

TO: Committee on Educational Policy
DATE: October 13, 2008
RE: Disciplinary Communications Objectives from Departments to CEP

Disciplinary Communications (DC) in Feminist Studies

I. Educational Objectives

Feminist studies courses are designed to introduce students to an interdisciplinary field of analysis that investigates how relations of gender are embedded in social, political, and cultural formations. Our courses thus emphasize reading and writing practices that engage actively with multiracial and transnational contexts.

We are especially committed to an interdisciplinary focus, as the major in Feminist Studies offers opportunities to pursue careers in fields such as law, social services, public policy, health care, and higher education.

Writing

Students learn

1. skills of close reading and analysis, drawn from an exploration of a diverse range of materials (films, literary texts, scientific tracts, legal decisions, etc.)
2. an understanding of gender as constitutive of all knowledge-formations
3. multiple forms of textual interpretation (feminist, Marxist, queer, postcolonial, etc.)

Speaking/presentation

Our curriculum is unique in that each course is designed to require students to engage in some form of active verbal presentation. In the larger lecture courses, students are required to participate fully in small sections (run by teaching assistants), while seminars explicitly mandate student presentations as part of the final evaluation.

II. How the educational objectives are met in the curriculum

List of course(s) committed to disciplinary communication objectives

A selection of the following Feminist Studies seminar courses are taken as major requirements for all pathways of the major. Disciplinary communications objectives are evidenced in the course descriptions included below.

102. Feminist Critical Race Studies. *

Working from the perspective that race is a cultural invention and racism is a political, economic, and social relation, investigates how "race" is produced as a meaningful and powerful social category, examines the effects of racism as a social relation, and argues for the

necessity of combining feminist and critical race studies. By considering different historical periods and places, aims to equip students with the tools necessary to critically examine the production and reproduction of race and racism in the U.S. Prerequisite(s): one course from feminist studies. Enrollment restricted to juniors and seniors. Enrollment limited to 20. (General Education Code(s): E.) The Staff

110. Women Writers of the African Diaspora. *

Advanced introduction to contemporary writings of black women in U.S., Africa, and the Caribbean, focusing on relationship between these different sites of production in context of struggles against colonialism and patriarchy. Organized around theme of perception, divided into three main parts: Part I treats texts directing our attention to different orders of perception; Part II includes three novels with psychological problems at their center; and Part III turns to issue of tradition and conflicts of contemporary black women in relation to gender, class, and nationality. Enrollment limited to 25. (General Education Code(s): E.) G. Dent

115. Gender, Sexuality, and Transnational Migration Across the Americas. *

Examines migration as a mode of inquiry into transnational practices across geographic locales and temporal zones. Analyzes migration in relation to the transnational formation of gender, race, and sexuality as well as processes of neocolonialism, the state, and globalization. Prerequisite(s): course 1, 80C, 100, or 145. Enrollment restricted to sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Enrollment limited to 25. (General Education Code(s): E.) F. Schaeffer-Grabiell

116. Ethnographies of Transnational Feminisms. S

Examines recent approaches to the ethnographic representation of transnationalism as both a conscious strategy for feminist alliance and as a condition of global political economy. Topics covered include feminist anthropology, non-governmental organizations, human and reproductive rights, and international peace movements. Prerequisite(s): course 1 or 80C. Enrollment limited to 30. The Staff

117. Gender and Africa. *

Considers both the research on gender in African studies and the role of gender in the production of the idea of Africa. Focuses attention through the humanities on the meaning-making of and about Africa in its global context. Prerequisite(s): satisfaction of the Entry Level Writing and Composition requirement. Enrollment restricted to juniors and seniors. Enrollment limited to 20. (General Education Code(s): W, E.) G. Dent

124. Technologies and Latinidad: Cyberspace and Beyond. *

Introduction to analyzing technology as it is produced through gender, race, class, and sexualized differences. Examines film and the Internet through the genealogy of these technologies in relation to U.S. nationalism, development, and empire, creating social communities and new identities, and the global production of labor. Examines interdisciplinary methods (ethnography, media analysis, cultural studies and, literary analysis) to broaden understanding of Latina/o subjectivity as historical construct mediated through various modes of visual production. Enrollment restricted to sophomore, junior, and senior

feminist studies majors during priority enrollment only. Enrollment limited to 25. (General Education Code(s): E.) F. Schaeffer-Grabiel

126. Images, Power, and Politics: Methods in Visual and Textual Analysis. W

Introduces the analysis of visual images and text with particular emphasis on feminist critical methodologies. Using case studies from photography, film, TV, advertising, and new media, students learn how to read and analyze culture. Enrollment restricted to sophomore, junior, and senior feminist studies majors during priority enrollment only. Enrollment limited to 25. N. Atanasoski

127. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). W

Introduces transnational networks of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working on a variety of issues. Critical feminist tools applied to aims, rhetoric, and outcomes of organizations in areas of student's individual interest. Topics and NGO orientation covered include sustainable development, microfinance, indigenous rights, and women's empowerment. Prerequisite(s): satisfaction of the Entry Level Writing and Composition requirements. Enrollment restricted to sophomore, junior, and senior feminist studies majors during priority enrollment. Enrollment limited to 20. (General Education Code(s): W.) The Staff

132. Gender and Postcoloniality. *

Postcolonial feminist studies. Explores how discourses of gender and sexuality shaped the policies and ideologies of the historical processes of colonialism, the civilizing mission, and anticolonial nationalism. Considers orientalism as a gendered discourse as well as colonial understandings of gender and sexuality in decolonialization. Explores Western media representations, literature, the law, and the place of gender in the current debate between cultural relativism and universalism. Provides an understanding of some key terms in postcolonial studies and an in-depth examination of the place of gender in these processes. Prerequisite(s): courses 80C or 80F and course 100 or permission of instructor. Enrollment restricted to juniors and seniors. Enrollment limited to 20. (General Education Code(s): E.) The Staff

133. Science and the Body. F

Contemporary technoscientific practices, such as nano-, info-, and biotechnologies, are rapidly reworking what it means to be human. Course examines how both our understanding of the human and the very nature of the human are constituted through technoscientific practices. Prerequisite(s): course 1 or 80C; and course 100. Enrollment restricted to juniors and seniors. Enrollment limited to 20. K. Barad

150. Women's Culture. S

Philosophical, historical, and aesthetic implications of women's consciousness of social reality. Both the sexual division of labor and the subordination of women in society give rise to distinctive categories of thought. Course objectives: locate and consider these categories of thought as they are presented in women's expressive culture; redefine culture, beauty, and artistry from a feminist perspective; and propose a praxis for creating and transmitting culture. Prerequisite(s): course 1 or 80C. Enrollment restricted to juniors and seniors.

Recommended for students with a background in feminist studies, cultural, and/or ethnic studies. Enrollment limited to 20. B. Aptheker

185. Psychoanalysis and Feminism. *

Introduction to Freudian and Lacanian theories of sexuality and the construction of the self as well as to feminist critiques and rewritings of those theories. An attempt is made to place psychoanalytic theory in socioeconomic, racial, and colonialist contexts. Appropriate prior work in theory is recommended as preparation. Enrollment restricted to juniors and seniors. Enrollment limited to 25. H. Moglen

189. Advanced Topics in Feminist Theory. *

Focus on a particular problem in feminist theory. Problems vary each year but might include theorizing the gendered subject, racializing gender, the meeting points of psychoanalysis and social-political analysis in theorizing gender, the relationship between queer theory and feminist theory, postcolonial feminist theory. Prerequisite(s): course 100. Enrollment restricted to juniors, seniors, and graduate students. Enrollment limited to 20. May be repeated for credit. The Staff

196. Feminist Methods of Teaching. F

Practicum for undergraduates assisting in the teaching of course 1, Introduction to Feminisms, to conduct sections and evaluate student papers. A weekly seminar considers issues relating to experiential and critical thinking, authority in the classroom, effective facilitation of group process, racial diversity, violence against women. Prerequisite(s): interview with instructor the quarter before course is offered and course 1 or 80C. Students must be upper-division and have a background in feminist studies and/or ethnic studies. Enrollment limited to 25. B. Aptheker

194. Senior Seminar.

Discussion classes providing a broad overview of some general "area of concentration." Discussion of assigned readings, focus on oral presentations, and a final 20- to 25-page paper. Satisfies the senior comprehensive requirement in feminist studies. Enrollment limited to 20.

194A. Feminist Jurisprudence. *

Approaches legal reasoning from a feminist and intersectional perspective with attention to structures and jurisdiction, case materials, and emerging international frameworks for gender justice. Designed to facilitate completion of a substantial research essay based in feminist legal philosophy. Instructor permission required to enroll. Prerequisite(s): course 112 or Politics 112. Enrollment restricted to senior feminist studies majors. Enrollment limited to 20. G. Dent

194D. Feminist Science Studies. S

Examines different feminist approaches to understanding the nature of scientific practices. Particular attention paid to notions of evidence, methods, cultural and material constraints, and the heterogeneous nature of laboratory practices. Considers the ways in which gender, race, and sexuality are constructed by science and how they influence both scientific practices and conceptions of science. Also examines the

feminist commitment to taking social factors into account without forfeiting the notion of objectivity. Prerequisite(s): course 1 or 80C; and course 100. Enrollment restricted to senior feminist studies majors. Enrollment limited to 20. K. Barad

194E. History of Sexuality. *

Explores one of the central texts of dialogue and contestation in sexuality studies today: Michel Foucault's *The History of Sexuality*. Considers the epistemic challenges outlined in Foucault's early work and engages its instantiations in the proliferating scholarship on gender, sexuality, and critical race studies. Readings challenge the marginalization of empire in Foucault's work and demonstrate that a history of 19th-century European sexuality must also be a history of race. Interview with instructor required. Enrollment restricted to senior feminist studies majors. Enrollment limited to 20. A. Arondekar

194F. Chicana/Latina Cultural Production. *

Traces the intersection between Chicana studies and Latin American studies through transnational forms of cultural production, imaginaries, and empowerment. Analysis of theories of cultural production and discussion of the political salience of culture as a site for resistance, critique, and creativity. Prerequisite(s): course 100. Enrollment restricted to seniors. Enrollment limited to 20. (General Education Code(s): E.) F. Schaeffer-Grabiell

194G. Images of Africa. *

Explores questions of colonialism, empire, race, gender, and geopolitics in the proliferating images—filmic, televisual, and media—of Africa in the United States. Facilitates the completion of a substantial research essay based on the study of popular culture. Enrollment restricted to seniors. Prerequisite(s): course 100; enrollment by permission of instructor. Enrollment limited to 20. G. Dent

194I. Feminist Oral History and Memoir. *

Designed to train students in oral history and memoir writing. Emphasizes the specialness of transgressive voices; race, class, and sexuality, women's silence, erasure, censorship, and marginalization are addressed. The politics of memory, narratives, storytelling, and editorial judgment are considered. Prerequisite(s): satisfaction of the Entry Level Writing and Composition requirements; course 1 or 80C; and course 100. Enrollment restricted to senior feminist studies majors. Enrollment limited to 20. (General Education Code(s): W.) B. Aptheker

194J. Advanced Feminist Philosophy. *

Focuses on issues in epistemology and ontology: the construction of knowledge and objectivity, rationality and emotions, subjectivity and personal identity, and the body and sexuality. (Also offered as Philosophy 190T. Students cannot receive credit for both courses.) Prerequisite(s): course 100 or 168. Enrollment limited to 20. J. Hoy

194M. Empire and Sexuality. *

Explores the production of sexualities, sexual identification, and gender differentiation within multiple contexts of colonialism, decolonization, and emerging neo-colonial global formations. (Formerly course 118.) Prerequisite(s): course 100 or 145. Enrollment restricted to senior feminist studies majors and to graduate students. Enrollment limited to 20. (General Education Code(s): E.) A. Arondekar

194N. Gender, Class, and Sex in Shanghai. W

Focusing on Shanghai, course examines issues of gender, class, and sex in modern urban Chinese history. Given Shanghai's history as a treaty port, particular attention paid to ways in which its semi-colonial status inflected the articulation of gender identities, class formations and issues of sexuality (particularly sexual labor). Also looks at Shanghai during the Maoist period and in the context of more contemporary economic reforms. (Also offered as History 194A. Students cannot receive credit for both courses.) Prerequisite(s): satisfaction of Entry Level Writing and Composition requirements; and course 80C, or History 140C, or History 140D, or History 140E, or permission of instructor. Restricted to junior and senior feminist studies majors. Enrollment limited to 20. (General Education Code(s): W.) Emily Honig

194P. Religion, Gender, and Politics. W

Addresses the relationship between religious identities and movements, gender and sexuality, and feminism. Analyzes how media discourses, popular culture, and scholarly writing represent the role of religion and gender in shaping contemporary geopolitics. Prerequisite(s): courses 1 and 100. Enrollment restricted to senior feminist studies majors. Enrollment limited to 20. N. Atanasoski

194R. Global Health and Reproduction. F

Examines the institutions and discourses of global health and reproduction from a perspective informed by feminist reimagining of the relationship between the body and society, with special focus on links between conceptions of health and international development projects. Prerequisite(s): courses 1 and 100. Enrollment restricted to senior feminist studies majors. Enrollment limited to 20. The Staff

How each course contributes to the objectives

All listed courses contribute directly to our listed educational objectives. Each of the listed courses requires students to study and carefully analyze in written form the contents of a wide variety of texts. Such written assignments range from bi-weekly response papers and mid-term essays to final research papers. Each of these writing assignments is at least 3 pages long, and each course produces at least 24-25 pages of total writing. Worth noting here is that Feminist Studies students routinely revise their written assignments, which further strengthens their writing skills.

For example, all of our senior seminars require students to complete a final paper on a carefully articulated research topic. Students enrolled in senior seminars regularly write over 25 pages of text, and are supervised at each step by their instructors. These seminars usually

require students to submit a research proposal (3 pages) and an annotated bibliography (3 pages), in addition to two 15-20 page drafts of the final paper.