

FALL 2004 FACULTY SEMINAR

Directed by four Distinguished Visiting Professors in the Humanities

The Center for the Humanities invites applications from faculty interested in participating in the Fall 2004 Faculty Seminar directed by four Distinguished Visiting Professors in the Humanities. Up to ten faculty members will be selected as Fellows to meet weekly to discuss selected readings on the seminar theme "Feminist Scholarship Today." The seminar will meet Wednesdays from 4:15-6:00 p.m. A weekly lunch meeting will also be scheduled on Fridays. While priority will be given to faculty members interested in participating in the entire semester's activities, faculty interested in participating in one or more of the three-week seminars of individual visitors are also encouraged to apply.

Seminar Theme: Feminist Scholarship Today

Sept. 6 - Sept. 24 – Professor Kristin Ross (French and Comparative Literature, New York University): In this seminar we will attempt to historicize the conflict between the United States and "old Europe" (especially France) by revisiting some of the earlier postwar themes and moments of ideological disagreement (the postwar modernization of France, "thirdworldism," the French 1960s). We will conclude with recent French critiques of the U.S. by philosophers politicized in the 1960s. Readings will be drawn from Ross's two books *Fast Cars, Clean Bodies: Decolonization and The Reordering of French Culture* and *May '68 and Its Afterlives*.

Sept 27-Oct 15 – Professor Susan Bordo (English and Women's Studies, University of Kentucky): "Gender, Culture, and Popular Media": Each week, we will focus on a different topic and its portrayal in film and television. Possible topics might include: Changing Images of Fatherhood (*Father of the Bride* to *Kramer Versus Kramer* to *The Sopranos* and *Road to Perdition*), Adoption Narratives (not just adult movies, but also children's movies like *Stuart Little*), "Post-Modern" Hollywood (e.g., *The Truman Show*, *American Beauty*, *Far From Heaven*), Changing Images of Female Power (from Bette Davis to *Blue Crush*), The "Queering" of Popular Culture.

Oct. 25 - Nov. 12 – Professor Amy Hollywood (History of Christianity and Theology, University of Chicago): "Religion and Feminist Theory": We will focus on the interrelationship between feminist studies and the study of religion. In particular, we will examine the extent to which work on religion offers insight into issues of crucial concern to feminist studies, feminist theory, and feminist politics. Readings will be drawn from the work of Ulrike Strasser (on gender and Early Modern Catholicism), Saba Mahmood (on feminism and Islam), and Hollywood's *Sensible Ecstasy: Mysticism, Sexual Difference, and the Demands of History*.

Nov. 22 - Dec. 10 – Professor Rosi Braidotti (Women's Studies and Philosophy, University of Utrecht): Three topics will be explored in successive weeks: "Critical theory as cartography": uniting ideas drawn from Foucault, Jameson, and Deleuze with basic tenets of feminist philosophy concerning the politics of location, or situated knowledges; "Poststructuralist ethics and the issue of universalist values"; and "The question of Europe as philosophy": examination of the idea of the non-unitary subject in a poly-lingual and multicultural European context that expands in the direction of "flexible" forms of citizenship in the European Union as a post-nationalist social space.

Workshop:

Depending on interest, there may be a week-long summer workshop August 16-20, at which faculty will meet to discuss readings suggested by the four Distinguished Visiting Professors. A stipend of \$650 will be provided to participants.

Application Procedure:

The Center seeks participants from a broad range of disciplines and from all the divisions. To apply faculty are asked to submit a 1-2 paragraph description of their interest in the seminar topic.

Deadline for Applications:

Applications must be turned in by Friday, April 2, 2004 to Alan Schrift, Director of the Center for the Humanities.

Review Committee:

The Center for the Humanities Advisory Board will review the applications. Further information about the Center and the four Distinguished Visiting Professors can be found at:

<http://web.grinnell.edu/CentHumanities/index.html>