Research Preparation Seminar:

**ADVANCED TOPICS IN GENDER STUDIES**

2 credits MA course

CEU Department of Gender Studies

Spring term 2020/2021

Instructor: Jasmina Lukic

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Class dates: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 1:30 -3:10

Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 4-5:30 and by appointment

**Course description**

This course is designed for students in 2 year MA programs in the first year of their study. The aim of the course is to help them to reflect further on the proposed topic of their MA thesis and to prepare for actual research. The course will address some of the major questions in setting research agenda: formulating research questions; choosing proper methodology and methods; dealing with ethical questions. Several representative examples of feminist research will be discussed from the point of view of research design, methodology, argumentation and analytical finesse.

Students will be required to discuss course readings, as well as their own research projects. They will work both individually and in smaller groups.

**Learning outcomes:**

After finishing the course students will be able to:

Critically reflect on their research project and problems involved in planning the project.

* Formulate main research question and related questions, and discuss them.
* Understand the logic and implications of the choices they are making when it comes to research methodology and methods.
* Plan their upcoming research more in detail

**Requirements:**

This is a pass/fail course. There is no final paper for this class, so grading will be based on class participation, short written pieces and a final presentation of research proposal.

Active participation in class – approx 40%

Presentation of research proposal- approx 30%

2 assignments – approx 30%

**Session 1: *Feminist Approaches to Research***

Caroline Ramazanoğlu and Janet Holland. “Choices and Decisions: Doing A Feminist Research Project “. *Feminist Methodology*. SAGE Publications Ltd. 2011. DOI: https://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781849209144 Print pages: 145-164

**Session 2. *Formulating research questions***

Mats Alvesson & Jörgen Sandberg. **“**The Context of Constructing and Formulating Research Questions”. *Constructing Research Questions: Doing Interesting Research*. London: SAGE Publications Ltd. 2013. https://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781446270035

**Session 3: Formulating research questions**

Discussion in the class of the students’ research questions.

**Assignment 1**: Reflection on research question for the proposed research (2 – 3 pages). Deadline: April 30, 2021.

**Session 4. Formulating a theoretical argument**

Rosi Braidotti. “Dympna and the Figuration of the Roman Warrior”. In *Doing Gender in Media, Art and Culture*. Rosemarie Buikema and Iris van der Tuin (eds.). London and New York: Routledge, 2007, pp. 241—259.

Gloria Wekker. “The Arena of Disciplines: Gloria Anzaldúa and Interdisciplinarity”. In *Doing Gender in Media, Art and Culture*. Rosemarie Buikema and Iris van der Tuin (eds.). London and New York: Routledge, 2007, pp. 54—69.

**Session 5. Choosing proper method (1)**

Sharlene Nagy Hesse-Biber. “The Practice of Feminist In-Depth Interviewing”. *Feminist Research Practice*. Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications, 2011. https://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781412984270

**Session 6. Choosing proper method (2)**

Patricia Lina Leavy. “The Feminist Practice of Content Analysis”. *Feminist Research Practice*. Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications, Inc, 2011. https://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781412984270

**Assignment 2**: Reflections on research (why the chosen topic, what would be the main argument at this point, methods to be used, 3-4 pages), deadline May 7, 2021.

**Session 7. Feminist research ethics**

Judith Preissle and Yuri Han. “Feminist Research Ethics”. *Handbook of Feminist Research: Theory and Praxis*. Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications, 2014.  https://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781483384740

**Session 8. Dilemmas in research**

Lynda Johnston. “The Place of Secrets, Silences and Sexualities in the Research Process”. In *Secrecy and Silence in the Research Process*. Róisín Ryan-Flood and Rosalind Gill (eds.). London and New York: Routledge, 2010, pp. 291—305.

**Sessions 9-12. Student presentations.**