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SP.601J / 17.006J / 17.007J / 24.237J Feminist Theory
Spring 2008

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SP.601J/17.006J/17.007J/24.237J Feminist Theory, Spring 2008
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Discussion 1: Introduction

Introductions: What are the markers that you have? How does class background manifest in self? To what extent does rural or urban upbringing mark us?

Preliminaries

What is the difference between sex and gender?

How are masculinity and femininity defined differently in different groups?

What words are used to name males and females? What are their connotations (positive, neutral, or negative)?

What are some animal names for males and females? What are their connotations (positive, neutral, or negative)?

In the list, what terms are marked? Pejorative? Stigmatizing? Notice that negatives can be distinguished.

The current U. S. Presidential primary

Does gender trump race as a factor? Is the prospect of a black man as president more easily accepted than a white woman?

Will voters see past gender with Hillary Clinton and see a competent person able to run the country on day one?

Freewriting

What do you think feminism is? What do I want to learn in this class?

Sharing of the freewriting

What are the projects of feminism?

- What is natural? What can be questioned?
- What is the history behind a concept such as that of a "housewife"?
- What is the context for a concept?
- How can we analyze more carefully? How can we complicate the situation at hand?
- What beliefs should be challenged?
- What reproduction of stereotypes should end? What existing wisdom should be questioned?
- What boundaries can be crossed between genders?
- How do we leave "anatomy as destiny"?

Additional

Why is one of the first things asked about a baby "Is it a boy or a girl"?

Who got the vote in the 1920s? What did the Voting Rights Act of 1964 do?

Is MIT as gendered as other schools?