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Women's Studies Reading List

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INTRODUCTION

This project was funded by a Carnegie-Whitney Award from the American Library Association. The titles in this annotated reading list are based on a curriculum study that analyzed the reading lists from the syllabi of the women's studies courses taught at ten colleges and universities in Colorado, during the 1999-2000 academic years. Inclusion in the list was based on the frequency that the title appeared across the curriculum. In order to qualify for entry in this list each title had to appear on more than one course syllabi.

In this era of tight budgets cooperative projects and shared collections are becoming a way of life for most academic libraries. Subject bibliographers need to weigh their book selections carefully, maintaining a core collection of heavily used titles while at the same time developing alliances with other librarians in the region to share collections and reduce unnecessary duplication. Librarians walk a fine line in determining what they need to own in their collection and what can be acquired through borrowing from another library in the region. Since the mission of most academic libraries is to support the curriculum of the university or college where they are located, librarians frequently check lists from course syllabi to help determine what to collect. This study went one step further, and checked the reading lists from the women studies courses taught at the universities and colleges within the region. The number of times a title was assigned was the factor used to develop this core reading list of titles that every academic library in the region should own, leaving the other titles readily available to students for borrowing through the region's union catalog, Prospector.

This reading list is the second phase of the study. The first phase was to investigate how many of the titles from the course syllabi were readily available for borrowing through Prospector. The women studies departments of the ten universities and colleges who participated in Prospector at the time were contacted.

These include:
- University of Colorado at Boulder, Denver, Colorado Springs
- Colorado College
- Ft. Lewis College
- Regis University
- University of Denver
- Metropolitan State
- Colorado State University
- University of Northern Colorado

A total of 145 reading lists were received and from these a list of 834 unique titles was compiled. It was determined that ninety-six percent of these titles were available through Prospector with each individual academic library holdings ranging from 26 to 87 percent (2001, Fleming). The second phase of the project, this reading list, was based on titles that were assigned in more than one women studies course. A total of 105 titles resulted. For the most part textbooks, classroom anthologies, and readers were removed and listed separately in the appendix without being annotated. The reasoning for this is that most academic libraries do not collect these types of publications due to budget constraints and content duplication. Readers and anthologies that were included were done so because they either included new unpublished material or there was a lack of other material from that particular aspect of women studies to be found.
in the compilation of the list. The remaining eighty-six titles were developed into the following list.

Selections are arranged alphabetically by author, and also include the title, publisher, date and place of publication, number of pages, plus a brief description and evaluation of the work. Evaluations were based on reviews and the bibliographer’s opinions.

For books that have had more than one edition, the one listed in the reading list coincides with what was indicated on the class syllabi. However if no particular edition was indicated a cloth bound edition was selected.

**Women’s Studies Reading List**

Ahmed, Leila. *Women and Gender in Islam: Historical Roots of a Modern Debate*. New Haven: Yale UP, 1992. 296. *Women and Gender in Islam* is a historical overview of women in Islamic society from 3500 B.C. to the present. Ahmed uses religious and historical documents to argue that the misogynic treatment of Arabic women is not sanctified by Islam but is a reaction to outside influences throughout its history. Lidwien Kapteijns, in the *American Historical Review*, 1993, v98, refers to Ahmed’s argument as being “idealistic and simplistic,” but continues that this is a “formidable historiographical milestone.” Although so-so reviewed, this is a must for any women’s studies collection due to the rarity of literature available to westerners by Islamic feminists.


Allison, Dorothy. *Bastard out of Carolina*. New York: Dutton, 1992. 309. Set in the rural south, this is the story of a poor white woman who would do anything to legitimize her child, only to find that her dream marriage into a good family has put her child into an abusive relationship with her stepfather. This novel, often thought to be autobiographical, is an excellent portrayal of the importance of class -- southern style. Positively reviewed in *Library Journal*, *New York Times Book Review*, and *The Women’s Review of Books*.


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Angelou, Maya. I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings. New York: Random House, 1969. 281. Maya Angelou's autobiographical novel about growing up black in the rural south during the 1930s. First of five autobiographical novels, this covers her and her brother's childhood in Arkansas through their adolescence in California. Written in the lyrical prose that she is noted for, this is a must read. Maya Angelou, noted author, playwright and poet, has received numerous literary awards including a Pulitzer nomination in 1972 for Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'fore I Diile, and the National Arts & Humanities Medal in 2001.

Anzaldua, Gloria, ed. Making Face, Making Soul = Haciendo Caras: Creative and Critical Perspectives by Feminists of Color. San Francisco: Aunt Lute Books, 1990. 402. Making face, Making Soul is an anthology of essays and poetry by feminists of color. Editor Anzaldua, a self-proclaimed Chicana lesbian feminist selected these writings by little known authors whom she felt were not being heard within the white dominated feminist movement. This is a well rounded collection of writings focusing on racism and ethnic identity. Includes original works. Recommended for the undergraduate classroom. Includes bibliographical references.


Atwood, Margaret Eleanor. The Robber Bride. New York: Nan A. Talese/Doubleday, 1993. 466. In the Robber Bride, Atwood's 9th novel, the three middle-aged protagonists, Tony, Charis, and Roz have their men taken away from them by the femme fatale Zenia, a former college friend who has come back into their lives. This novel is witty, making fun of late 20th century female stereotypes. Reading this from a feminist point of view, the men Zenia stole were worthless anyway and the protagonists become stronger women after Zenia forces them to reevaluate their lives and their relationship to the men she stole. Do not look for deep meaning here, take this novel on face value and enjoy.

Austen, Jane. Pride and Prejudice. 1813. New York: Dodd, Mead, 1945. 269. Jane Austen wrote the romance novels of her time. Though fiction, her novels have come to be one of the best historical accounts of the societal norms and role of women in 19th century England. Pride and Prejudice is the story of the Bennet family and the mother's frantic attempt to marry off her five daughters and produce a male heir before their land converts to Mr. Bennet's male cousin, a man of unsuitable character. The prose display Austen's quick wit and satirical nature, while at the same time giving a serious poke at the unfairness of England's male primogeniture laws. There's good reason why Jane Austen's works have become classics; everyone should read them.

Ba, Mariama. So Long a Letter. Trans. Bode-Thomas, Modupe. London: Heinemann, 1989. 90. Written as a letter from a widowed Senegalese school teacher to her friend, this novella gives insight into what life is like for Muslim women whose husbands take second wives. This is a rare find. The book shows Islam from the African point of view.

Beauvoir, Simone de. The Second Sex. Trans. Parshley, H. M. New York: Knopf, 1953. 746. The Second Sex is French feminist Simone De Beauvoir's classic study of Western women and their relationship to men. Written in 1949, this soon became the battle cry of the radical feminist movement. Beauvoir argues that in our society women are only acknowledged in their relationship to men such as mothers and wives, and thus are regulated to the same second class status as racial minorities. This is a literary classic from this well know and prolific author, and a must for any women's studies collection. Includes index.

period. This book is provocative, and well written, recommended for anyone interested in the cultural history of the United States. Includes references and index.

Beemyn, Brett, and Mickey Eliason, eds. Queer Studies: A Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Anthology. New York: New York UP, 1996. 318. This anthology is a collection of papers originally presented at InQuery/Indeed: The Sixth North American Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Studies Conference, 1994. The essays have been expanded and include a variety of viewpoints on sexuality by authors representing a diversity of race, gender and culture, as well as sexual orientation. Editors Beemyn and Eliason have put together a good selection of readings which fill in some of the gaps in the sexual identity literature, specifically in the areas of transgender and bisexual peoples. Recommended for both students and the general public.


Belenky, Mary Field, et al. Women's Ways of Knowing: The Development of Self, Voice and Mind. New York: Basic Books, 1986. Women's Ways of Knowing is a psychological study of how women learn. The authors, all female college professors, interviewed 135 female college students from different ethnic and economic backgrounds to learn why many women perceive their intellectual abilities to be less than that of men, and why they often feel isolated in learning communities such as universities. This study was conducted in part as a counterpoint to a study by William Perry, Forms of Intellectual and Ethical Development in the College Years, Holt, 1970, in which he charted the intellectual progress of white, male Harvard students. The lack of psychological jargon makes this book easy to read and of interest to a wide audience. Over the years this book has fostered much discussion and controversy about pedagogy and curriculum development for women. In response to the continuing interest, the authors gathered essays based on the original book and published them in Knowledge, Difference and Power: Essays Inspired by Women's Ways of Knowing, Basic Books, 1996.

Bohan, Janis S. Psychology and Sexual Orientation: Coming to Terms. New York: Routledge, 1996. 265. Psychologist Bohan has put together this survey of current information about sexual orientation, in particular, the lesbian and gay experience in the United States. In three parts, this book reviews how psychologists have viewed homosexuality in the past century, the causation of sexual orientation, and the way lesbians, gays and bisexuals define themselves in modern society. Includes a glossary of terms, references and index. Recommended for the undergraduate classroom.

Brown, Elaine. A Taste of Power: A Black Woman's Story. New York: Pantheon, 1992. 452. A Taste of Power is the memoir of Elaine Brown and her involvement with the Black Panther Party and California politics. Using first-person dialog, Brown takes readers from her childhood in a Philadelphia ghetto to her political awakening in California as a young woman and her leadership role in the Black Panther Party. The book concludes with her increasing feminist views, her disillusion with the 'Party' and her eventual abandonment of it. Although well written, the reader is left with a feeling of incompleteness; Brown says nothing of her life since she quit the Party and immigrated to France in the 1970's. Recommended to anyone interested in American history and the cultural upheaval of 1960s and 70s. So-so reviewed in: Library Journal and Publishers Weekly.

Cameron, Ann. Daughter of Copper Woman. Vancouver: Press Gang, 1981. 150. This book, based on the author's interviews with members of a secret matriarchal society composed of several Native American tribes on Vancouver Island, tells the history of the world from a Native American women's viewpoint. Using the Native American oral tradition, the book is composed of tales and legends that portray the life of women from the beginning with Copper Woman, the first person on earth, and follows through to more modern times, emphasizing the clash be-
tween the Native Americans and Europeans. These tales are easy to read, and give useful insight to the Native American viewpoint of our male dominated culture. Favorably reviewed in CM and Quill and Quire.

Castillo, Ana. The Mixquiahuala Letters. Binghamton, NY: Bilingual Press/Editorial Bilingue, 1986. 132. This is Chicana-feminist Ana Castillo's first novel. Written as correspondence between two women, the novel offers insight to the role of women in the Mexican male-dominant society. The letters appear in random order and take the reader through three different perspectives of the characters: conformist, cynic and quixotic. Winner of the Before Columbus Foundation's American Book Award, this is a must read for anyone who wants to understand the role of women in the Hispanic-American culture.

Cather, Willa. My Antonia. 1918. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1988. 238. Willa Cather, considered one of America's great novelists, captures the immigrant spirit in My Antonia. The heroine, Antonia Shimerda, a Bohemian immigrant, overcomes life's hardships to become the matriarch of the family farm on the Nebraska plains. As in much of her writing, the central theme of this 1918 novel is about women facing adversity and triumphing. Appealing to a wide audience, this classic is always a joy to read.

Cheng, Lucie, and Edna Bonacich, eds. Labor Immigration Under Capitalism: Asian Workers in the United States before World War II. Berkeley: UP of California, 1984. 634. This book uses Asian immigration patterns to support the editors' views of capitalism and its dependence on cheap labor. Scholars Cheng and Bonacich view immigrant labor as a commodity sold by underdeveloped countries whose populations have been marginalized due to imperialism and colonialism. The book consists of four parts. The introduction gives a detailed explanation of the editors' theory. Part one examines what led the capitalist country to need the labor, part two explains why emigration occurred in the host country, and part three explores the communities of the workers themselves. Only two of the studies look at the plight of Asian women specifically. So-so reviewed by James A. Geschwender, SUNY/Binghamton, in Contemporary Sociology. 1985. v14.

Chopin, Kate. The Awakening. 1899. New York: Capricorn Books, 1964. 303. Reviewed as scandalous and immoral when first published in 1899, Chopin's The Awakening has since become an icon of feminist fiction. Set in the Deep South during the Victorian era, this is a story of a young married woman who attempts to find fulfillment and sexual freedom through her love affairs. A must read for any feminist or student of American literature.

Davis, Angela. Women, Race and Class. New York: Random House, 1981. 271. In this historical overview of feminism, communist and political activist, Angela Davis delineates the racism and class discrimination within the women's movement. As with most of her writing, the style is acrimonious and somewhat superficial. Not recommended as a scholarly resource, but any contemporary American should know who Angela Davis is and what she believes in.


D'Emilio, John. Making Trouble: Essays on Gay History, Politics and the University. New York: Routledge, 1992. 274. Historian and gay activist John D'Emilio has put together a collection of his previously published and original, articles, essays and lectures on the history of gay and lesbian rights in the United States from the 1940s to the present. Influenced by his experience as a gay college professor, this is a good introduction to contemporary gay and lesbian issues; especially in the university setting. Written in first-person perspective, this is an easy to read volume for undergraduate students as well as general readers. Positively reviewed in History, Journal of American History and Library Journal. Includes bibliographical references.
Duberman, Martin, ed. *A Queer World: The Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies Reader*. New York: New York UP, 1997. 705. *Queer World* is the first of two publications based on oral presentations made at the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies (CLAGS) at City University of New York. CLAGS is a lesbian and gay organization established in 1991 and whose mission is to promote the cultural and political concerns of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender individuals and communities. *Queer World* consists of fifty-two essays covering a broad spectrum of issues from identity to biological discussions on sexual orientation. Academic in scope, a must read for anyone who is participating in, or teaching gay and lesbian studies. *Queer Representations: Reading Lives, Reading Cultures*. New York University Press, 1997, is the second volume of this series.

DuBois, Ellen Carol, and Vicki L. Ruiz, eds. *Unequal Sisters: a Multicultural Reader in U.S. Women's History*. New York: Routledge, 2000. 672. This anthology gives a multicultural approach to the history of women in the United States. The essays cover the experience of women from a wide perspective, including race, ethnicity and class. They include works from Native Americans, slaves, as well as working class whites and lesbians. This book would be a good choice for a beginning class on women's studies or multiculturalism. Includes index and bibliography.

DuPlessis, Rachel, and Ann Snitow, eds. *The Feminist Memoir Project: Voices from Women's Liberation*. New York: Three Rivers, 1998. 531. The Feminist Memoir Project is a collection of essays written by the leaders of the contemporary women's movement which began in the mid 1960s. Considered radical feminist by their mainstream counterparts, the contributors recount their participation in the political and social events of this period as well as comment on the dividedness within the movement itself. Written in two parts, the first consists of 30 first-person essays with the second consisting of six essays critiquing the first. This book gives a good narrative account of the women's movement as well as insight to the infighting between the different feminist groups. Recommended to those who want to take a walk down memory lane as well as to generation Xers who want to know what it was all about. Favorably reviewed in *Library Journal* and *The Women's Review of Books*.

Estes, Clarissa Pinkola. *Women Who Run With the Wolves: Myths and Stories of the Wild Woman Archetype*. New York: Ballatine, 1992. 520. Clarissa Estes, a Jungian analyst, uses folktales and mythology as metaphors to support her theory of "wild woman" feminism. She argues that by studying the meaning of these stories, women can gain a better understanding of her inner self: an "instinctive, spontaneous and creative" creature. Wildly popular, this book can best be classed as pop psychology and not intended for scholarly use. However it is not without merit and both students and women will enjoy reading it, if for nothing else, as a feel good book. Includes bibliographic references and index. Favorably reviewed in *Library Journal* and *Publishers Weekly*.

Evans, Sara M, *Born for Liberty: A History of Women in America*. New York: MacMillan, 1989. 386. This is a good historical survey of the contributions American women made towards public policy from the 16th century to the present. The author emphasizes the work women did through voluntary associations, and her research includes women of all ethnic and social economic backgrounds. Includes index, reference and an additional reading list. Positively reviewed in the *New York Times Book Review, Library Journal* and *Choice*.


Foster, Hannah Webster. *The Coquette; or, The History of Eliza Wharton, by Hannah Webster Foster, Reproduced from the Original Edition of 1797*. New York: Published for the Facsimile Text Society by Columbia University Press, 1939. 261. Foster's *Coquette* fictionalizes the real life story of Elizabeth Whitman, an unwed mother who died after giving birth to a stillborn child. Written as a series of letters, this puritanical tale portrays this woman's tragic life as the consequence of her
indiscretions. Foster has done an excellent job of describing the social codes of early America and the limited roles for women during these times. Ironically, by publishing a novel, Foster herself stepped out of the bounds of the traditional life, and the novel has become a classic in the movement for women's rights.

Foucault, Michel. The History of Sexuality. Trans. Hurley, Robert. Vol. 1: An Introduction. New York: Pantheon, 1978. 168. French philosopher Foucault's classical work on the history of sexuality in Western culture from the 17th century to the present. In this first of three volumes he argues that sexuality defines all social relationships, and that its repression is a function of power. Subsequent volumes are The Use of Pleasure (L'Usage des Plaisirs), and The Case of Self (Le Souci de Soi).

Friedan, Betty. The Feminine Mystique. New York: Norton, 1963. 410. Feminist Betty Friedan attacks the suburban housewife lifestyle of the post-World II American woman in the Feminine Mystique. Written in the 1960s, this book became the talisman for the women's movement, with its avocation that in order to be fulfilled, women needed to become educated and find interests outside the home. A must read for anyone interested in the cultural revolution of the 1960s in general, and the women's movement in particular.


Garcia, Cristina. Dreaming in Cuban. New York: Knopf, 1992. 245. This novel is about three generations of the Pino family women, their relationships with each other, their immigrant experience, and how they perceive Castro's Cuba, the land they left behind. The author, a native of Cuba, tells the story through a variety of forms; letters, narratives, and monologues, as the novel moves back and forth between life in Cuba and Brooklyn. Positively reviewed in Library Journal, New York Times Book Review, Newsweek, The Christian Science Monitor and The Women's Review of Books.


Gilman, Charlotte Perkins. The Yellow Wallpaper. 1899. New York: Feminist Press, 1973. 63. The Yellow Wallpaper, first published in 1892, is Gilman's most publicized work. Based on her own life, Gilman's character suffers a nervous breakdown after being confined to her home and forbidden to work as a cure for post-partum depression, a condition that was misunderstood during this time period. This story has been widely critiqued with a variety of interpretations, but most agree that it reflects Gilman's own confining marriage and treatment by her doctor, Silas Weir Mitchell, for what was then diagnosed as neurasthenia, a nervous disorder, for which she was to be as domestic as possible, keep the baby with her at all times and not to pursue any intellectual life. This story, as well as many of her other works, became Gilman's venue for advocating social reform and gender equality. Her works went through a period of revival during the women's movement beginning in the 1960s. With its excellent depiction of the gender roles for Americans at the turn of the century, it is a must read for any women's studies students of today.

come a feminist classic. It is the story of three men who fly an airship into Herland, a place that has been free of men, poverty, war and slavery for over two thousand years. The women interview the men about life on the outside with humorous consequences. As with all of her writing, this novel provokes thought about the status of women in turn-of-the-century America.

Harding, Sandra, ed. *Feminism and Methodology: Social Science Issues*. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1987. 193. Social scientist Sandra Harding has put together a concisely written collection of essays covering a broad spectrum of social issues and selected for their non-traditional research methodology. Harding introduces each essay with a narrative on the research methodology and the author's contribution to the profession. Feminist social science students who are looking for a different approach to research will find this a good source.


Hurston, Zora Neale. *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. New York: Negro UP, 1937. 286. Zora Neale Hurston, a prolific writer of the Harlem Renaissance, based this novel, in part, on her own life experience. In *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, the protagonist, Janie, evolves into a self-reliant woman after she struggles through the trials and tribulations of three marriages. The first marriage is arranged, the second is to achieve social status, and the third, based on love, ends tragically. This novel has become a classic with its portrayal of black women and their status not only to whites, but to black men and each other.

Hutchins, Loraine, and Lani Kaahumanu, eds. *Bi Any Other Name: Bisexual People Speak Out*. Boston: Alyson, 1991. 379. *Bi Any Other Name* is a collection of essays written by bisexual persons. Divided into four parts—psychology, spirituality, the bisexual community, and politics, the essays range from personal narratives about their life experiences to discussions on sexual theories. This selection of essays helps fill in the gap in the gay and lesbian literature in which bisexuality gets little recognition. This title is recommended to anyone who has an interest in understanding sexual orientation issues.

Ibsen, Henrik. *A Doll's House*. 1879. Trans. Henrietta Frances Lord. New York: Appleton, 1924. 148. *A Doll's House*. One of Ibsen's most noted social plays, focuses on the social norm of families and roles of women within them. The heroine, Nora, has on the surface a perfect life with her husband, wonderful children and a beautiful home. She will do anything for him including breaking the law. She forges her father's name in order to borrow money to save her sick husband, and is later blackmailed by the man she borrowed the money from. When her husband finds out, he is horrified by the embarrassing social position Nora has put him in and she sees for the first time that she is just a fixture in his life, and leaves him. Today, as when it was written in 1879, *A Doll's House* causes much controversy due to Nora finding redemption through the abandonment of her family. Ibsen's theme of women being dutiful to morally to corrupt men is found throughout his works and makes him well worth reading in today's social climate.

Jacobs, Harriet A. *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*. 1861. New York: Oxford UP, 1988. 306. One of the few slave narratives by a woman. Harriet Jacobs tells of her life as a slave through the pseudonym of Linda Brent. The book is considered a classic in African American Literature due to both its content and the gender of the author. It portrays the sexual exploitation of female slaves that is not evident in slave narratives written by men. Also, it is one of a few books written by African American women in the 19th century. There have been many editions; one of the more notable includes an introduction by Jean Fagan Yellin, 1987, Harvard UP.

Jaggar, Alison M., ed. *Living with Contradictions: Controversies in Feminist Social Ethics*. Boulder: Westview Press, 1994. 698. *Living with Contradictions* is a collection of feminist writings expressing a variety of viewpoints on such issues as pornography, affirmative action, media images of women, abortion rights, militarism, environmentalism and vegetarianism. Written in seven parts, scholarly philosopher and editor Alison Jaggar introduces each with historical back-
ground on the issue and a biographical summary of the contributors and their importance to feminism. Solid writing, well organized, recommended for the classroom. Includes bibliographical references.

Jaggar, Alison M., and Paula Rothenberg Struhl, eds. Feminist Frameworks : Alternative Theoretical Accounts of the Relations Between Women and Men. 3rd ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1993. 524. In this third edition of Feminist Frameworks the editors, scholars of philosophy, have updated their original work on feminist theories first published in the 1970s. This edition, which is divided into four parts, looks at feminism in terms of current issues, theory and practice. Suitable for the classroom, it helps students conceptualize how women would fare under different social conditions such as liberalism, Marxism, multicultural feminism, and so on. Includes bibliography and index. [Editor Paula Rothenberg (Struhl), director of the New Jersey Project, a state funded organization that supports the transformation of higher education curricula around the issues of gender, race and ethnicity, is best known for her textbook: Race, Class, and Gender in the United States: An Integrated Study. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2001. In addition, her recent autobiographical account Invisible Privilege: A Memoir about Race, Class and Gender. Lawrence, KS, Kansas UP, 2000, has been well received.]


Kingston, Maxine Hong. The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts. New York: Knopf, 1976. 209. Popular novelist Maxine Hong Kingston has produced a hybrid work, part autobiography and part fiction, in the Woman Warrior. She has created fictionalized characters based in part on her own life experience of growing up as a Chinese-American as well as characters from Chinese fables and historical figures. Delightful to read, Kingston has done an excellent job of portraying the conflicts between immigrant parents and a native-born child which she describes as being a "foreign ghost" to her family of Chinese immigrants. Also, in a broader sense, the book investigates the role of women in society both as traditional Chinese and as Americans. Named one of the top ten non-fiction works of the decade by Time magazine in 1979, the Woman Warrior has been widely reviewed, including positive reviews in the New York Times Book Review, Harpers, and Library Journal. Recommended for both students and general readers.

Knight, Denise D., ed. Charlotte Perkins Gilman: A Study of the Short Fiction. New York: Twayne, 1997. Editor Denise Knight has put together a well organized critique of Gilman's short works. Organized in three parts; the works, the writer and critics. This is a useful source for anyone studying the literature of Gilman. Includes some original criticisms in addition to a bibliography, notes, chronology and index.

Lorde, Audre. Zami, a New Spelling of My Name. Turmansburg, NY: Crossing Press, 1982. 256. Zami, written by this well-known black lesbian poet, is the fictionalized story of her life growing up in Harlem as a West Indian immigrant and coming of age during the McCarthy Era of the 1950s. Portraying herself as an outsider both in terms of race and sexual orientation, Lorde weaves a tale of strength and endurance, giving hope to anyone whose life does not fit society's mainstream stereotyping. Excellent writing, vivid images, not as preachy as some of her other works. Recommended to students as well as the general public.


Mandava, Bhargavi C. Where the Oceans Meet: A Novel. Seattle: Seal, 1996. 283. A native of Hyderabad, India, this feminist author brings to life the Southern Indian culture in Where the Oceans
Meet, her first novel. Composed of loosely connected tales, this book focuses on the lives of Indian and American-Indian women and the role fate plays in their everyday life. Richly written, the stories give a realistic, if depressing dose of Indian culture and its clash with westernization. Recommended to anyone interested in learning about the life and hopes of women from this complex and ancient culture. So-so reviewed in Kirkus, more positively reviewed in Publishers Weekly and Library Journal.


May, Lary, ed. Recasting America: Culture and Politics in the Age of Cold War. Chicago: Chicago UP, 1989. 310. Recasting America is a collection of scholarly essays focusing on the cultural history of the United States from the 1940s through the early 1960s. Two articles, "Explosive Issues: Sex, Women, and the Bomb" by Elaine Tyler May and "Ranch-House Suburbia: Ideals and Realities" by Clifford E. Clark, Jr. are of particular interest to women's studies scholars. These two articles give insight to society's attitudes towards, and the expectations of, American women during this time period. Includes bibliographic references and index.

McCall, Laura, and Donald Yacovone, eds. A Shared Experience: Men, Women and the History of Gender. Forward by Mark C. Carnes. New York: New York UP, 1998. 387. Historians Laura McCall and Donald Yacovone have put together a collection of scholarly essays that refute the popular ideas about the roles of men and women during the 19th century and especially the Victorian period. Many of the essays show that society was more open and flexible than previously taught. This is recommended as a scholarly approach to the social conditions in the United States during this time period. Includes index and extensive bibliographic references.

Millett, Kate. Sexual Politics. New York: Doubleday, 1970. 393. Using the way women are portrayed in contemporary literature, the author demonstrates the bias towards women in patriarchal societies. This book, written as an outcome of the author's doctoral thesis, became the mantra of the women's liberation movement, and launched the author into star status as a radical feminist. Today the book is looked on as more of a rant than a scholarly work, but is still useful in portraying the language and culture of the Movement, and a must read for anyone who is studying Kate Millett.


Morgan, Robin. The Word of a Woman: Feminist Dispatches 1968-1992. New York: Norton, 1992. 304. The Word of a Woman is a collection of previously published works from widely acclaimed feminist and poet, Robin Morgan. Covering a quarter of a century, the works document her role and views in the second wave women's movement which began in this country during the 1960s. This collection is a nostalgic trip back for anyone who lived during those times and a must read for current day scholars who want to know what it was all about. Robin Morgan is a well known feminist and poet, her works should be on everybody's 'to read' list.

Mukherjee, Bharati. *Jasmine*. New York: Grove Weidenfeld, 1989. 241. Popular author Bharati Mukherjee has created a fictionalized story of an immigrant's life and the pursuit of the American dream in *Jasmine*. One of several novels she has written about the trials and tribulations of emigrating to America from third world countries. The protagonist, a widow, flees Punjab for a better life in America, only to face rape, poverty and racism. In the end, the protagonist becomes a true American defined by her hope, preservation, and in control of her own destiny. Though predictable, a good read none the less, and recommended to those interested in the immigrant culture. Mukherjee is a well renowned novelist and *Jasmine* received positive reviews from many sources including *Library Journal* and the *New York Times Book Review*.


Olsen, Tillie. *Tell Me a Riddle*. 1961. New York: Dell, 1976. 116. Tillie Olsen's *Tell Me a Riddle* is one of four short stories of this collection with the same name. Written in the 30s, these stories are now considered classics within the feminist movement. Olsen, a member of the Communist Party, is well known for her political activism. Written during the Great Depression the stories focus on the family life of the working class poor. Olsen, along with Meridel Le Sueur and Josephine Herbst, represents the top women writers of the socialist movement, and anyone with an interest in American literature as well as the feminist movement should read these stories.


Rafkin, Louise, ed. *Different Mothers: Sons and Daughters of Lesbian Talk About Their Lives*. Pittsburgh: Cleis, 1990. 174. *Different Mothers* is a collection of narratives by sons and daughters of lesbian mothers. Geared toward a younger audience, the book is meant as a guide for children growing up in similar homes. Rafkin, a lesbian herself, has done a good job interviewing children and presenting their ideas in readable form. Unfortunately, the book lacks balance, as there are no negative views. Not suitable for academic research, but well worth reading for those who are living in similar circumstances. Rafkin is also the editor of *Different Daughters: A Book by Mothers of Lesbians*. 1987. Pittsburgh: Cleis Press.

Ratti, Rakesh, ed. *A Lotus of Another Color: An Unfolding of the South Asian Gay and Lesbian Experience*. Boston: Alyson, 1993. 303. *Lotus of Another Color* is an anthology of writings by and about gay, lesbian and bisexual South Asians. The contributors are from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and the Maldives. The essays include fiction, poetry, interviews and narratives. Editor Ratti has done a good job in his selection; the essays reflect the diversity and complex issues of this subculture. Recommended to anyone who has an interest in learning about the gay lifestyle in these cultures. Includes glossary and directory of resources.

Sadker, Myra, and David Sadker. *Failing at Fairness: How America's Schools Cheat Girls*. New York: C. Scribner's Sons, 1994. 347. *Failing at Fairness* argues that girls receive an inferior education due to the sexual bias of their teachers. Although the authors are professors in teaching at The American University, this is best viewed as a popular work, with its first-person narrations, and over-simplified premises and conclusions. The book is successful in its ability to raise consciousness towards bias in teaching and worth reading. So-so reviewed in the *New York Times Book Review, Choice*, and *Library Journal*. 

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Sidel, Ruth. *Women and Children Last*: the Plight of Poor Women in Affluent America. New York: Viking, 1986. 236. The author, a sociologist, uses federal data, surveys, and over 100 interviews with poor women, to profile the economic status of women in the United States. Her argument, that the traditional family role with the man as the breadwinner and the woman as the caretaker, places women at an economic disadvantage and only one step away from poverty, whether it be divorce, unemployment or death of the male breadwinner. This book is a wake-up call for anyone who views welfare as a free ride. Favorably reviewed in *Library Journal*, and *New York Times Book Review*.

---. *Keeping Women and Children Last*: America's War on the Poor. New York: Penguin, 1996. 232. In this sequel to *Women and Children Last* 1986, the author, a sociologist, continues to looks at poverty in America and the impact the anti-welfare trend on Capitol Hill has on single-mothers, the poor, welfare recipients, pregnant teens, and poor children. Sidel uses data and personal histories to refute the negative and often misconceived attitudes American's have towards the poor. A must read for anyone who wants to understand the politics of poverty. Includes index, references and a selected bibliography.

Southworth, E. D. E. N. *The Hidden Hand or, Capitola the Madcap*. 1888. Ed. Joanne Dobson. New Brunswick: Rutgers, 1988. 498. Emma Southworth's 19th century novel, *The Hidden Hand*, has become a classic example of women's literature from this time period. First published in 1853 as a serial in the *New York Ledger*, the work, written in the style of the dime novel became wildly popular and was reprinted several times in the *Ledger* before being published in its entirety in 1888. As with most of her writing, the theme is about women who have suffered under men. In this case, the protagonist, Capitola, must escape her evil uncle who is after her inheritance. In order to facilitate her escape and survive, Capitola disguises herself as a boy and has many adventures rescuing the damsel in distress. Although melodramatic and outdated, her writings have gained popularity with feminists. Her feisty, independent female characters gave a glimpse to a life that was desired but not available to women of that time period. Recommended to both students and the general public.

Suleri, Sara. *Meatless Days*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1989. 186. Yale professor Sara Suleri, the daughter of a Welsh mother and a political active Pakistani father, writes of her life growing up in Pakistan during its struggle for independence. Suleri has done a good job of providing a personal insight to the cultural differences between East and West, but she is less successful in portraying the effects of the war on her family. Recommended to anyone interested in learning about life in the third world, especially the lives of women. Mixed reviews in *Library Journal*, *New York Times Book Review*, *Publishers Weekly* and others.


Tavris, Carol. The Mismeasure of Woman. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1992. 398. The author, a psychologist, analyzes the way women are measured against men in our society. She makes fun of the popular view that tries to eliminate the differences between men and women, and instead focuses on the unequal consequences that result from these differences. Well written, enjoyable to read. Includes notes, index and bibliography. Positively reviewed in Library Journal, New York Times Book Review and New Scientist.

Taylor, Debbie. My Children, My Gold: A Journey to the World of Seven Single Mothers. Berkeley: California UP, 1994. 257. Journalist Taylor writes about the poverty, social restrictions and patriarchy that affects single mothers in this well-written narrative. My Children, based on interviews, is the story of seven single women from different countries and social classes, and the obstacles they face raising their children. Anyone who thinks the struggle for women's rights is over should read this. Suitable for students as well as the general public. Positively reviewed in Publishers Weekly.

Tong, Rosemarie. Feminist Thought: A Comprehensive Introduction. Boulder: Westview Press, 1989. 305. Rosemary Tong, a philosopher, has provided an overview of various types of feminist theory. Liberal, Marxist, socialist, radical, psychoanalytic, existentialist and postmodern feminism are described and critiqued. Also included are reviews of major feminists in each category. Includes bibliography and index. This book provides good background to the feminist movement and its leaders.

Torre, Adela de la, and Beatriz M. Pesquera, eds. Building With Our Hands: New Directions in Chicana Studies. Berkeley: California UP, 1993. 246. Building With Our Hands is an anthology written by academics to help develop chicana studies. Written in four parts, the essays cover issues important to the chicana community as well as social theory. Subjects covered include race relations, colonization and exploitation, the sociology of family, work and education as well as popular culture and feminist theory. Although written for students of women's or Mexican-American studies, it also has a broader appeal to sociologists in general. Positively reviewed by Marjorie S. Zatz in Contemporary Sociology, 1994 23 p527 (2).

Trujillo, Carla, ed. Living Chicana Theory. Berkeley: Third Women Press, 1998. 444. Living Chicana Theory is an anthology whose contributors are academics attempting to bridge the gap in feminist literature between people of color and the main stream whites that dominated the movement in the 1980s. The 21 essays look at the role of chicana women in our society both from the personal lives of the authors as well as a group within the feminist movement. The essays cover a wide range of format from poetry to scholarly papers. Suitable for the classroom, recommended to both students and professors of feminist theory.


Vance, Carole S., ed. Pleasure and Danger : Exploring Female Sexuality. 1984. New York: Pandora Press, 1992. 462. Pleasure and Danger is comprised from papers given at the Scholar and Feminist IX Conference held at Barnard College in 1982. The collection is a diverse look at female sexuality in our culture and includes papers on the following topics: the body, sexual socialization of children, pornography, the romantic views of teenage girls, and the history of sexuality in our culture. A solid academic approach to how modern society looks on sex and women. Recom-
mended for scholars as well as the general public. Positively reviewed in the New York Times Book Review. (The 1992 edition has a new introduction by editor Carole Vance.)

Walker, Alice. Meridian. San Diego: Harcourt, 1976. 228. This novel is the tale of a southern black woman who quits the civil rights movement when things become violent. Excellent portrayal of the conflict within the civil rights movement between northern intellectuals and southern blacks. Favorably reviewed in Library Journal, New Yorker, and Newsweek.

Warner-Vieyra, Myriam. Juletane. Trans. Betty Wilson. London: Heinemann Educational, 1987. 83. Juletane, written in the form of a diary over a three week period, portrays a French Caribbean woman's growing despair over her predicament of finding herself forced into the traditional Muslim life in Africa after immigrating to West Africa with her husband whom she met as a student in Paris. Warner-Vieyra has cleverly portrayed this novel of cultural clash, bigotry, and polygamy by creating two protagonists, the West Indian woman who wrote the diary and the West African woman who reads it. Juletane is one of a series of books produced by Caribbean women of color that focus on the social conditions faced by women in the post-colonial West Indies. Recommended to anyone interested in the lives of women in third world cultures.

Washington, Mary Helen, ed. Black-Eyed Susans: Classic Stories By and About Black Women. Garden City: Anchor Books, 1975. 163. Black-Eyed Susans is one of three anthologies compiled by Mary Helen Washington, a professor of English at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. Featuring popular authors Toni Cade Bambara, Gwendolyn Brooks, Paule Marshall, Toni Morrison and Alice Walker, it is a collection of stories emphasizing the marginalization black women face both in terms of race and gender. The selections are excerpts from full-length works such as Morrison's The Bluest Eye. Although dated, it's choice of selections from these authors' earlier works, still make it viable as a classroom anthology. Other works compiled by Washington include Midnight Birds and Invented Lives.

APPENDIX

The following is a list of textbooks, anthologies, and classroom readers which were not included in the annotated portion of the reading list but have merit as viable resources for those teaching women's studies.


