



Orestes Pursued by the Furies, William Bouguereau (1884)

The Furies: Dissent, Feminism, and Democratic Practice

Course description:

An advanced-level undergraduate seminar, or a graduate course

Learning objectives:

1. Identify, critique, and compare types of feminisms, dissents, and democratic theories
2. Advance critical writing skills with consistent practice and feedback
3. Bring critical thinking and context of feminisms to analyzing contemporary issues

Assignments:

Weekly response paper, except for the week you are presenting

Presentation

Paper proposal (graduate course) — practice writing a prospectus for a dissertation

12-page paper (undergraduate course) — practice tackling one theoretical topic in-depth

Required texts:

The Eumenides, Aeschylus (*Aeschylus II: The Oresteia*, ed. David Grene and Richmond Lattimore)

Antigone, Sophocles (trans. Robert Fagles)

The Bacchae, Euripides (*Euripides V*, ed. David Grene and Richmond Lattimore)

A Feminist Theory of Refusal, Bonnie Honig

A Quiet Revolution: The Veil's Resurgence, from the Middle East to America, Leila Ahmed

Dead Man Walking, Sister Helen Prejean

Thick, Tressie McMillan Cottom

Week 1:

Reading: "The Personal is Political," Carol Hanisch

"Equal Justice Under Law"

Week 2: Ancient Greece I

Reading: *The Eumenides*, Aeschylus; *Antigone*, Sophocles; selections from *The Children of Athena: Athenian Ideas about Citizenship and the Division between the Sexes*, Nicole Loraux (Muses, Graces, Moirae, Erinyes/Furies)

Week 3: Hebrew Bible II (Torah)

Reading: Daughters of Tzelofhad (Numbers), commentaries; scholarship

Week 4: Through the System?: Briefs, Cases, and Lawyering

Pauli Murray, *The Autobiography of a Black Activist, Feminist, Lawyer, Priest and Poet* (RBG and *Reed v. Reed*); respondent's brief in *United States v. Windsor* (Roberta Kaplan's brief for Edie Windsor)

Week 5: Against the System?: Ministering on Death Row

Sister Helen Prejean, *Dead Man Walking*

Speech and Silence

Week 6: Ancient Greece II

Reading: *A Feminist Theory of Refusal*, Bonnie Honig; *The Bacchae*, Euripides

Week 7: Hebrew Bible I (Torah)

Reading: Miriam (Exodus and Numbers), midrash

Week 8: Hebrew Bible III (Nah)

Reading: Miḥal (I and II Samuel), midrash; Batsheva and Tamar (II Samuel), midrash;

Week 8: Veiling

Leila Ahmed, *A Quiet Revolution: The Veil's Resurgence, from the Middle East to America*

Week 9: Audience

Thick, Tressie McMillan Cottom

I wrote my way out

Week 10: Playwriting and Pamphleting

Olympe de Gouges, *Déclaration des droits de la femme et de la citoyenne*; *Déclaration des Droits de l'Homme et du Citoyen*; *L'Esclavage des noirs*

Women writing back/writing women back

transnational perspectives from the late Middle Ages to the dawn of the modern era

"edited by Anke Gilleir, Alicia C. Montoya, Suzan van Dijk."

Week 11: Writing outside the lines

The Woman Warrior by Maxine Hong Kingston

Week 12: Writing and praxis

Barbara Deming, *On Revolution and Equilibrium*

Emma Goldman; Madeleine Pelletier