

Politics 10-404
Tutorial: Gender in Cyberspace
Spring 1999
Professor Eisenstein
Office Hours: T 2:00-3:15
 W 1:00-2:30
 Th 12:30-1:00, 2:30-3:30

Required Readings (books at IC Bookstore)

Power/Knowledge, M. Foucault, Colin Gordon, ed. (Pantheon).
America, J. Baudrillard (Norton).
Habermas and the Public Sphere, Craig Calhoun, ed. (MIT Press).
Flame Wars, Mark Dery, ed. (Duke Univ. Press).
Resisting the Virtual Life, James Brook and Iain Boal (City Lights Books, San Francisco).
Open Sky, Paul Virillio.
Wired Women, L. Chung, Elisabeth Weise, ed. (Seal Press).
Net Chick, Carla Sinclair (Henry Holt & Co.).
Electronic Eros, Claudia Springer (U of Texas P).
Global Obscenities, Zillah Eisenstein.

Purposes of the Course:

1. To theorize cyberspace as a political location defining sex and gender relations.
2. To examine the meaning of `virtuality' in light of the relationship between real/ideal and public/private.
3. To explore the re-construction of gender in and on cyberspace.
4. To query the democratizing potential of the technologies defining and used in cyberspace.
5. To examine the `new' publics defined by virtual reality.
6. To rethink the contours of politics and power for "netizens."

Course Schedule

1. Examine the dimensions of the internet and set up sites to explore in order to do research on:
 - a. sex on the net
 - b. privacy on the net
 - c. etc.

Read: Net Chick

2. Theorize dispersed power relations.

Read: Power/Knowledge

3. Theorize virtuality.

Read: America

4. Theorize Publicness.

Read: Habermas and the Public Sphere

5. Discuss the new interrelations and publics on the internet.

Read: (a) week one - Open Sky
(b) week two - Electronic Eros
(c) week three - Wired Women
(d) week four - Resisting the Virtual Life
(e) week five - Flame Wars
(f) week six - Global Obscenities

Requirements:

Two papers:

- (1) an 8-10 page paper theorizing the relations of cyberspace
- (2) an 8-10 page paper researched on the net

Internet Sites to be Used:

ON GENDER

Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)
gopher.igc.apc.org:70/11/orgs/wedo/wedo.un/wcw

The Women's Economic Network based in Canada
<http://web.t10-laba.mum.ca/alldyke/>

Women Today in China
<http://www.ihep.ac.cn/women/main.html>

The Network of East-West Women, a communication network linking more than 800 women's advocates in more than 30 countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union and Western Europe, and North America.
<http://www.igc.apc.org/womensnet/beijing/ngo/neww.html>

Women's Online Media Project - Tokyo
<http://tsuru.suehiro.nakano.tokyo.jp/WOM/English/index.html>

Coordination Region de ONGS de America Latina
<http://www.nando.net/prof/beijing/>

United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women Home Page
<http://www.undp.org/fwcw/dawfwcw.htm>

Linkages WWW Page on the Fourth World Conference on Women
<http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/women.html>

WOMEN'SNET @IGC
<http://www.igc.apc.org/womensnet/>

Listing of Feminist Organizations Across the Globe, huge, very interesting scope
<http://www.feminist.org/other/beijing2.html>

Digital Images of Women's Artwork, seen as a global women's exhibition format
<http://wwol.inre.asu.edu/toc.html>

Feminist Site for Peace and Social Justice for a Shared Jerusalem
<http://www.batshalom.org/>

Listings of Women's Groups and Actions in Russia and Other Post-communist societies
<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/2533/russfem.html>

Cyberfeminism, huge and great set of sites; from these listings one can go just about anywhere to find cyberwomen stuff
<http://206.251.6.116/geekgirl/oolstick/sadie/sadie.html>

Online Zine--great and interesting
<http://www.geekgirl.com.au/geekgirl/index.html>

Teen/Girls Guide to the Internet
<http://www.womenspace.com/>

Virtual Sisterhood
<http://www.igc.apc.org/vsister/vsister.html>

ON GLOBAL

<http://www.mcspotlight.org>
<http://corpwatch.org>
<http://orandon.guggenheim.org>
<http://www.ithac.edu/key>

ON RACE AND THE NET

The Unbearable Whiteness of Being: African American Critical Theory and Cyberculture.
<http://www.kalital.com/Text/Writing/Whitenes.html>

Bridging the Digital Divide: The Impact of Race on Computer Access and Internet use. Good access for blacks is key; especially through educational opportunity.
<http://www2000.ogsm.vanderbilt.edu/papers/race/science.html>

What it Means to be Black in Cyberspace. Good site.
<http://www.panix.com-mbowen/cz/identity/blakCMC.html>

Cyborg Diaspora: Virtual Imagined Community.
<http://ernie.bgsu.edu/~radhik/sanov.html>

High Technology and Low-Income Communities: Prospects for the Positive Use
of
Advanced Information Technology.
<http://web.mit.edu/sap/www/high-low/>

Losing Ground Bit by Bit: Low-Income Communities in the Information Age.
Good.
<http://www.benton.org/Library/Low-Income/>

New Data on the Digital Divide.
<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/ntiahome/net2/>

NetNoir.com=20
<http://www.netnoir.com> -- or Keyword AOL: NetNoir (bookmark)

Bringing Technology to the Barrio.
<http://www.latinolink.com/news/news98/0923nbar.htm>