

**SOCIOLOGY 4105/WOMEN'S STUDIES 4105**  
**"WOMEN AND SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY"**  
**2011/12**

**Dr. P. Wakewich**

Mondays/Wednesdays 10:00-11:30 p.m.  
RB 2024

**Office Hours: (RB 2021)**

(Mon./Wed. 11:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m; or by appointment (phone 343-8353; email: [pam.wakewich@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:pam.wakewich@lakeheadu.ca))

**Course Description**

This course will examine the contributions of women writers and social activists to the development of sociological theory from the classical mainstream to contemporary feminist social theory. Through a close reading of primary source texts we will explore the influences shaping early women's theorizing in sociology, its eclipsing in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century canon and its re-emergence in latter 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> century feminist social thought. In the first semester we will explore the writings of influential and yet often forgotten individuals such as Harriet Martineau, Jane Addams, Charlotte Perkins-Gilman, Anna Julia Cooper and Marianne Weber. In the winter term, readings from a range of theoretical perspectives will provide a means of mapping current influences and debates in feminist social theory. We will discuss the relationship of theory and practice in feminist social research and its role in reshaping contemporary research in sociology and cognate social sciences.

The course will have a seminar format. Students will be expected to have completed weekly readings prior to class and to actively contribute to class discussion. Small group presentations will be done on a weekly basis in both semesters and will provide students an opportunity to further develop research and communication skills.

A Web CT site has been set up for the course and will be used to post course materials as well as class announcements and information of interest. Please check it regularly for announcements.

**Required Texts/Readings for Fall 2011**

- 1) Lengermann, Patricia Madoo and Gillian Niebrugge (1998) *The Women Founders. Sociology and Social Theory, 1830-1930. A Text/Reader*. (Long Grove: Waveland Press). Available in the LU Bookstore
- 2) Additional readings as assigned through the term will be placed on reserve in the Patterson library and also made available for photocopy in the class folder on my office door (RB 2021).

**Evaluation (detailed evaluation guidelines will be handed out in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of class)**

Article summary and response paper (2 per semester - 5% each)	20%
Small group presentation and individual summary (1 per semester – 15% each)	30%
Research paper (due March 28)	30%
Class participation (10% per semester)	20%

**Weekly Reading Schedule (Fall Term)**

**Sept. 12/14– Introductions and Orientations; “Where are the Foundational Women and Why is Important to Bring them Back In?”**

Reading: Lengermann and Niebrugge, pp. 1-21

**Sept. 19/ 21 – Classical Social Thought and the Place of Women**

Readings: Sydie, “Sex and The Sociological Fathers” *Reserve Reading*; and Witz and Marshall, “Introduction” *Reserve Reading*

**Sept. 26/28 – Harriet Martineau (1802-1876)**

Readings: Lengermann and Niebrugge, pp. 23-63.

**Oct. 3/5 – Jane Addams (1860-1935)**

Readings: Lengermann and Niebrugge, pp. 65-104.

**Oct. 12– Charlotte Perkins Gilman (1860-1935)**

Readings: Lengermann and Niebrugge, pp. 105-148.

**Oct. 17/19 – Anna Julia Cooper (1858-1964) and Ida B. Wells-Barnett (1862-1931)**

Reading: Lengermann and Niebrugge, pp. 149-192.

**Oct. 24/26– Beatrice Potter Webb (1858-1943)**

Reading: Lengermann and Niebrugge, pp. 277- 306.

**Oct. 31/Nov. 2 - Marianne Weber (1870-1954)**

Reading: Lengermann and Niebrugge, pp. 193-228.

**Nov. 7/9– The Chicago Women’s School of Sociology (1890-1920)**

Reading: Excerpts from Lengermann and Niebrugge, Chapter 7 to be assigned.

**Nov. 14/16 - The Transition from Classical to Modern Theory**

Readings: Adams and Sydie, pp. 479-499

**Nov. 30/Dec. 5 – Feminist Transformations and the Academy; Orientation for Winter Semester**

Reading: Adams and Sydie, pp. 544-550