

SO9E5-20 Feminist Theories and Epistemologies: Debates and Dilemmas

26/27

Department

Sociology

Level

Taught Postgraduate Level

Module leader

Khursheed Wadia

Credit value

20

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

This module introduces postgraduate students to major concepts, theories and debates in feminist theories and epistemologies. It will adopt an interdisciplinary and intersectional approach, and include discussions both of canonical texts and of new and emerging debates in feminist theories and epistemologies.

Module aims

The aim of the module is to provide students with a detailed understanding of the nature and implications of feminist critiques of academic knowledge production and feminist (re)conceptualisations of the social world. It will be especially valuable to students in MA programmes within the department, but will be made available also to students from other departments (and indeed this interdisciplinary engagement will be a central component of the module).

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

SECTION 1: FOUNDATIONS

WEEK 1: What is Feminist Theory?

WEEK 2: Who Knows? Feminism and the Epistemic Politics of Identity and Location

SECTION 2: DEBATES + DILEMMAS

WEEK 3: Truth and Knowledge

WEEK 4: The Self

WEEK 5: Experience

WEEK 6: Difference

WEEK 7: Power

WEEK 8: Agency

WEEK 9: Queering Trans Genders

WEEK 10: Narrating Feminist Theories and Epistemologies

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Identify the key principles of feminist theories and epistemologies
- Map and critically analyse key areas of debate within feminist theories and epistemologies
- Compare and contrast different approaches within feminist theories and epistemologies
- Recognise the implications of feminist critiques of mainstream modes of academic knowledge production and academic writing
- Examine key debates in feminist theories and epistemologies in intersectional ways
- Draw on relevant literature, evidence and experience to produce a written argument about an area of debate within feminist theories and epistemologies

Indicative reading list

[Reading lists can be found in Talis](#)

Interdisciplinary

The module will feature guest speakers from various disciplines and students will be expected to read literature from different disciplines. We expect the module to attract students from a range of Warwick departments and very diverse UG backgrounds, and students will have the opportunity to adapt the assessment to their own (inter)disciplinary interests and skills.

Subject specific skills

- a systematic understanding of knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems

and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of their academic discipline, field of study or area of professional practice

- a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship
- originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of research and enquiry are used to create and interpret knowledge in the discipline
- conceptual understanding that enables the student: a) to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the discipline; b) to evaluate methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, to propose new argument; and c) to continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level.
- ability to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences
- self-direction and originality in tackling and solving problems, and acting autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional or equivalent level

Transferable skills

- the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility
 - decision-making in complex and unpredictable situations
 - the independent learning ability required for continuing professional development
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Study

Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	9 sessions of 2 hours (16%)
Online learning (independent)	1 session of 1 hour (1%)
Private study	91 hours (83%)
Total	110 hours

Private study description

Reading and preparation for seminars. Preparation and writing of formative and summative work.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

Assessment group A1

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Essay	100%	90 hours	Yes (extension)

Reassessment component is the same

Feedback on assessment

Students will receive written feedback on summative work through Tabula. Students will also receive written (and potentially audio or video) feedback on formative work through Tabula. They can receive verbal feedback during Advice and Feedback hours.

Availability

Courses

This module is Core for:

- TSOA-L30J Postgraduate Taught Gender and Sexuality
 - Year 1 of L30J Gender and Sexuality
 - Year 2 of L30J Gender and Sexuality

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 1 of TWSA-M9P7 Postgraduate Taught Gender and International Development
- TSOA-L3PW Postgraduate Taught Social Inequalities and Research Methods
 - Year 1 of L3PW Social Inequalities and Research Methods
 - Year 2 of L3PW Social Inequalities and Research Methods
- Year 1 of TSOA-L3P8 Postgraduate Taught Social and Political Thought
- TSOA-L3PD Postgraduate Taught Sociology
 - Year 1 of L3PD Sociology
 - Year 1 of L3PD Sociology

This module is Option list G for:

- Year 3 of TLAS-M1M2 LLM International Development Law and Human Rights