

W495 deals with patterns of thought that shape our world and that shape research about our world. Each semester will have a different focus, and the course may be repeated for credit.

The first half of Fall 1990 will focus on myths of mothering and on myths of science. It will consist of the close reading and analysis of assigned texts. Students will be designated as discussion leaders of individual essays or chapters, and they will be expected to come to the seminar with lists of questions for the class on the texts, as well as their own independent analysis of the text. The discussions in the first half of the semester will raise major questions about the methods and solidity of research.

"Research" can mean two different things: 1) the gathering together of data already in existence, or 2) the creation of data not in existence. 1) usually involves high use of the library; 2) usually involves the laboratory (or outside society used as a laboratory).

The second half of the semester will involve reports by students on subjects that particularly interest them, with critiques and questions from others in the seminar. Reports will be based upon research 1 above, and students will also describe (or begin to describe) how research 2 might be conducted on their subject.

There will be no examinations. Grades will be based upon discussion, reports, and critiques, the ratio subject to negotiation.

#### TEXTS

SIGNS. Journal of Women in Culture and Society. Spring, 1990.

Ruth Bleier. Science and Gender. NY: Pergamon Press, 1984.

#### PREREQUISITES

B250 and W200 (or W100).

Junior, senior, or graduate status.

Consent of the instructor. (My office is N320. If I am not in, phone me at home: 234-9648. Leave messages in N459, phone 237-4308.)

ASSIGNMENTS will be given at seminar meetings, since they are dependent upon the interests of class members.

W495 Fall 1990 Partial Calendar

Discussion Leaders

Sep 19 (W) Sharon

Anita Clair Fellman, "Laura Ingalls and Rose Wilder Lane:  
The Politics of a Mother-Daughter Relationship," p.535ff.

Sep 24 (M) Rose

Nancy Rose Hunt, "Domesticity and Colonialism in Belgian  
Africa: Usumbura's Foyer Social, 1946-1960," p.447ff.

Sep 26 (W) Betty

Shuli Barzilai, "Reading 'Snow White': The Mother's Story,"  
p.515ff.

Oct 1 (M) Cameo

Ann B. Murphy, "The Borders of Ethical, Erotic, and Artistic  
Possibilities in Little Women," p. 562ff.

Oct 3 (W) Pam

Janet Liebman Jacobs, "Reassessing Mother Blame in Incest,"  
p.500ff.

Oct 8 (M) Marsha

Sep 24 Choose book for Review/Report.

To help fulfill the readings requirement for W495, each student will report on a book chosen from the list below. Choices should be in an area in which you are weak.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Susan Moller Okin. Women in Western Political Thought. Princeton University Press, 1979. 304 pp. \$12.95 paper.

Jean Bethke Elshtain. Women and War. Basic Bks., 1987. \$9.95, 258 pp.

ECOFEMINISM

Judith Plant, ed. Healing the Wounds: The Promise of Eco-feminism. New Society Publishers, 1989. 253 pp., 12.95.

SOCIAL HISTORY/LESBIANISM/FRIENDSHIPS BETWEEN WOMEN

Lillian Faderman. Surpassing the Love of Man. William Morrow, 1981, 415pp. 10.95

BIOLOGY/SOCIOBIOLOGY/PRIMATOLOGY

Sarah Blaffer Hrdy. The Woman That Never Evolved. Harvard Univ. Press, 1981. 191pp. \$9.95

Donna Haraway. Primate Visions: Gender, Race, and Nature in the World of Modern Science. Routledge, 1989. 471 pp.

INTERNATIONAL FEMINISM

Cynthia Enloe. Bananas, Beaches and Bases: Making Feminist Sense of International Politics. Berkeley: U. of California Press, 1989. 201 pp.

(Perhaps also Don't Be Afraid, Gringo, the story of a Hondouran woman.) Exact title: DON'T BE AFRAID, GRINGO: A HONDURAN WOMAN SPEAKS FROM THE HEART. BY Elvia Alvarado. Perrenial Library, 1989. 169pp.

AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN'S HISTORY

Paula Giddings. When and Where I Enter: The Impact of Black Women on Race and Sex in America. Bantam, 1985. 357pp. 8.95

(please turn over)

LITERARY STUDIES

Dale Spender. Man Made Language. Routledge, 1980, 1985.

The Writing or the Sex? Pergamon Press, 1989.  
201 pp.

Specific instructions as to the format of your review/report will be forthcoming.

Book selections are to be made by September 24. Do NOT choose a book you have already read. If you want to read a book not on the above list, you need my permission.