

## 08/21 Class Notes

→ no textbooks on exams — only notes!

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What is feminism? What is a feminist? What's the good, bad, and ugly of feminism?

↳ today: defining feminism now & historically.

What do people think about feminism & feminists?

- ↳ controversial views on both radical and conservative ends. (polarization)
- "crazy man notes"; "SJW" stereotypes; anti-male movement.
- feminism is misunderstood & misconstrued; associated with extreme perspectives, detracts from feminism's goal to benefit everyone.
- fight for equality and equity.
- feminism counters the patriarchal system.
- feminists are considered dirty, bitchy, slutty.
  - not respectable: not appropriate, taking up space; kind, virginal, submissive, subdued.
- feminism doesn't seek to dissolve differences — neutralize them.
- male loneliness epidemic → notion that feminism doesn't care.
  - feminism wants to change that! It just requests accountability from men, and rounded empathy from women & feminists.
  - men have a place in the feminist narrative as well.
- selling feminism as a package; on aesthetic.
- complicated history: white feminism is dominating the movement and putting others off.
- feminism is being cherry-picked; divisive; we can't cherry-pick parts of freedom.
- M. Atwood: "you are a man inside a woman watching yourself."

feminism is a broad ideology: there is danger in flattening all feminists to a single story/narrative.

→ people can't understand (e.g. men) that feminism benefits them if all they think feminists are are a stereotype.

bell hooks:

- ↳ stylized lowercase; pen name.
- born Gloria Jean Watkins → bell became her name.
  - September 25<sup>th</sup>, 1952 — December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021
- social critic, theorist, intellectual
  - race, gender, class, ability, spirituality, pop culture.
  - over 40 works.

Feminism Is for Everybody: book.

- ↳ nonfiction essay collection published in 2000s (3<sup>rd</sup> wave feminism).
- brief guide to feminism:
  - how hooks sees feminism.

## Feminism is for Everybody (cont'd):

- our specific reading discussed visibility and invisibility of feminism in 2000s, media, education; what feminism is and how it should be.
- Radical: derived from latin word 'root'.
  - fundamental / base-level feminism.
  - word is slanted and weaponized, even by feminists!
  - TERFs & white feminists can claim the notion of being radical feminists.
- ↳ divisive within feminism -  
making it fit within current-  
system reinforces the system.