Note: I STRONGLY ADVISE you to print this entire document and keep it nearby for reference. It contains essential information you will need throughout the semester!

Instructor Information:
S. K. Keltner, Ph.D.
Office: SO 4116
Office Hours: TBA
Phone: 770 423 6648 (prefer email)
Email: skeltner@kennesaw.edu and via Vista (I prefer that you use the Vista system when communicating about the course.)

Meeting Location: SS 3010
Meeting Time: T 11-12:15

Course Descriptions:
GWST 3001: Feminist Theories involves the study of concepts and ideologies that articulate and define theories of feminism through the intersections of gender with race, class, nationality, sexuality, and other social differences. Students will engage with several foundational and vibrantly contested conversations within feminist theory that draw from a variety of theoretical perspectives, including those influenced by liberalism, Marxism/socialism, psychoanalysis, radical feminism, post-modernism, and post-colonialism. Pre-req. ENG 1102

PHIL 3130: The course is a study of the main currents of feminist philosophy, including criticisms of traditional philosophical paradigms and new frameworks for approaching the diversity of human experience. Pre-req. ENG 1102

This particular cross-listed offering will weave a meta-theoretical approach to the unity and diversity of feminist thought with concrete and exemplary figures, texts, and debates. It will take place primarily online and is writing intensive.

Course Objectives: This offering has six major learning objectives. At the end of the course the student should be able to:

1. demonstrate a basic understanding of the major figures, themes, and movements within feminist theory through reading, discussion board activities, exams, and writing assignments
2. compare and contrast different philosophical schools of feminist thought (and their historical and political roots), as evidenced in classroom discussion activities, exams, and writing assignments
3. identify and employ feminist analysis and argumentation by participating in public dialogue and writing analysis of important feminist issues in a global, historical context
4. critically examine her/his own social, cultural, and historical situation and its affects on individual and national beliefs about the self, others, and the world through evaluating and discussing the social and historical origins of those positions
5. research, critically formulate, and present evaluative appraisals of the ethics of global corporate, social, and/or political activities and ideologies impacting feminist thought and activism through open discussion
6. be ethically, socially, and politically sensitive to the role of diversity in human thought and action by exploring with and responding to others in open dialogue about human diversity

Course Resources

Required Texts for Purchase from the KSU Bookstore:


Suggested/Supplemental Primary Resources TBA
Some primary source materials will be *suggested* for those students seeking a deeper understanding of the philosophical basis of the issues/topics addressed. Some supplemental materials will be required as needed and provided via the Vista site (TBA).

Course Activities

1. **Reading:** You will be responsible for carefully reading (and making a reasonable attempt at understanding) all of the assigned materials for the course.
2. **Quizzes:** There will be five quizzes, one per unit. Questions come from the reading, e-lectures, class discussions, and any background information, overviews, and review materials provided by the professor. These tests will be held online utilizing the Quiz Tool in Vista.
3. **Classroom discussion, participation, and attendance:** Learning to communicate with others and share ideas will be a key to your success this semester. You will be required to participate in an online forum on our Vista discussion board and to attend all in-class meetings.
4. **Writing about feminist thought:** There will be short essay questions and/or definitions on your exams, discussion board posts, and a final essay.

Description of Evaluated Course Activities & Assessment Rubrics

(1) **Attendance/Participation – 0%**
There are no mandatory in-class meetings for this course. Optional face-to-face meetings are included in the syllabus. All course content is provided in writing; all evaluated activities take place online. Obviously, class discussion and student/teacher interaction are enhanced
when students have read (and made a reasonable attempt at understanding) the reading materials for the course. Attendance to and participation in the content of the course will be evident in writing assignments and, thereby, not included as a separate grade.

(2) 5 Electronic Quizzes – 50% of final grade; 10% each
Students are required to complete five quizzes, one at the end of each unit. Quizzes will include short answer questions (e.g. multiple choice), definitions, and short essays.

The questions on the quizzes measure reading comprehension, critical thinking skills, and writing/argumentation skills.

- Reading Comprehension -- Have you completed the reading and made a reasonable attempt at understanding it? Do you know the basic thesis and structure of the assigned text? Can you identify the major ideas? Have you read and understood all of the supplemental materials provided by your instructor?
- Critical Thinking Skills -- Can you follow the line of argumentation in the assigned text and identify key ideas and the support for those ideas?
- Writing/Argumentation Skills: Can you read and respond to a prompt that asks you to think critically and take a stance about a theme from our text(s)? Can you do so in an organized, on-topic, and grammatically sound manner? Does your writing show evidence of philosophical comprehension of the figures, texts, and topics addressed and that is well-supported by specific evidence from our texts?

All quizzes will be electronic and given through the Vista system Quiz Tool. You will have 0 minutes, beginning from when you start the quiz on Vista, to complete each. The quizzes will be open for two or more days (see course schedule below) in order to allow you to take them at your convenience. (Directions and practice quiz are available on Vista.) No late quizzes will be accepted. See course policies below.

Your individual quiz grades will be assessed on a 10 point scale. Your final, overall exam grade will be the total of all five quizzes.

(3) Vista Discussion Board (7 original; 14 responses) – 20% of final grade
Feminist thought is difficult to read, difficult to absorb, and difficult to write about. Students also commonly confuse feminists and theoretical philosophical frameworks, if they do not write and evaluate what they have learned consistently and frequently. The more often you write about the major figures and concepts, however, the easier it becomes. You are required to complete several sets of Vista discussion board postings throughout the term. Each session will require you to write three total posts: one original post and two response posts to two different students due by midnight of the discussion board assignment days noted on the course schedule. Your final Discussion Board grade will be the average of the sets. See course schedule for dates.

You will complete discussion board postings in small groups covering all reading/viewing material of the course. Forum discussions will be student led. You will be required to post one original response to the course material and also respond to the posts of other classmates in your group. Each discussion board assignment will count for 20 total points (original post is 10 points and response posts are 5 points each). Your grades will be designated as follows:
Full Credit (Receives 10 points for original post; 5 points for response posts): These posts are insightful, original, thorough, use specific examples from the text (where called for) to support the writer’s points, demonstrate that the writer can make connections to previous or current content or to real-life situations, and are capable of inspiring rich discussion from other members. They are focused, coherent, well-presented, and tightly written. These posts are essentially brief, yet sophisticated and complete mini-essays and are approximately 350 words or more.

Partial Credit (Receives 5 points for original post; 3 points for response post): These posts may present correct information, but they are generally less developed and thorough and may wander or ramble. These answers are often commonplace; contain fairly obvious ideas that simply restate or summarize the instructor’s background materials or other’s posts; make few or no basic connections to previous or current course content; may ramble or stray from the initial focus; may contain some specific examples or details from the text but more (or better) examples would make for a stronger post. These posts are generally much briefer.

Disqualified (Receives 0 points for original post; 0 points for response post): These posts are noticeably “skimpy” in their response to the questions provided. The writer provides no (or very little) supporting detail from the text to support his or her position. Posts are fairly superficial with very little analysis or insight, may be off-topic completely, or neglect to fully answer one or more parts of the questions provided. Note that posts are also disqualified if they are not posted by the deadline.

Your final discussion board grade will be the average of the individual grades.

Step-by-step directions are available on Vista, and the first discussion postings in which you introduce yourselves will be our first ‘go’ (letting you focus on mastering the tool with content you are very familiar with)! This way we can be sure that each of you is comfortable using the Discussion Tool. For all subsequent posts, check the ‘Overview of the Unit & Unit Assignments’ document in the appropriate ‘Unit’ folder before the first discussion board assignment is due. There you will find detailed directions for completing your discussion board assignment (plus all other work for the unit) in small groups.

(4) Final Essay – 30% of final grade

Thinking is intimately bound up with writing. In order to think clearly about a subject, you must be able to write and speak clearly. Further, thinking requires that you care about the subject you address in some way. I am requiring one final research project in order to provide you with the space to particularize and summarize your own interests in the course. I will not hand out topics. These should be generated by you and address your own experience(s) in the course. The essays should be 3,000 to 4,000 words long (or, nine to twelve pages), typed, double spaced, with one-inch margins, in a font no larger than 12 pt. (11 pt if you are using Ariel or Courier), and utilize consistently a single format (e.g., MLA, APA, Chicago). Essay topics, preliminary theses, initial research findings, and tentative plan of the essay must be presented mid-semester in an online discussion forum. You will also be responsible for reviewing at least two other students’ proposals. The forum will count as a discussion board assignment. Hard copies of the final essays are due on the final Tuesday of the semester.

The final essay specifically measures your research, organizational, and writing/argumentation skills at a level higher than your exams. Can you think through and
develop a focused, well-researched feminist essay? Can you do so in an organized, on-topic, and grammatically sound manner? Does your writing show evidence of an original, thought-provoking argument that is well-supported by specific evidence and thorough research?

Most importantly, this project is meant to be fun and interesting! I hope you will take your time with it and enjoy the creative learning process!

Your essay grades will be designated as follows:

A+ = 30 points (100%)
A = 27 points (94%)
B = 25 points (85%)
C = 22 points (75%)
D = 19 points (65%)
F = 18 points and below (59% and below)

Assessment Rubric for All Writing for the Course (Writing Portions of Exams, Discussion Board Postings, and Essays) Grading of writing for the course will be based on accuracy, organization, overall clarity, detail, and quality of both form and content. Effective communication also requires proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling, but the grade will not be lowered for a few minor errors. The University Catalogue defines a grade of “C” as average, a “B” as good, and an “A” as excellent. Accordingly, only the very best essays will earn an ‘A’ on the writing activities for the course.

A = Exceptional; one of the very best in the class.
B = Above average for the class; take it up a notch next time
C = About as good as most students in the class; think about how you might improve your performance next time; get the help you need to do better
D = Not quite up to the level of most students; schedule a meeting with your instructor; weigh your options: stay in the class and work harder to do better next time.
F = Un satisfactory (e.g., way too short, exhibits little to no understanding); think seriously about whether you are committed to the work required in the course.

Writing Center: You should be aware of a writing center on campus. It is located in Humanities 242 and is open seven days a week. To schedule an appointment, you can visit their website at http://www.kennesaw.edu/english/WritingCenter/index.shtml or call them at 770 423 6380.

Grading Scale:
A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; Failing = Below 60. Kennesaw does not have a +/- system. However, the +/- system will be used throughout the semester in determining grades for individual assignments. (A+ = 100; A = 95; A- = 90; B+ = 88; B = 85; B- = 82; C+ = 78; C = 75; C- = 72; D+ = 68; D = 65; D- = 62; Failing = Below 60)
Course Policies & Expectations

Online Course Attendance and Participation: Because this is a hybrid class, your participation in the discussion board and online activities count as your attendance. Missing a discussion board activity equals missing a class. However, since you are graded on all of the activities required for the course, you will not be further penalized for missing an activity. You will simply receive a zero for that assignment.

Late Work: I do not accept late work. Every assignment, exam, and writing assignment has a posted deadline. None of these materials are accepted once the deadline has passed. See the Course Policy concerning technical problems.

Guidelines for Discussion Board/Communication Etiquette, or Netiquette: You will often use the discussion board and email to communicate with your classmates and with me. Please remember that this is a public and professional forum. You should make every attempt to write in a manner you would deem appropriate for turning in a college paper in a face-to-face class. If you would hesitate to use offensive language, slang, or abbreviations in a regular essay, you should hesitate here. When you disagree with your classmates or with me (and you probably will; this is fine!), make sure that your writing argues with the person’s ideas rather than attacking someone as a person in a hurtful or offensive way.

Technical Problems: Technical problems related to computer connections or equipment will not be accepted as an excuse for failure to complete assignments or failure to participate online. You are personally responsible for locating the computer hardware, software, and Internet connections necessary to maintaining your course work. Because there are alternative Internet connections available through the KSU campus, public libraries, coffee shops and many restaurants, and through friends or family, if your personal computer equipment or connection is not working, you should be prepared to make the necessary arrangements to complete the course work on time. You should also make accommodations for the possibility that Vista may be unavailable due to scheduled maintenance. This usually (though not always) occurs on Fridays or over the weekend. A scheduled maintenance calendar can be found at http://www.usg.edu/gaview/support/maint-schedule.

Provisions for Natural or Technical Disasters: Accommodations will be made on a needs basis for natural disasters or University-wide or city-wide technical disasters. I strongly advise you to print the syllabus or my contact information at least where you can find my phone number. Simply leave a voicemail with your full name and phone number where you can be reached.

KSU’s Statement on Academic Integrity: Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, as published in the Undergraduate and Graduate Catalogs. Section II of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the University’s policy on academic honesty, including provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, unauthorized access to University materials, misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work, malicious removal, retention, or destruction of library materials, malicious/intentional misuse of computer facilities and/or services, and misuse of student identification cards. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the
University Judiciary Program, which includes either an “informal” resolution by a faculty member, resulting in a grade adjustment, or a formal hearing procedure, which may subject a student to the Code of Conduct’s minimum one semester suspension requirement.

I reserve the right to fail for the course any student in violation of KSU’s Academic Integrity Policy.

**KSU’s Statement on Disruption of Campus Life:** It is the purpose of the institution to provide a campus environment, which encourages academic accomplishment, personal growth, and a spirit of understanding and cooperation. An important part of maintaining such an environment is the commitment to protect the health and safety of every member of the campus community. Belligerent, abusive, profane, threatening and/or inappropriate behavior on the part of students is a violation of the Kennesaw State University Student Conduct Regulations. Students who are found guilty of such misconduct may be subject to immediate dismissal from the institution. In addition, these violations of state law may also be subject to criminal action beyond the University disciplinary process.

**KSU’s Diversity Statement:** The KSU Population reflects differing backgrounds and experiences including but not limited to age, disability, ethnicity, family structure, gender, geographic region, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status. It is our goal to foster a community in which every human being is treated with dignity, respect, and justice. The KSU academic experience will provide the opportunity to gain knowledge and experiences necessary to thrive in a diverse, global environment.

**Special Needs & Accommodations Statement:** Kennesaw State University provides program accessibility and reasonable accommodations for persons defined as disabled under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments and/or auxiliary aids or services) for this course must contact the Office for Disabled Student Support Services via Ms. Carol Pope, ADA Compliance Officer for Students, at 770-423-6443 (V) or 770-423-6480 (TDD) or visit their website at [http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/dsss/dsss.html](http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/dsss/dsss.html). If there are any special considerations I should be aware of, you should acquire a letter of accommodation from the Office for Disabled Student Support Services and come and speak with me immediately. I will make every effort to accommodate any particular case and maintain your privacy.
Course Schedule

I. The *History* of Feminist Thought (Principle: The Three Waves)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week of...</th>
<th>Focus/Theme</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tues, January 10</td>
<td>Introduction to the Course; The Historical Principle</td>
<td>Orientation documents; Course Syllabus; SK's Overview</td>
<td>STUDENT LED DISC FORUM Introductions (not evaluated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues, January 17</td>
<td>Foundations of the Second Wave</td>
<td>De Beauvoir, <em>The Second Sex</em></td>
<td>OPTIONAL OPEN DISC FORUM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues, January 24</td>
<td>Foundations of the Second Wave</td>
<td>De Beauvoir, <em>The Second Sex</em></td>
<td>STUDENT LED DISC FORUM</td>
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<td>Tues, January 31</td>
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<td>QUIZ</td>
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**UNIT 2 – The *Categorization* of Feminist Thought (Principle: Philosophical and Disciplinary Allegiances)**

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<th>Reading</th>
<th>Writing Activities</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tues, January 7</td>
<td>The Categorization Principle, Psychoanalytic Feminism, and Postmodern Feminism</td>
<td>SK's Overview; Irigaray, “This sex which is not one”; Kristeva, “Women's Time”</td>
<td>STUDENT LED DISC FORUM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues, February 14</td>
<td>Postmodern Feminism</td>
<td>Butler, <em>Gender Trouble</em></td>
<td>OPTIONAL OPEN DISC FORUM</td>
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<td>Tues, February 21</td>
<td>Postmodern Feminism</td>
<td>Butler, <em>Gender Trouble</em></td>
<td>STUDENT LED DISC FORUM</td>
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<td>Tues, February 28</td>
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<td>QUIZ</td>
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*March 3-9 – SPRING BREAK*

(March 12 – Last day to withdraw)

**UNIT 3 – The *Specificity* of Feminist Thought (Principle: Social and Historical Location)**
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<th>Focus/Theme</th>
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<th>Writing Activities</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tues, March 13</td>
<td>The Specificity Principle and Black Feminist Thought</td>
<td>SK's Overview; hooks, <em>Black Feminist Thought</em></td>
<td>STUDENT LED DISC FORUM</td>
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<td>Tues, March 20</td>
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<td>QUIZ</td>
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**UNIT 4 – The Problems/Issues of Feminist Thought**

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<td>Tues, March 27</td>
<td>TBD by student interest</td>
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<td>Tues, April 3</td>
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**UNIT 4 – Feminist Thought - A Transnational Perspective (Principle: Global System)**

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<tr>
<td>Tues, April 10</td>
<td>Systems Principle</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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<td>Tues, April 17</td>
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**FINAL ESSAY DISCUSSION FORUM**

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<th>Writing Activities</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tues, April 24</td>
<td>Final Essays</td>
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<td>STUDENT LED DISC</td>
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(Monday, April 30 – Last day of classes)

May 1-7 – Final Exam Week
**FINAL ESSAYS DUE VIA THE VISTA EMAIL SYSTEM**