



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Department of Sociology

A. Reading course in Modern and contemporary texts in gender and feminist theory (PhD level)

A third level (PhD) “reading course” does not involve any teaching and typically only has one or a few participants taking part in the course. A reading course for 7.5 credits should cover an ambitious and demanding reading material, which exact page number can vary depending on the nature of texts (i.e., heavy dominance of research articles). The Department of Sociology offer reading courses to its PhD students on areas that cover either a specific topic of high relevance for the PhD thesis, or a specific area of research expertise in the Department. This course belongs to the latter category.

This course has been reviewed by the Director of graduate studies on 2018-12-10.

B. Course Details, Assessment, Grades

This course is offered by Sara Eldén upon demand as a reading course on the readings listed under D, below. There is no teaching. The course is examined on the basis of a written paper (in English or Swedish) of 10-15 pages and/or an oral examination.

The grades for the course are awarded as Pass or Fail. To receive a Pass, the student must fulfil the learning outcomes specified for the course and demonstrate an independent, reflective, well-informed and critical relationship to the issues presented in the course.

C. Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course the student should be able to:

- 1) Summarize the main outlines of the research field covered in the reading material;
- 2) Critically examine contributions to the relevant research field;
- 3) Apply some of the ideas in the literature to a research problem.

D. Course content

The aim of this course is to provide advanced knowledge of modern/contemporary feminist writings and debates, with relevance for sociological theorizing. The purposes of the course is to develop students’ understanding of gender, feminist debates, and different feminist approaches to the study of gender in sociology.

The literature covers key debates in feminist theorizing, primarily focusing the ‘second wave’ of feminist theorizing. Themes covered are sex/gender as practice and social construction; intersectionality; gender and power and new materialisms.

In addition to the mandatory readings, the student chooses relevant literature corresponding with one's interest, either chosen from the elective reading list provided below, or other suggested readings.

E. Admission Requirements

Applicants must be admitted to the Ph.D. program at the Department of Sociology, Lund University, or be accepted as a visiting student to that program.

F. Course Literature

THEMES

1. SEX/GENDER

→ Mandatory

Butler, J. (1990) *Gender Trouble. Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*. London: Routledge. Selected excerpts (tot p. 190).

Butler-Fraser debate:

- Butler, Judith (1998) Merely Cultural, in *New Left Review* I/227 <https://newleftreview.org/I/227/judith-butler-merely-cultural> [Pp. 12]
- Fraser, Nancy (1998) Heterosexism, Misrecognition and Capitalism: A Response to Judith Butler <https://newleftreview.org/I/228/nancy-fraser-heterosexism-misrecognition-and-capitalism-a-response-to-judith-butler> [Pp. 10]

→ Elective

West, C & Zimmerman, D (1987) Doing Gender. *Gender in Society* 1: 125-151. [Pp. 27]

Miller, J. (2002). The Strengths and Limits of 'Doing Gender' for Understanding Street Crime. *Theoretical Criminology*, 6(4): 433-460. doi:10.1177/136248060200600403. [Pp. 28]

2. INTERSECTIONAL FEMINISM & DOING INTERSECTIONALITY

→ Mandatory

Combahee River Collection (1997) A Black Feminist Statement. Retrieved from <http://circuitous.org/scraps/combahee.html>. [approx.. pp.7]

Baca Zinn, M., & Thornton Dill, B. (1996). Theorizing Difference from Multiracial Feminism. *Feminist Studies*, 22(2): 321-331. [Pp.11]

hooks, b. (1984). *Feminist theory: From margin to center*. Boston, MA (U.S.A.): South End Press. (tot p. 129)

Young, Iris Marion (1994). "[Gender as Seriality: Thinking about Women as a Social Collective](#)". *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* 19 (3): 713-738. [Pp. 26]

→ Elective

Crenshaw, K (1991) Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color. *Stanford Law Review* 43(6): 1241-1299. [Pp. 59]

Hill Collins, P (1998) It's All in the Family: Intersections of Gender, Race, and Nation. *Hypatia* 13(3): 62-82. [Pp. 21]

Davis, Kathy (2008) Intersectionality as a Buzzword. A sociology of science perspective on what makes a feminist theory successful. *Feminist Theory* 9(1): 67-85. Retrieved from <http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/1464700108086364>. [Pp. 19]

3. MATERIAL FEMINISMS

→ Mandatory/Elective chapters

Alaimo, S., & Hekman, S. J. (2008). *Material feminisms*. Bloomington, IN (U.S.A.): Indiana University Press. (tot p. 434) (selected chapters).

4. POWER

→ Mandatory

Allen, A. (1998) Rethinking power. *Hypatia* 13(1): 21-40. [Pp. 20]

Allen, A. (2016) "Feminist Perspectives on Power". In Edward N. Zalta (ed.) *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Retrieved from <https://plato.stanford.edu/archives/fall2016/entries/feminist-power> [approx. pp. 25]

Acker, J., Barry, K., & Esseveld, J. (1983). "Objectivity and truth: problems in doing feminist research". *Women's Studies International Forum* 6(4): 423–435. [Pp. 13] Retrieved from <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/0277539583900353?via%3Dihub>.

→ Elective

England, K. V. L. (1994). Getting Personal: Reflexivity, Positionality, and Feminist Research. *Professional Geographer*, 46(1): 80-89. [Pp. 10]

5. SECOND WAVE FEMINISM

→ Mandatory

Nicholson, L (1997) *The Second Wave. A Reader in Feminist Theory*. London: Routledge. (entails a number of key writings (although short), such as Rubin, Heidi Hartman, Radicallesbians, Chodorow, Gilligan, Hartsock, Irigaray, Wittig, Alcoff, Spivak, Fraser, Narayan). (tot p. 434) (selected chapters).

Smith, D. (1987) *The Everyday World as Problematic. A Feminist Sociology*. Boston: Northeastern University Press. Introduction (Chapter/part 2).

Walby, S. (1989). Theorising Patriarchy. *Sociology*, 23(2), 213–234. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0038038589023002004>. [Pp. 22]