

**SOCIOLOGY 238**  
**Feminist Science Studies**

**Seminar Format**

Class discussion will be led by one or more students each week. (I will lead discussion on January 11<sup>th</sup>.) To encourage discussion on the substance of arguments—i.e. to avoid presentations recapitulating arguments we've already read—all students will submit questions or comments to structure debate. (I suggest that everyone submit at least three points, due Friday at midnight.) Discussion leader(s) will use everyone's contributions to structure discussion in class. In short, leading discussion will not mean holding a lecture on the readings, but managing a sustained debate about the issues at stake.

**Paper Requirement**

1. Discuss the ways a particular concept is deployed in feminist science studies, e.g. multiplicity, power, culture, subjectivity, objectivity, epistemology, etc.
2. Choose a particular subfield in feminist science studies and write a general overview of the literature, e.g. reproductive medicine, environmental politics, artificial intelligence, cyberspace, digital technology, sexuality, etc.
3. Write a research paper on a topic of direct relevance to current or future research.

**Readings**

January 4	McNeil	"Feminist Cultural Studies of Science and Technology: Roots and Routes"
January 11	Haraway	"Situated Knowledges: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspective"
	Harding	"A Socially Relevant Philosophy of Science? Resources from Standpoint Theory's Controversiality"
	Wylie & Nelson	"Coming to Terms with the Values of Science: Insights from Feminist Science Studies Scholarship"
January 18	Casper & Clarke	"Making the Pap Smear into the 'Right Tool' for the Job: Cervical Cancer Screening in the USA, 1940-1995"
	Mol	"Ontological Politics. A Word and Some Questions"
	Star	"Power, Technology and the Phenomenology of Conventions: On Being Allergic to Onions"
January 25	Barad	"Living in a Posthumanist Material World. Lessons from Schrödinger's Cat"
	Haraway	"A Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology, and Socialist-Feminism in the Late Twentieth Century"
	Star	"From Hestia to Home Page: Feminism and the Concept of Home in Cyberspace"
February 1	Suchman	"Feminist STS and the Sciences of the Artificial"
	Terry	"Anxious Slippages between 'Us' and 'Them': A Brief History of the Scientific Search for Homosexual Bodies"
February 8	Wilson	<i>Psychosomatic. Feminism and the Neurological Body.</i>
	Clarke	<i>Disciplining Reproduction. Modernity, American Life Sciences, and the Problems of Sex.</i>
February 15	Murphy	<i>Sick Building Syndrome and the Problem of Uncertainty. Environmental Politics, Technoscience, and Women Workers.</i>
February 22	Oudshoorn	<i>Beyond the Natural Body. An Archeology of Sex Hormones.</i>
March 1	Orr	<i>Panic Diaries. A Genealogy of Panic Disorders.</i>
March 8	Bloom	<i>Gender on Ice. American Ideologies of Polar Expeditions.</i>

## **Bibliography**

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1993 *Gender on Ice. American Ideologies of Polar Expeditions*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- Casper, Monica and Adele Clarke  
1998 Making the Pap Smear into the 'Right Tool' for the Job: Cervical Cancer Screening in the USA, 1940-1995. *Social Studies of Science* 28(2):255-290.
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out of print, but easily available second-hand
- Haraway, Donna  
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2004 A Socially Relevant Philosophy of Science? Resources from Standpoint Theory's Controversiality. *Hypatia* 19(1):25-47.
- McNeil, Maureen  
2007 Feminist Cultural Studies of Science and Technology: Roots and Routes IN *Feminist Cultural Studies of Science and Technology*, pp. 11-24. London: Routledge.
- Mol, Annemarie  
1999 Ontological Politics. A Word and Some Questions IN *Actor Network Theory and After*, Law, J. and J. Hassard (eds.), pp. 74-89. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Murphy, Michele  
2006 *Sick Building Syndrome and the Problem of Uncertainty. Environmental Politics, Technoscience, and Women Workers*. Durham: Duke University Press.
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- Suchman, Lucy  
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2007a                  Coming to Terms with the Values of Science: Insights from Feminist Science Studies Scholarship IN *Value-Free Science? Ideals and Illusions*, H. Kincaid, J. Dupré, and A. Wylie (eds.), pp. 58-86. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

### **Additional Materials of Possible Interest**

- Wylie, A.  
2007                   The Feminism Question in Science: What Does It Mean to 'Do Social Science as a Feminist'? IN *Handbook of Feminist Research. Theory and Praxis*, S.N. Hesse-Biber (ed.), pp. 567-577. Thousand Oaks: Sage.
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1985                   *Reflections on Gender and Science*. New Haven: Yale.
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1999                   *Actor Network Theory and After*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Mayberry, Maralee, Banu Subramaniam, and Lisa H. Weasel (eds.)  
2001                   *Feminist Science Studies. A New Generation*. New York: Routledge.
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