

SUMMER 2019

TYLER CARSON

01:988:301 S:B1

FEMINIST THEORY IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

This course tracks the various developments within the history of feminist theory. It begins with its emergence in and out of liberal, radical, psychoanalytic, and Marxist/socialist conceptualizations of the subject. In doing so, Part I of the course, “Western Origins of Feminist Theory,” considers the vexed and paradoxical nature of feminism’s relationship to these theories—they are what originally makes feminist theories thinkable in the West, yet at the same time, are what must be critique, resisted, reimagined, or altogether abandoned, according to many feminist theorists, as they insufficient and limited by their patriarchal, phallogocentric, sexist, and often homophobic logics and dispositions. In Part II of the course, “Why’s It All About Sex(uality)?,” we read the groundbreaking work of Michel Foucault, reading one of the most seminal books to gender and sexuality studies, *The History of Sexuality, Vol 1*. This section disturbs and muddies, in quite indirect and subtle ways, what Marxist, psychoanalytic, and liberal theories take for granted as self-evident in their examinations and critiques of contemporary formations of gender and sexuality.. The final section of the course, “Axioms of Difference,” maps the interventions of woman of colour, postmodern, and queer theorists, who together seek to develop intersectional and transnational feminist theories that moves beyond the limited colonial confines of “Western Theory.” This section thereby brings into question the colonial legacy of the Western academy, with an eye towards feminist theories that open alternative modes of thinking, feeling, and living. ***Note this course has a prerequisite: 01:988:101 or 201 or 202 or 235 or by special permission.***