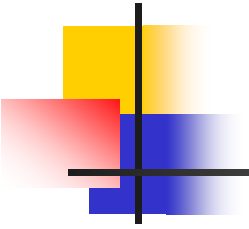




FEMINIST CRITICISM

Literary Theories
Session 5



United States
Department of
State

Full Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Sex _____

Nationality _____

SEX = GENDER?

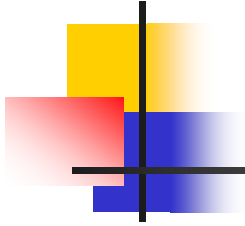


Helps understand social inequalities, particularly among women

gender differences contribute to gender inequalities and the larger inequalities in the society.

Masculine
actor
Director
Boy
Husband
Father
Son
nephew
Tiger
Lion
Stallion
deer

Feminine
actress
waitress
directress
girl
wife
mother
daughter
niece
tigress
lioness
mare
doe



SEX:

A system of classifying human beings based on their biological characteristics (male and female)

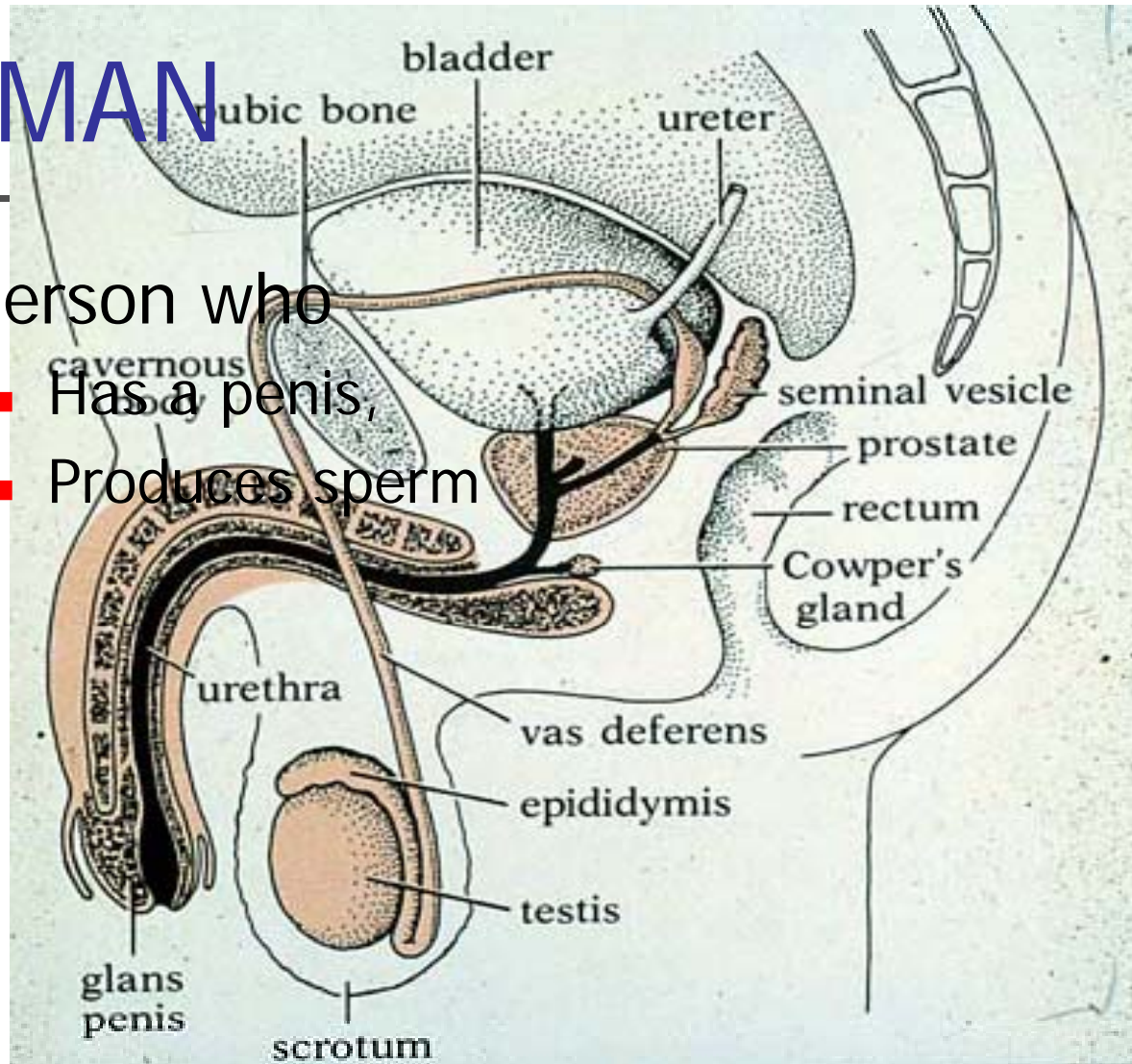
GENDER:

The role division of male and female based on certain assumptions that are socially or culturally constructed

A MAN

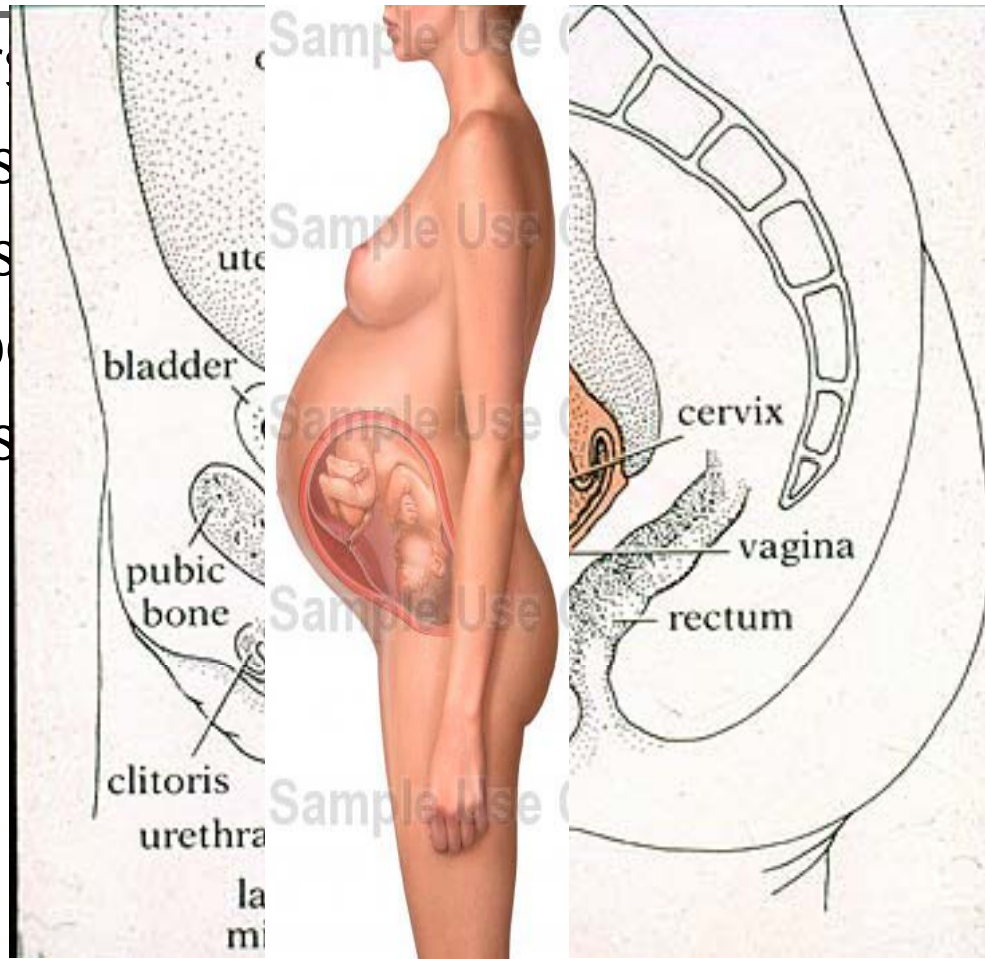
A person who

- Has a penis,
- Produces sperm



A WOMAN

- A person
- Has
- Has
- Pro
- Has





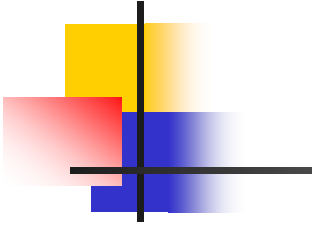
REALITY VS MYTH

SABDA ALAM

Ismail Marzuki

Diciptakan alam pria dan wanita
Dua makhluk dalam asuhan dewata
Diciptakan alam pria berkuasa
Adapun wanita lemah lembut manja

Wanita dijajah pria sejak dulu
Dijadikan perhiasan sangkar madu
Namun ada kala pria tak berdaya
Tekuk lutut di sudut kerling wanita







EN

CHILDREN CARE?

Macak (?)
Masak (?)
Manak (✓)

ubah-ubah?
Lumah-lumah?

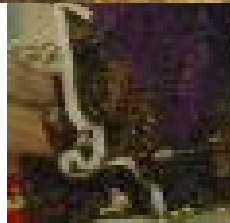
MANAK?

MASAK?



MACAK?

Dapur (?)
Sumur (?)
Kasur (✓)}



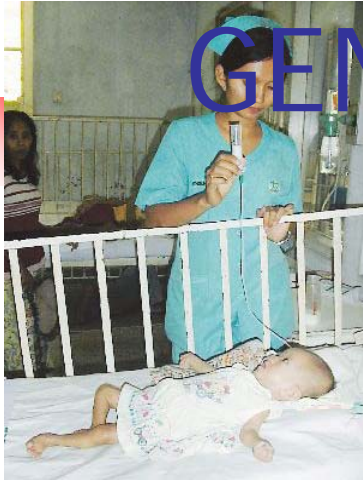
MEN SUBORDINATION

Awan dadi theklek, bengi dadi lemek

FEMALE PRESIDENT?



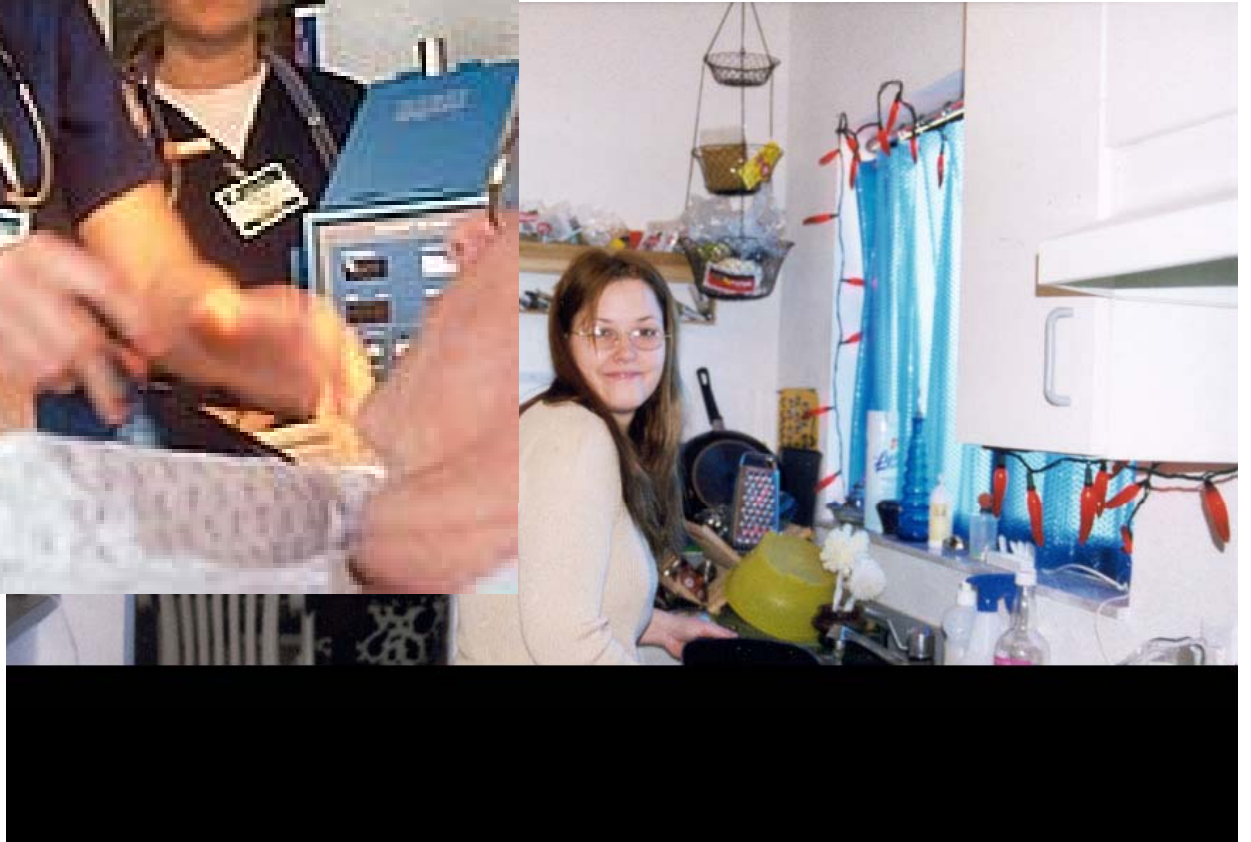
GENDER INEQUALITIES



MARGINALIZATION OF WOMEN

LITIES

INEQUALITY OF WORKLOAD



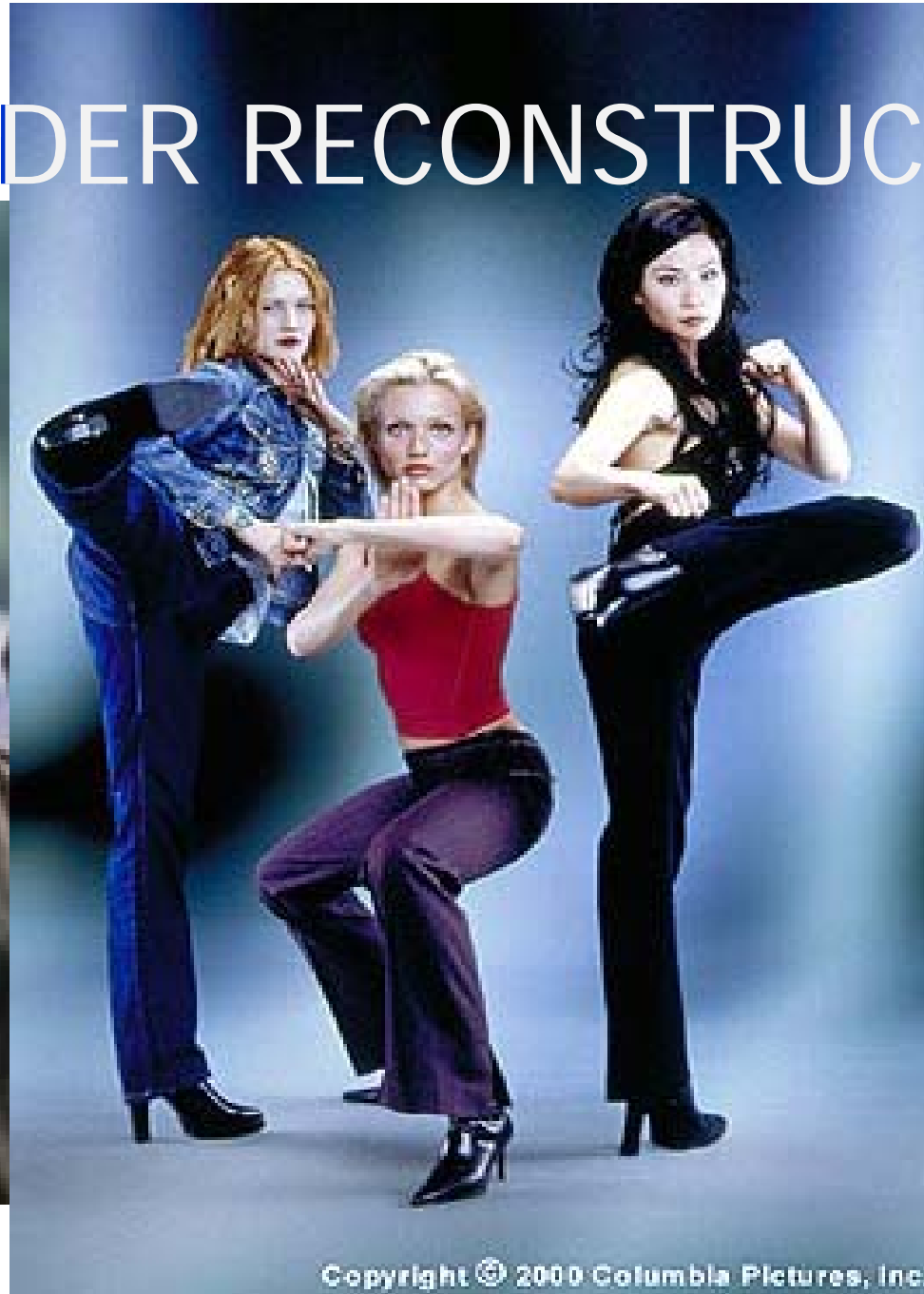
GENDER INEQUITIES



PHYSICAL VIOLENCE

PSYCHOLOGICAL VIOLENCE &
MARITAL RAPE

GENDER RECONSTRUCTION





FEMINISM

- “Feminism” is a political act whose aim is not simply to interpret the world but to change it by changing the consciousness of those who read and their relation to what they read. . .
- [The first act of a feminist critic is] to become a resisting rather than an assenting reader and, by this refusal to assent, to begin the process of exorcizing the male mind that has been implanted in us” (Judith Fetterley)



FEMINIST CRITICISM

- A criticism advocating equal rights for women in a political, economic, social, psychological, personal, and aesthetic sense.
- Objective: To raise awareness of women's roles in all aspects of literary production (as writers, as characters in literature, as readers etc.) and to reveal the extent of male dominance in all of these aspects.



HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

- Feminist theory can be divided into two major stages:
 - The First Wave
 - very much influenced by the social and economic reforms brought about by the Women's Rights and Suffrage movements.
 - The Second Wave
 - very much influenced by the various liberationist movements, especially in America, in the 1960s.
 - Focusing on sexual difference.
 - Criticizing the argument that women were made 'inferior' by virtues of their biological difference to men



1ST WAVE

- **Virginia Woolf (1882–1941)**

- *A Room with a View (1927)*: exploring female experience and not just comparisons with the situation in society of men.
- *Three Guineas (1938)*: the dominance of the major professions by men.

- **Simone de Beauvoir (1908–1986)**

- *The Second Sex (1949)*: outlining the differences between the interests of men and women and attacked various forms of male dominance over women.



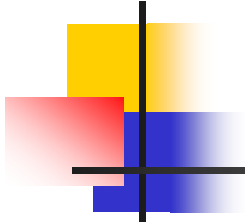
2nd WAVE

- **Kate Millett (1934–)**

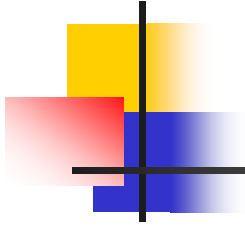
- *Sexual Politics (1969)*: the main cause of the oppression of women is ideology—Patriarchy—that treats females universally as inferior (subordinate) both in public and private life.

- **Sandra Gilbert & Susan Gubar**

- *The Madwoman in the Attic (1979)*: exploration of certain female stereotypes in literature, especially those of the 'angel' and the 'monster'.



- **Julia Kristeva (1941–)**
- *La Révolution du langage poétique (1974)*: trying to destroy the omnipotence of this male order, advocating a kind of anarchic liberation, in which 'poetic' and 'political' become interchangeable.
- **Helène Cixous (1937–)**
- *The Laugh of the Medusa (1976)*: arguing for a positive representation of femininity in women's writing; encouraging women to celebrate their completely different nature to men, their otherness.



- **Ruth Robbins**
- *Literary Feminisms* (2000): explaining how conditions such as poverty and undereducation produce different signifying systems than works produced in conditions of privilege and educational plenty.



AMAZON FEMINISM

- dedicated to the image of the female hero in fiction and in fact, as it is expressed in art and literature, in the physiques and feats of female athletes, and in sexual values and practices.
- concerned about physical equality and is opposed to gender role stereotypes and discrimination against women based on assumptions that women are supposed to be, look or behave as if they are passive, weak and physically helpless.
- rejects the idea that certain characteristics or interests are inherently masculine (or feminine), and upholds and explores a vision of heroic womanhood. Thus Amazon feminism advocates e.g., female strength athletes, martial artists, soldiers, etc
- Cf. Gaian theory



LIBERAL FEMINISM

- works within the structure of mainstream society to integrate women into that structure.
- rooted to the social contract theory of government instituted by the American Revolution.
- emphasizes on equality for women (Abigail Adams and Mary Wollstonecraft)
- slog along inside the system, getting little done amongst the compromises until some radical movement shows up and pulls those compromises left of center.



RADICAL FEMINISM

- the breeding ground for many of the ideas arising from feminism.
- centered on the necessity to question gender roles, such as "gender politics" questions.
- questions why women must adopt certain roles based on their biology, just as it questions why men adopt certain other roles based on theirs.
- attempts to draw lines between biologically-determined behavior and culturally-determined behavior in order to free both men and women as much as possible from their previous narrow gender roles



MARXIST-SOCIALIST FEMINISM

- Socialist feminism: a marriage between Marxism and radical feminism, with Marxism the dominant partner (Echols)
- Marxists and socialists often call themselves "radical," but they use the term to refer to a completely different "root" of society: the economic system
- Marxism recognizes that women are oppressed, and attributes the oppression to the capitalist/private property system.
- They insist that the only way to end the oppression of women is to overthrow the capitalist system.



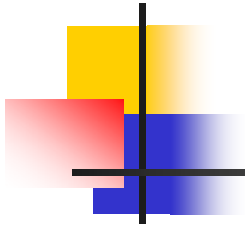
MATERIAL FEMINISM

- A movement in the late 19th century to liberate women by improving their material condition.
- Taking the burden of housework and cooking off their shoulders.

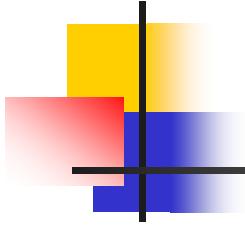


CENTRAL ASSUMPTIONS

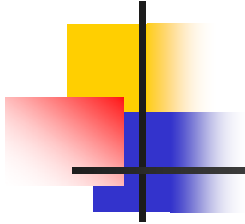
- Sexual oppression exists
- Gender counts: Being female and/or thinking as a female does make a difference, even if it's only a social/historical one
- Gender and sex are different -- gender is socially constructed. The differences between men and women are not so much biological as social:. Sex is biological-- (male/female); gender is cultural (masculine/feminine) and there is no necessary connection between the two.



- Diversity and Identity Count-- who we are is part of our reading process
- Subjectivity: Like reader-response critics, feminist critics believe that the perceiver makes a big impact on reading.
- Therefore, feminist critics are interested in the historical/cultural identity politics of both readers and writers.



- Read as a Woman: You don't have to be female to read like a woman or to analyze texts from a feminine point of view or to do research on women writers.
- Canon Building: Traditional women's writing and reading have been neglected and it is worthwhile to restore them to parity. The literary canon has largely been a product of, by, and for men, and therefore the roles for women as either authors or characters are limited
- Everything is political. All reading and writing is political



- Women's experience matters: Validation of the personal ("the personal is the political"); individual experience counts; things that happen to you, also happen to everyone else and are part of a power structure that is ultimately political
- Literature and literary criticism are political
- Gender discrimination is parallel to and part of the same system that produces discrimination according to race, ethnicity, sexual preference, class etc.



KEY TERMS

- The Other – woman has been categorized as “Other”
- Social construction of gender (and race)
- Gynocriticism -- the study of literature by women and about women
- misogyny -- hatred of women / misanthrope -- hates people / misandry -- hatred of men
- political criticism --
- essentialism -- a deterministic view that "biology is destiny" (opposite of social construction) belief that there is an inherent set of traits that determine both sex and gender, that male and female are immutable, absolute categories,



ANALYTICAL METHODS

- Mimetic – images of women – critiques stereotypes, archetypal
- Pragmatic – how do women read? Do women read differently from men? What happens when you read “as a woman”. Does the text have a double discourse: does it speak differently to women and men?
- Expressive – very concerned with situation of the woman writer, with establishing the literary history of women writers (recovery of lost women writers)
- Objective – what are the assumptions that govern literary value? Why are certain works canonized, while others are forgotten.

FEMINIST ANALYSIS

	MEN	WOMEN
POSITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ SUPERORDINATE ■ EQUAL ■ SUBORDINATE 	SUPERORDINATE EQUAL SUBORDINATE
ROLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ DOMESTIC ■ PUBLIC ■ DOMESTIC & PUBLIC 	DOMESTIC PUBLIC DOMESTIC & PUBLIC
RIGHTS: ACCESS CONTROL PARTICIPATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ UNLIMITED/MORE ■ EQUAL ■ LIMITED/LESS 	UNLIMITED/MORE EQUAL LIMITED/LESS