NYU Gallatin School of Individualized Study
The Politics of Home
First UG 93
Fall 2015
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30-10:45
Classroom location: Waverly 569
Instructor name: Rosanne Kennedy
rtk1@nyu.edu
Office: 411 Lafayette St, 3rd floor
Office hours: Tuesday, 11-12:30, Thursday 11-12:30, Friday 10-11

The Politics of Home

The premise of this seminar is that the “home” is not prepolitical or apolitical, in opposition to the public domain, but inextricably linked to the political. Indeed meanings of home saturate — sometimes explicitly, sometimes obliquely — our public discourse and debates. Gender, race, class, and sexuality are publically policed and reproduced with reference to normative familial relations and (private) property. Yet on the other hand, domestic spaces and intimate lives can often serve as spaces of relief, refuge, and even political opposition. The home, depending on where one finds oneself situated, can mean wildly different things: prison or refuge, the banal or the aspirational. In this course we will read critiques and adulations of the domestic in multiple genres (theoretical, literary, popular) alongside contemporary activist projects and artworks that willfully put the domestic on public display through the use of traditional women’s work (knitting, embroidery, sewing). We will ask how different domestic spaces and intimate relations are imagined in opposition (or conjunction) with dominant models.

Course Objectives/Learning Goals:

By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- Develop close readings of texts
- Gain an understanding of the relationship/conflicts between the personal and the political

Required Texts:

Maria Elena Buszek (ed.). Extra/Ord

Required Assignments:

Students will be required to write a midterm essay (5-7 pages), and a final paper (12-15 pages). In addition students are expected to come to each class with two or three questions or observations of the text (written down but not collected). Also, as a seminar based largely on class discussion, active participation and attendance are imperative. More than two unexcused absences will adversely affect the final grade.

Grading:

Midterm Essay: 30%
Final Essay: 40%
Participation and Attendance: 30 %

Academic Integrity:

“As a Gallatin student you belong to an interdisciplinary community of artists and scholars who value honest and open intellectual inquiry. This relationship depends on mutual respect, responsibility, and integrity. Failure to uphold these values will be subject to severe sanction, which may include dismissal from the University. Examples of behaviors that compromise the academic integrity of the Gallatin School include plagiarism, illicit collaboration, doubling or recycling coursework, and cheating. Please consult the Gallatin Bulletin or Gallatin website (http://gallatin.nyu.edu/academics/policies/integrity.html)”

Electronic Devices:

Laptops and Tablets are allowed for note taking only. Cell phones should be turned off.

Seminar Schedule:

September 3:
*Introduction

September 8:
*Toni Morrison, Home (first half)

September 10:
*Toni Morrison, Home (second half)

September 15:
*Charlotte Perkins Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper”

September 17:
*Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique*, chaps. 1-4

September 22:
*Betty Friedan, *The Feminine Mystique*, chaps. 8 & 14

September 24:
*bell hooks. *Belonging*, chaps. 1-7

September 29:
*bell hooks. *Belonging*, chaps 8-14

October 1:
*bell hooks. *Belonging*, chaps 15-21

October 6:

October 8:

October 13: no class

October 15:
*Sara Ahmed. *The Promise of Happiness*, pp. 1-87

October 20:
*Sara Ahmed. *The Promise of Happiness*, pp. 88-159

October 22:

October 27:

Midterm Essays Due

October 29:

November 3:

November 5:

November 10:
*Ann Cvetkovich. *Depression*, pp. 1-29

November 12:
*advising workshop with Yevgeniya Traps

November 17:
*Ann Cvetkovich. *Depression*, pp. 30-84

November 19:

November 24:
*Ann Cvetkovich. *Depression*, pp. 154-213

November 26: no class

December 1:
*Juana Maria Rodriguez. *Sexual Futures*, pp. 1-68

December 3:
*Juana Maria Rodriguez. *Sexual Futures*, pp. 99-139

December 8:
*Extra/Ordinary Craft*, pp. 1-23 & 43-59 & 99-115 (or another essay from this section)

December 10:
*Extra/Ordinary Craft*, pp. 175-222 & 243-259

December 15:
*Conclusion. Seminar Papers Due.*