



What is Feminism?

UNIT 1A

WGSS 263

THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

In the News

- ▶ HB2 in North Carolina
- ▶ Abortion Law in Oklahoma
- ▶ Beyoncé and 'Lemonade' are giving these feminist scholars so much to debate

How has feminism changed the world?

I'm not a *feminist*, but...

I appreciate the right to help choose my government representatives.

I enjoy the option of wearing pants or shorts if I want.

I'm pleased that I was allowed to learn to read and write.

It can be very convenient to control how many babies I want to have.

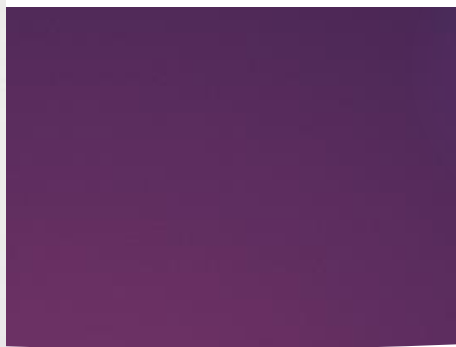
It's awfully useful to be able to open a bank account and own property in my name.

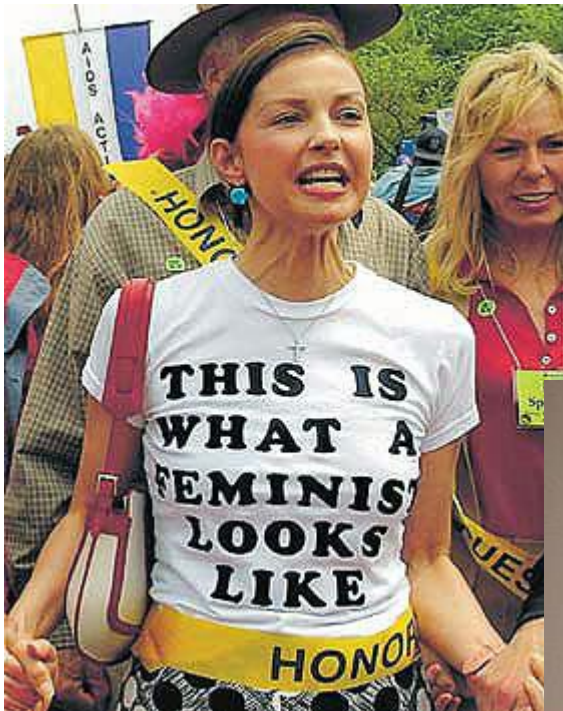
I like knowing that my husband or boyfriend cannot legally beat me.

It's really swell to keep the money that I earn.

This is what a feminist looks like

- ▶ [Feminist Majority Foundation Video](#)











National Women's Studies Association



NATIONAL WOMEN'S STUDIES ASSOCIATION

Leading the field of women's studies
in educational and social transformation

► <http://nwsa.org/conference/index.php>

Why do we need WGSS?

- ▶ <https://www.womenofthehall.org/women-of-the-hall/>
- ▶ Which of these women have you heard of? Where have you heard of them?
- ▶ “because you learn more about great women in history from Google doodles than you do from your [history] textbooks”
- ▶ Women’s Studies Departments often house Gender Studies, Queer Studies, and/or Sexuality Studies
 - ▶ It’s about a lot more than women today.

Discussion: What makes a man?

According to a previous class:

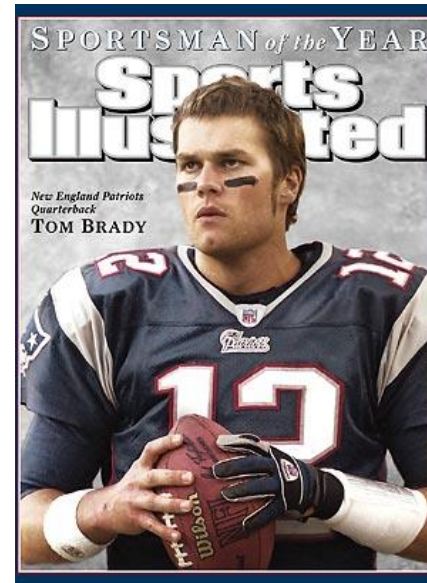
- ▶ Wears suit
- ▶ Broad shoulders
- ▶ Short hair
- ▶ Body Language
- ▶ Facial Expressions
- ▶ Square Jaw
- ▶ Is this always true?
- ▶ How else can men or masculinity be defined?
- ▶ Are these things natural or learned?

Gender DOES change over the centuries and across cultures

17th-century
masculine ideal



21st-century
masculine ideal ?



Masculinity

- ▶ Gender constructions change over time
 - ▶ But what has remained relatively constant?
 - ▶ Whatever is coded as masculine is dominant.
 - ▶ BUT
- ▶ “the same social constructions of masculinity that privilege men also limit them.” WVFV, 15
- ▶ How are men limited by society’s construction of gender?

Important Moments in Women's History

- ▶ 1798: Mary Wollstonecraft and Olympe de Gouges
- ▶ 1848: Seneca Falls Convention/Women's Suffrage Movement
- ▶ 1920: 19th Amendment
- ▶ 1963: Second-Wave Feminism/Modern Women's Movement

Three Waves of Feminism

- ▶ The Goals of Each Wave
 - ▶ 1st Wave: Gaining the Vote—19th and early 20th century
 - ▶ 2nd Wave: Gaining Equality—1960s, 1970s
 - ▶ 1970: First Women's Studies Program founded at San Diego State University.
 - ▶ 3rd Wave: Recognizing Difference—today

Third-Wave Feminism



- Images from issue of *Bust Magazine*

What are feminists up to today?

- ▶ Headlines from www.feministing.com
- ▶ <http://www.bust.com/>
- ▶ [Riot GRRRL Manifesto](#)
- ▶ [Third-Wave Manifesta, Thirteen-Point Agenda, from Manifesta, Jennifer Baumgardner and Amy Richards \(2000\)](#)

Feminism(s) (WGSS 363)

- ▶ Liberal Feminism
 - ▶ Radical Feminism
 - ▶ Ecofeminism
 - ▶ Psychoanalytic Feminism
 - ▶ Multi-cultural feminism
 - ▶ Global feminism
 - ▶ Cultural Feminism
 - ▶ Socialist Feminism
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- ▶ Postfeminism?????—the idea that we no longer need feminism because its goals have been achieved.
 - ▶ “I’ll be a post-feminist in the post-patriarchy”

Important Vocabulary

- ▶ Androcentrism
- ▶ Misogyny
- ▶ Gender
- ▶ Sameness v. equality
- ▶ Patriarchy
- ▶ Queer
- ▶ Interdisciplinary
- ▶ Lesbian baiting
- ▶ Compulsory heterosexuality
- ▶ Feminism
- ▶ Global feminism
- ▶ Radical v. liberal feminism