

Psychoanalysis, Marxism, Feminism (World View)
Julian Nemeth
Summative Assessment
(25%)

Final Deadline: Thursday, December 6th

Process Assignments: Throughout the rest of term.

Second Wave Feminists famously developed the slogan “the personal is political.” For your final project, you will put this concept into practice by examining your own experience from the perspective of a feminist world view, alongside that of either psychoanalysis or Marxism.

This paper will be “thesis-seeking” rather than argumentative. You will discover your principal “argument” only *after* you have completed your research and reflection. That is, you must keep an open mind, and be willing to change your point of view, as you research and write the paper. This process of re-examination will be incorporated into the essay itself. The reader will only know your “thesis” after reading the final paragraph of your project.

To help you write the essay, you are encouraged to go back through old photos, social media posts, journal entries, class assignments, and other documents from your past, to help remind you of how your ideas have developed over time. If you so wish, you may include any such documentation as an appendix to your paper.

The suggested structure for the final project is as follows:

The first paragraph outlines your understanding of “feminism” before taking this class. The more concrete details you provide, the better. You could discuss what you heard about feminism in your home, in the media, in school, and among your peers. The focus on your home life, both what was conveyed in words and by example, will likely be significant. You will also provide key examples from your peer groups, readings, or educational experiences.

The second paragraph then summarizes feminism as presented in *You’re Beautiful when You’re Angry* and in bell hooks’ *Feminism is for Everybody*. Make sure to define feminism and patriarchy and then outline three challenges second wave feminists launched against patriarchy. Note two limitations of second wave feminism identified by hooks—along with one other we discussed in class. In hooks’ view, what does feminism need to accomplish moving forward? Finally, highlight the way that the reading and film confirmed or, just as importantly, challenged, some of your earlier pre-conceptions about the feminist movement. This paragraph is designed to show that you clearly understand the main points of the feminist world view.

The third paragraph transitions back into your personal experience and how it may be analyzed from a feminist perspective. Here, you will introduce the main subject of your project: this could be your position in the family, in the workplace, in personal relationships, and in everyday interactions. It might also focus on your self-image, your experience on social media, or your political ideology. Choose to focus on only one or two issues: adding any more will not allow you to go into depth and will weaken your project. The more concrete you can be with your examples, the better. If you are willing to keep an open mind about reassessing your experiences, where evidence warrants it, this will also help you write a more effective paper. This paragraph also references a **peer-reviewed source** published within the past ten years, connected to your topic.

The fourth paragraph then applies either a psychoanalytic or Marxist world view to the personal experiences you have already started to discuss. The goal is to show how a Marxist or Psychoanalytic reading deepens and/or challenges the ideas discussed in the earlier part of your paper. Make sure to clearly define the world view under consideration. **Again, analyzing your personal experiences with pertinent examples will be paramount.** *You must cite at least one reading from either the psychoanalytic or Marxist units of the course, along with one of the Simone de Beauvoir excerpts (whose work connects with both Marxism and Psychoanalysis).*

Finally, the **concluding section** summarizes how your thinking has shifted over the course of writing and researching the paper. It will discuss your OWN ultimate conclusions to the issues you have raised. You will also include a reference **to at least one of the feminist thinkers we will read after de Beauvoir** (Jezer-Morton, Sara Ahmed, or Amia Srinivasan). You'll want to show that you clearly understand that text's main idea and note how it does and does not apply to the experiences you have discussed in the paper. The ultimate conclusion of your essay, your thesis, will be near the end of this final paragraph.

The project will be completed following **MLA formatting** and will include a works cited page. It must be double-spaced and submitted in **Times New Roman 12 point font**. The motto is quality over quantity but it would be difficult to complete this project effectively in fewer than 1000 words.

The assignment will be assessed on the depth of your understanding of the world views under consideration, your ability to apply the world views to your personal experiences (with pertinent examples), and your critical thinking process. You will also be assessed on whether you followed the assignment instructions, wrote clearly for a general educated audience, and employed MLA formatting. Please note that you must receive a grade of at least 60% on the summative assessment to pass the course.

If you would like to complete an alternative summative assessment centered less on personal experience, and more on research in academic books and articles, please let me know by November 16th.