

WGS. 101 SESSION #12

1. Feminism 1963-present
Multiple Definitions of Feminism:
Definition in Relation to History: “First Wave” “Second Wave” Feminist
Definition by Analyses and Strategy: Liberal, Conservative, Libertarian, Radical, Socialist
Definition By Standpoint/Issue Priority: Black feminist, lesbian feminist, Elder rights feminist, Ecofeminist, labor union feminist
Orientation by occupation/role: feminist engineer, feminist architect, feminist homemaker, feminist obstetrician/gynecologist
2. Traditional forms and avenues of activism (e.g., NOW)
Alternative Forms of activism---leaderless, consensual groups
Consciousness raising – recedes as a form by late 1970s
Replaced by: professional support groups, book clubs, Feminist group therapy, “lean-in” circles
3. Focus on issues of media culture, language, sexuality
Sexual self-determination: sexuality, sexual orientation, reproductive rights, media representation
“Personal is political” - emphasis on gender socialization
Questioning public/private divide
4. The Question of a Gateway Issue: the wage? Reproductive rights?
5. The Growth and Development of Women’s and Gender Studies: Multidisciplinary/Anti-disciplinary Field
6. The National Women’s Conference, Houston, Texas, 1977
Inspired by the Bicentennial- Revisiting Founding Documents
UN- 1975-International Year of The Woman/Decade of the Woman
Jan 9. 1974-Exec. Order 11832- U.S. National Commission on the Observance of International Women’s Year
1975- Bill passed for a national women’s conference to celebrate the Bicentennial
State Conferences- attended by 150,000 people to elect delegates
Nov. 1977- 2,000 delegates attend National Conference- only women’s conference ever funded by federal government
80% delegates feminists (many from NOW), 20% anti-feminist
Agenda: multi-issue: 16 planks- most controversial abortion and lesbian rights
7. Documentary Film: *Sisters of ‘77*

MIT OpenCourseWare
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

WGS.101 Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies
Fall 2014

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.