

Thinking Gender

Thinking Gender (<http://www.thinkinggender.edublogs.org>) is your own course blog. This website is only accessible to you, students in the “Theories of Gender and Culture” course 2007. You are the only ones who can write, comment, and read this blog. It is a safe environment to float your ideas and practice your critical thinking and writing on gender theory. I have created three categories of posts in the sidebar. That does not mean we need to stick to these, but here’s what they are:

Discussion questions

I will post weekly questions for discussion, on the texts that are on the syllabus for the following week. You need to write a post in reply to *at least three* of these discussion questions in the course of the semester. The short essays that you post here, will count towards your participation grade.

Your short essays in answer to these discussion questions need to be written in an academic style, tone and register. They are not only intended to get a better grasp on the material you have read, they are also intended as further practice for your academic writing skills. Their length should be between 300 and 500 words (excluding quotations), so they are a good training in concise and clear writing. Make sure you determine a line of argument and a paragraph outline before you start writing; start each paragraph with a clear topic statement; write a lucid introduction and conclusion.

Apart from these discussion questions, the blog also functions as a place for questions, comments and discussion on the material for this course. I have created two categories for you to contribute to, but of course there is room for other categories.

I really hope that this blog will become a lively environment for you to discuss the texts you have read, and to try out the questions and ideas you have about them. One of the most important features of the blog is the possibility to react to each other, either in the comments, or in the posts themselves. Read each other carefully and react constructively, and this blog will be a fruitful learning environment.

Queries

If you have a question about the material you are reading for the seminars, post it in the query category. It could be a factual question, something you do not understand, or perhaps something you wish to discuss. I will of course keep an eye on your questions, but ideally, your fellow students will help you, or react to your ideas. This is a

course in which there are no right answers, where you need to think and write for yourselves in order to get to grips with the material. This is the place to do so!

Gender notes

This is where you can post your observations on gender in daily life, the media, the internet. Did you see a commercial that you could read in the light of one of the theories we discussed? Did you read an interview or did you talk to your grandmother about gender roles in the past? Write a short analysis, and post it in this category.

Household notes

Household notes are messages about the course itself, and will mainly be posted by me.