active participation, including interrogating and questioning the ideas and concepts presented in the readings, thinking critically and creatively out loud, and posing questions to presenters and peers. Each of you should come to class prepared to discuss the readings assigned for that week. **You are responsible for taking notes on the readings and to utilize those notes during class discussions.** Everyone is expected to make a contribution to the discussion of the class texts through asking related questions, making relevant comments, suggesting criticisms, offering insights, or serving as a **discussion leader**.

WRITTEN PARTICIPATION: ALL STUDENTS are required to prepare **daily reading notes and/or discussion questions** to share with the class as part of your class participation grade. Notes and questions will be spot checked and asked to be shared as part of class discussion.

Undergraduates will each be required to write a **15-page research paper** based on a subject of interest to you in the field of comparative intersectional feminisms. To help assist you in completing this project, **undergraduates** will be required to submit a **1-page paper topic proposal and a 15-source annotated bibliography with 150 word single-spaced annotations**. Thus, your annotated bibliography assignment will be **5 pages** in length single spaced. The five books we are reading collectively in this class could be a part of your annotated bibliography. This should go a long way in helping to prepare you for completing quality final papers.

For intensive writing honors credit, in addition to the undergraduate requirements above, you will be required to submit a **5-page draft on November 5 and a 10-page draft on November 19**, integrating feedback received on the drafts. For all other students, draft feedback is optional.

Graduate Students will each be required to write a **20-page research paper** based on a subject of interest to you in the field of comparative intersectional feminisms. To help assist you in completing this project, submit a **2-page paper topic proposal and a 20-source annotated bibliography with 250-word single spaced annotations**. Thus, your annotated bibliography assignment will be **10 pages** in length single-spaced. The five books we are reading collectively in this class could be a part of your annotated bibliography. This should go a long way in helping to prepare you for completing quality final papers at the graduate level.

Your Grade Composition will be as follows:

Daily Class Notes & Participation in Reading/Discussion	10%
Discussion Leading & Paper Presentation	10%
Paper Proposal & Annotated Bibliography	20%
Research Paper	30%
In Class Cumulative Final Exam	30%

The **Grade Distribution** in this class will be as follows:

A- 90-92	A 93-96	A+ 97-99
B- 80-82	B 83-86	B+ 87-89
C- 70-72	C 73-76	C+ 77-79
F > 60		

Schedule of Class Topics and Reading Assignments: *(The need may arise to make changes to this schedule depending upon the development of the class. Any and all changes will be communicated to the class. It is the responsibility of each student to be aware of such changes.)*

August 20	Discussion of Course Description and Requirements Introduction to Comparative Intersectional Feminisms
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- August 27 Moraga, Cherrie and Gloria Anzaldua (eds). *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings By Radical Women of Color*, Part I: Children Passing in the Streets: The Roots of Our Radicalism and Part II: Entering the Lives of Others: Theory In The Flesh
- September 3 LABOR DAY – NO CLASS**
- September 10 Moraga, Cherrie and Gloria Anzaldua (eds). *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings By Radical Women of Color*, Part III and IV: And When You Leave, Take Your Pictures With You: Racism in the Women’s Movement and Between The Lines: On Culture, Class, and Homophobia
- September 17 Moraga, Cherrie and Gloria Anzaldua (eds). *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings By Radical Women of Color*, *Writings By Radical Women of Color*, Parts V and VI: Speaking in Tongues: The Third World Women Writer and El Mundo Zurdo: The Vision
- September 24 Barvosa, Edwina. *Wealth of Selves: Multiple Identities, Mestiza Consciousness, and the Subject of Politics*, Intro-Chapter 2
- October 1 **Paper Topic Proposal Due**
- Barvosa, Edwina. *Wealth of Selves: Multiple Identities, Mestiza Consciousness, and the Subject of Politics*, Chapters 3-4
- October 4 Interim Grading Deadline – 5:00pm [20% of Grade In]**
- October 8 Barvosa, Edwina. *Wealth of Selves: Multiple Identities, Mestiza Consciousness, and the Subject of Politics*, Chapters 5-Conclusion
- October 15 FALL BREAK - NO CLASS – WORK ON BIBLIOGRAPHIES!**
- October 19 *Course Withdraw Deadline*
- October 22 Annotated Bibliography Due**
- Narayan, Uma. *Dislocating Cultures: Identities, Traditions, and Third World Feminism*, Chapter 1-2
- October 29 Narayan, Uma. *Dislocating Cultures: Identities, Traditions, and Third World Feminism*, Chapters 3-5
- November 5 Disney, Jennifer Leigh. *Women’s Activism and Feminist Agency in Mozambique and Nicaragua*, Chapters 1-4

November 12	Disney, Jennifer Leigh. <i>Women's Activism and Feminist Agency in Mozambique and Nicaragua</i> , Chapters 5-8
November 19	Enloe, Cynthia. <i>The Big Push: Exposing and Challenging the Persistence of Patriarchy</i> , Preface-Chapter 4
November 26	Enloe, Cynthia. <i>The Big Push: Exposing and Challenging the Persistence of Patriarchy</i> , Chapter 5-Conclusion
December 3	PRESENTATIONS OF CLASS RESEARCH – FINAL PAPERS DUE

FINAL EXAM – MONDAY, DECEMBER 10 6:30PM - 9:00 PM – FINAL EXAM

Student Obligations and Opportunities

Attendance, Class Participation, and Taking Notes

Regular class attendance is required. Excessive absences will lower your grade in two ways: (1) loss of note-taking from class lecture and discussion; (2) loss of class participation opportunities. Class participation, which requires your presence, will raise or lower your grade. If prolonged illness or other problems cause you to be absent for an extended period of time, please call me and let me know. In addition, every student is expected to arrive on time. Arriving late or leaving early disrupts the class and is not acceptable. I will make frequent use of the class listserv provided by the Division of Computing and Information Technology, and you are required to subscribe to it. For additional information, go to:

http://www.winthrop.edu/technology/default.aspx?id=7081&ekmense1=bfef63b6_489_491_7081_1

Exam Policy: You must take exams on the days they are assigned. If an emergency arises, you must call me and leave a message on my voicemail by the day of the exam and be prepared to document the emergency in writing. I will then assess the possibility of a make-up exam. If this policy is not followed, you will receive a 0 for the exam.

Student Conduct Code: As noted in the Student Conduct Code: “Responsibility for good conduct rests with students as adult individuals.” The policy on student academic misconduct is outlined in the “Student Conduct Code Academic Misconduct Policy” in the online *Student Handbook* (<http://www2.winthrop.edu/studentaffairs/handbook/StudentHandbook.pdf>).

College of Arts and Sciences Appropriate Use of Technology Policy

<http://www.winthrop.edu/uploadedFiles/artscience/AppropriateUseOfHandHeldWirelessTechnologyApprovedPolicyMar2010.pdf>

Winthrop's Office of Accessibility (OA) Winthrop University is dedicated to providing access to education. If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact the OA at 323-2233 or accessibility, as soon as possible. Once you have your professor notification letter, please notify me so that I am aware of your accommodations early in the semester.

Winthrop's Office of Nationally Competitive Awards (ONCA) identifies and assists highly motivated and talented students to apply for nationally and internationally competitive awards, scholarships, fellowships, and unique opportunities both at home and abroad. ONCA gathers and disseminates award information and deadlines across the campus community, and serves as a resource for students, faculty, and staff throughout the nationally competitive award nomination

and application process. ONCA is located in Dinkins 222A. Please fill out an online information form at the bottom of the ONCA webpage www.winthrop.edu/onca and email onca@winthrop.edu for more information.

Winthrop's Academic Success Center is a free resource for all undergraduate students seeking to perform their best academically. The ASC offers a variety of personalized and structured resources that help students achieve academic excellence, such as tutoring, academic skill development (test taking strategies, time management counseling, and study techniques), group and individual study spaces, and academic coaching. The ASC is located on the first floor of Dinkins, Suite 106. Please contact the ASC at 803-323-3929 or success@winthrop.edu or www.winthrop.edu/success.

Winthrop's Office of Victims Assistance (OVA) provides services to survivors of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking as well as educational programming to prevent these crimes from occurring. The staff assists all survivors, regardless of when they were victimized, in obtaining counseling, medical care, housing options, legal prosecution, and more. In addition, the OVA helps students access support services for academic problems resulting from victimization. The OVA is located in 204 Crawford and can be reached at (803) 323-2206. In the case of an after-hours emergency, please call Campus Police at (803)323-3333, or the local rape crisis center, Safe Passage, at their 24-hour hot-line, (803)329-2800. For more information please visit: <http://www.winthrop.edu/victimsassistance/>.

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

Winthrop University takes an extremely serious view of violations of academic integrity. My in-class policy is one of zero tolerance for **any** form of academic dishonesty. In short, this means that a proven instance of plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the **course**, and not solely for the assignment in question. Using the words or ideas of others as one's own is plagiarism. Quoting or paraphrasing material from books or articles without properly citing the source is also plagiarism. All sources used must be properly cited in your papers. It is your responsibility to talk with me if you have any questions about research, citations, internet use, or paper composition. Such a discussion must take place before you submit a paper.

Dropping the Course: Winthrop's "N" Grade Policy

The last day that you can withdraw from a graduate fall semester course with an automatic "N" grade is **October 19**. Per university policy, students may not withdraw from a course after this date without documented extenuating circumstances. Appeals must be made to the Registrar.

You will earn the grade you receive in this class. It is your responsibility to make an appointment with me if you earn a grade below satisfactory.

Women's Studies/Global Women's Movements/Feminist Theory Reading List

Abramowitz, Mimi. Regulating the Lives of Women

Aguilar, Delia D. and Anne E. Lacsamana, eds. Women and Globalization.

Alexander, M. Jacqui and Chandra Talpade Mohanty. Feminist Genealogies, Colonial Legacies, Democratic Futures

Antrobus, Peggy. The Global Women's Movement: Origins, Issues, and Strategies

Baehr, Ninia. Abortion Without Apology: A Radical History for the 1990s

Basu, Amrita. The Challenge of Local Feminisms: Women's Movements in Global Perspective

Bauer, Gretchen and Hannah Britton, eds. Women in African Parliaments.

Beneria, Lourdes. Gender, Development, and Globalization: Economics as if All People Mattered

Bookman, Ann and Morgen, Sandra. Women and the Politics of Empowerment

Boserup, Ester. Women's Role in Economic Development

Britton, Hannah E. Women in the South African Parliament: From Resistance to Governance

Braidotti, Rosi, et al. Women, the Environment and Sustainable Development: Towards a Theoretical Synthesis

Bulbeck, Chilla. Re-Orienting Western Feminisms: Women's Diversity in a Postcolonial World

Brown, Wendy. States of Injury: Power and Freedom in Late Modernity

Butler, Judith. Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity; Bodies That Matter

Carver, Terrell. Gender is Not a Synonym for Women

Chaudhuri, Nupur and Strobel, Margaret. Western Women and Imperialism: Complicity and Resistance

Collins, Patricia Hill. Black Feminist Thought

Collinson, Helen. Women and Revolution in Nicaragua

Coole, Diana. Women in Political Theory: From Contemporary Misogyny to Contemporary Feminism

Dalla Costa, Mariarosa and Giovanna F. Dalla Costa. Women, Development and Labor of Reproduction:

Daly, Mary. Gyn/Ecology: The Metaethics of Radical Feminism

Darcy de Oliveira, Rosiska. In Praise of Difference: The Emergence of a Global Feminism.

de Beauvoir, Simone. The Second Sex

Deighton, Jane, Horsley, Rossana, et al. Sweet Ramparts: Women in Revolutionary Nicaragua

Disney, Jennifer Leigh. Women's Activism and Feminist Agency in Mozambique and Nicaragua

Donovan, Josephine. Feminist Theory: The Intellectual Traditions of American Feminism

Escobar, Arturo and Alvarez, Sonia. The Making of Social Movements in Latin America

Eisenstein, Hester. Contemporary Feminist Thought;
Feminism Seduced: How Global Elites Use Women's Labor and Ideas to Exploit the World

Eisenstein, Zillah. Capitalist Patriarchy and the Case for Socialist Feminism; The Radical Future of Liberal Feminism; Against Empire: Feminisms, Racism, and the West

Elshtain, Jean Bethke. Public Man. Private Woman: Women in Social and Political Thought

Engels, Friedrich. The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State

Enloe, Cynthia. Bananas, Beaches and Bases: Making Feminist Sense of International Politics;
Maneuvers: The Politics of Militarizing Women's Lives; Globalization & Militarism: Feminists
Make the Link: Nimo's War, Emma's War: Making Feminist Sense of Iraq War

Ferguson, Ann. Sexual Democracy: Women, Oppression, and Revolution

Ferree, Myra Marx and Martin. Feminist Organizations: Harvest of the New Women's Movement

Ferree, Myra Marx and Aili Mari Tripp, eds. Global Feminism: Transnational Women's Activism, Organizing, and Human Rights

Firestone, Shulamith. The Dialectic of Sex

Freedman, Estelle B. No Turning Back: The History of Feminism and the Future of Women;
The Essential Feminist Reader

Fried, Marilyn Gerber. From Abortion to Reproductive Freedom: Transforming a Movement

Goldberg, Gertrude Schaffner and Eleanor Kremen, eds. The Feminization of Poverty

Gordon, April. Transforming Capitalism and Patriarchy: Gender and Development in Africa

Gould, Carol (ed) Beyond Domination: New Perspectives on Women and Philosophy

Grewal, Inderpal. Transnational America: Feminisms, Diasporas, Neoliberalisms.

Hansen, Karen & Ilene Philipson, eds. Women, Class and the Feminist Imagination: A Socialist-Feminist Reader

Hartsock, Nancy. Money, Sex and Power: Toward a Feminist Historical Materialism

Held, Virginia. Feminist Morality: Transforming Culture, Society and Politics

Hennessy, Rosemary. Materialist Feminism and the Politics of Discourse

Holcombe. Managing to Empower: The Grameen Bank

hooks, bell. Ain't I a Woman; Feminist Theory From Margin to Center

Hoyt, Katherine. The Many Faces of Sandinista Democracy

Hull, Gloria, Scott, Patricia and Smith Barbara eds. All the Women are White, All the Blacks are Men, But Some of Us Are Brave

Jayawardena, Kumari. Feminism and Nationalism in the Third World

Jones, Kathleen and Jonasdottir, Anna. The Political Interests of Gender: Developing Research w/ Feminist Face

Kaplan, Caren, Norma Alarcón, Mino Moallem, Between Woman and Nation: Nationalisms, Transnational Feminisms, State

Kaplan, Temma. Crazy for Democracy: Women in Grassroots Movements.

Kennedy, Elizabeth and Mendus, Susan Women in Western Political Philosophy: Kant to Nietzsche

MacKinnon, Catherine. Toward a Feminist Theory of the State

Mamdani, Mahmood and Ernest Wamba dia Wamba, eds. African Studies in Social Movements and Democracy

Mansbridge, Jane. Beyond Adversary Democracy

Marchand, Marianne and Jane Parpart, eds. Feminism/Postmodernism/Development

McCann, Carole R. and Seung-kyung Kim (eds). Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives

Mies, Maria. Patriarchy and Accumulation on a World Scale

Mikell, Gwendolyn. African Feminism: The Politics of Survival in Sub-Saharan Africa

Millet, Kate. Sexual Politics

Mohanty, Chandra, Russo, Ann and Lourdes, Torres. Third World Woman and the Politics of Feminism

Mohanty, Chandra Talpade. Feminism Without Borders: Decolonizing Theory, Practicing Solidarity

Moghadam, Valentine M. Globalizing Women: Transnational Feminist Networks

Moraga, Cherrie and Anzaldúa, Gloria eds. This Bridge Called My Back: Writings By Radical Women of Color

Napels, Nancy and Manisha Desai (eds). Women's Activism and Globalization: Linking Local Struggles and Transnational Politics

Narayan, Uma and Harding, Sandra, eds. Decentering the Center: Philosophy for a Multicultural, Postcolonial World

Nicholson, Linda. Feminism/Postmodernism

Okin, Susan Moller. Women in Western Political Thought; Justice, Gender, and the Family

Oyewumi, Oyeronke. The Invention of Women: Making an African Sense of Western Gender Discourses

Oyewumi, Oyeronke, ed. African Women & Feminism: Reflecting on the Politics of Sisterhood

Parpart, Jane and Stichter, Sharon (eds). Women, Employment and the Family in the International Division of Labor.

Parpart, Jane and Kathleen A. Staudt. Women and the State in Africa

Pateman, Carol. The Sexual Contract, The Problem of Political Obligation, The Disorder of Women

Petchesky, Rosalind. Abortion and Women's Choice: The State, Sexuality, and Reproductive Freedom

Piven, Frances Fox and Richard Cloward. Regulating the Poor; Poor People's Movements

Radcliffe, Sarah A. and Sallie Westwood. eds. 'Viva': Women and Popular Protest in Latin America

Rajan, Rajeswari Sunder. Real & Imagined Women: Gender, Culture and Postcolonialism

Randall, Margaret. Gathering Rage: The Failure of 20th Century Revolutions to Develop a Feminist Agenda

Rose, Nancy. Workfare or Fair Work: Women, Welfare and Government Work Programs

Ruchwarger, Gary. Struggling for Survival: Workers, Women and Class on a Nicaraguan State Farm

Sargent, Lydia ed. Women and Revolution: A Discussion of The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism

Sassoon, Anne Showstack, ed. Women and the State

Sawicki, Jana. Disciplining Foucault: Feminism, Power and the Body

Schechter, Susan. Women and Male Violence

Sen, Gita and Cowan, Caren. Development Crises and Alternative Visions (DAWN)

Shanley, Mary and Pateman Carole. Feminist Interpretations and Political Theory

Sheldon, Kathleen. Pounders of Grain: Women, Work, History in Mozambique

Smith, Bonnie G. (ed). Global Feminisms Since 1945: Rewriting Histories.

Shiva, Vandana and Maria Mies. Ecofeminism

Sparr, Pamela ed. Mortgaging Women's Lives: Feminist Critiques of Structural Adjustment

Spelman, Elizabeth. Inessential Woman: Problems of Exclusion in Feminist Thought

Stephen, Lynn. Women and Social Movements in Latin America: Power From Below

Terborg-Penn, Rosalyn and Andrea Benton Rushing eds. Women in Africa and the African Diaspora

Tetreault, Mary Ann. Women and Revolution in Africa, Asia and the New World

Tronto, Joan. Moral Boundaries: A Political Argument for an Ethic of Care

Urdang, Stephanie. And Still They Dance: Women, War and the Struggle for Change in Mozambique

Visvanathan, Nalini, et.a. The Women, Gender, and Development Reader

Waller, Marguerite and Marcos, Sylvia (eds). Dialogue and Difference: Feminisms Challenge Globalization

Wieringa, Saskia ed. Subversive Women: Women's Movements in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean

Wing, Adrien Katherine, ed. Global Critical Race Feminism: An International Reader

Young, Iris Marion. Justice and the Politics of Difference

The Bridge Poem

by Donna Kate Rushin

I've had enough
I'm sick of seeing and touching
Both sides of things
Sick of being the damn bridge for everybody

Nobody
Can talk to anybody
Without me Right?

I explain my mother to my father my father to my little sister
My little sister to my brother my brother to the white feminists
The white feminists to the Black church folks the Black church folks
To the Ex-hippies the ex-hippies to the Black separatists the
Black separatists to the artists the artists to my friends' parents...

Then
I've got the explain myself
To everybody

I do more translating
Than the Gawdamn U.N.

Forget it
I'm sick of it

I'm sick of filling in your gaps

Sick of being your insurance against
The isolation of your self-imposed limitations
Sick of being the crazy at your holiday dinners
Sick of being the odd one at your Sunday Brunches
Sick of being the sole Black friend to 34 individual white people

Find another connection to the rest of the world
Find something else to make you legitimate
Find some other way to be political and hip

I will not be the bridge to your womanhood
Your manhood
Your human-ness

I'm sick of reminding you not to
Close off too tight for too long

I'm sick of mediating with your worst self
On behalf you your better selves

I am sick
Of having to remind you
To breathe
Before you suffocate
Your own fool self

Forget it
Stretch or drown
Evolve or die

The bridge I must be
Is the bridge to my own power
I must translate
My own fears
Mediate
My own weaknesses

I must be the bridge to nowhere
But my true self
And then
I will be useful

-from *This Bridge Called My Back*, edited by: Cherrie Moraga and Gloria Anzaldua, New York: Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press, 1983.

I Ain't the Right Kind of Feminist
By Cheryl L. West
I Ain't the Right Kind of Feminist
First off I'm too confused
Secondly you know my blackness envelops me
Thirdly my articulateness fails me
When the marching feminists come by
I walk with them for awhile
And then I trip over pebbles I didn't see
My sexist heels are probably too high
I'm stuck in the sidewalk cracks

Oh were Oh were has my feminsim gone...
Don't you know it's chasing after

blackness
Somewhere in the white sea

I'm in the movement
No chile
I'm not talking about dancing
I'm in the liberation movement
Yeah I'm talking baout the PLO
Yeah I'm talking about South Africa and
apartheid
No I did not say you were fit to be tired

I am a woman
You are a lady
We are sisters in the movement
It's about neapolitan ice cream
Mixed and oh so sweet
It's not about white and sterility

Girl what are you talking about
I can have kids
My people have always had kids
No it's about oppression of all oppressees
But they never come in peace
They just go some different labels
Tell me
Is sisterhood the same as the 60's
brotherhood

Oh where Oh were has my blackness gone

Don't you know it's chasing after Ms. Feminism
Somewhere in the white sea

I belong to a consciousness raising group
I have rhetoric
I am a sociologist
I study race, pride, sex, class, humanity
I also make mention of all the "isms"
I am a feminist

Well I am a sister
I am fluid in the dozens
I study us
I study urban renewal

Which includes my bathroom roaches
And my kitchen mice
And the animals down at Public Aid
Tell me about the man that has filled my
belly
and ten others with babies

Come share with me sister feminist
Let us dance the movement
Let my blackness catch your feminism
Let your oppression peek at mine
After all
I ain't the right kind of feminist
I'm just woman

-from *Third World Woman and the Politics of Feminism*,
edited by Mohanty, Chandra, Russo, Ann and Lourdes, Torres (editors), Indiana
University
press, 1991

Film Documentary: THE F WORD ([HQ1421.F2 2007](#))
Definitions of Feminism from Various Sources: Evaluate and Discuss
Dr. Jennifer Leigh Disney

“Feminism is the principle that women should have political, economic, and social rights equal to those of men and the movement to win such rights” (Webster’s New World Dictionary).

“Feminism asks the world to recognize at long last that women aren’t decorative ornaments, worthy vessels, members of a ‘special interest group;’ they are half of the national population” (Susan Faludi).

“The feminist agenda is...about a socialist, anti-family political movement that encourages women to leave their husbands, kill their children, practice witchcraft, destroy capitalism, and become lesbians” (Pat Robertson).

“Feminism is the political theory and practice to free all women: women of color, working women, poor women, physically challenged women, lesbians, old women, as well as white, economically privileged, heterosexual women” (Barbara Smith).

“I myself have never been able to find out what precisely feminism is: I only know that people call me a feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a doormat” (Rebecca West).

“If the feminist movement does not address itself to issues of race, class and imperialism, it cannot be relevant to alleviating the oppression of most of the women of the world” (Cheryl Johnson-Odim).

“Feminism is a method of approaching life and politics, a way of asking questions and searching for answers, rather than a set of political conclusions about the oppression of women” (Nancy Hartsock).

“There is and must be a diversity of feminisms responsive to the different needs and concerns of different women and defined by them for themselves” (Nilufer Catatoy, Caren Grown, Aida Santiago).