

# Feminist Theory 101

## Understanding and Combating Sexist Culture

Jeffrey Nall, Ph.D.

"Taught from their infancy that beauty is woman's scepter, the mind shapes itself to the body, and, roaming round its gilt cage, only seeks to adorn its prison." – Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* (1792) In these four lectures, Professor Jeffrey Nall utilizes lecture, thought experiments and facilitated class discussion to introduce students to the intricacies and power of feminist theory and criticism. The course starts out with an overview of the evolution of feminist thought and its present features. Subsequent lectures implement feminist concepts and critiques to engage and reevaluate the thinking of classical western intellectuals and contemporary culture. In addition to developing a better understanding of feminism, the course is designed to aid students in reflecting on and developing insights into their own gendered experiences as men and women.

### 1. The Fundamentals of Feminism

Introduces students to key feminist concepts including "the personal is political," intersectionality, standpoint epistemology, patriarchy and various competing feminist theories.

### 2. Androcentrism: Where Do Women Fit Into "Mankind"?

Introduces students to the ways in which women have been defined by male intellectuals, and how dominant visions of humanity continue to marginalize women's values, beliefs and experiences. Presents contemporary cultural examples of the ways in which women continue to be treated as "other" compared to men.

### 3. Gender: What's so Funny About a Male in a Classic Pin-Up Pose?

What is gender and how does it uphold sexism? This lecture explains the feminist approach to gender and how it differs from sex. The class will show that historic conceptions of "woman" continue to shape attitudes and assumptions in contemporary culture.

### 4. Everyday Misogyny: What's Wrong With Throwing Like a Girl?

Some believe that sexism is largely "a thing of the past." Feminists disagree. This lecture introduces students to not only the overt and conscious displays of sexist discrimination, but also the often unconscious prejudices that undermine efforts to achieve equality for women.



Jeffrey Nall, Ph.D., teaches philosophy and humanities courses for Indian River State College and the University of Central Florida. He also teaches courses in Florida Atlantic University's Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

department. Professor Nall is the author of "Feminism and the Master of Women and Childbirth." He holds a Ph.D. in Comparative Studies: Feminism, Gender, and Sexuality from FAU, a Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies from FAU and a Master of Liberal Studies from Rollins College. When he is not teaching, writing or giving public talks, Professor Nall spends much of his time learning from and enjoying life with his children.

For more information on Professor Nall's work go to [www.jeffreynall.com](http://www.jeffreynall.com).

## Course # F4M5

Place: Lifelong Learning Complex, FAU Jupiter Campus

Date: Mondays — October 15, 22, 29; November 5

Time: 4:30–6 p.m.

Fee: \$40/member; \$60/non-member