Women Artists and the Influence of Feminism on Contemporary Art focuses on art created by women in the 1970s and how it revolutionized the art world. Through slides and discussion, we will look at the precursors of this movement such as Frida Kahlo, Meret Oppenheim, Alice Neel, and Louise Bourgeois, and then examine how their work influenced following generations. Autobiography, body art, pattern and decoration, non-traditional media, and performance art will be major themes. Museum, gallery, and studio visits will be part of the curriculum. While art historically based, this course will involve philosophical discourse.

Class Schedule - 42 contact hours (30 hours in the classroom, 12 hours of field experience), over two weeks (each lecture class - 3 hours, 3 4 hr. field experience)

Class I - Introductions
Lecture - Why talk about feminism and art? What do we mean by feminism? Who are the precursors of this movement and what is important about their work?
Slides of artists such as Meret Oppenheim, Eva Hesse, Alice Neel, Louise Bourgeois, Niki de St. Phalle, Frida Kahlo, and others.
Assigned readings
Term Paper due at the end of course: Select an artist and write a 10-12 page biography. Include childhood information. Talk about how she came to make the kind of art she does and what it means to her. Include Xeroxed images and explain them.

Class II - Lecture – Judy Chicago, Miriam Shapiro, and the California women’s art movement
Discussion of Womanhouse
Slides
Homework assignment: Make a feminist sculpture out of a shoebox
Assigned readings

Class III – Talk about art/ shoebox project. What did it mean to make it?
Lecture – How did women artists begin to change art history?
Social protests
Alternative Galleries and Publications
Slides – art dealing with racism and sexual stereotypes
Faith Ringgold, Betye Saar, Nancy Spero, May Stevens, Judith Baca, The Guerilla Girls

Afternoon Field Experience – Visit the Museum of Fine Arts, look for work that could be interpreted from a feminist perspective
Assignment for Friday: Write a review/critique (1-2 pages) of a work or works from a feminist point of view

Class IV - Lecture- Taking the message to the streets-Performance art-Why?
Slides – Carolee Schneeman, Adrian Piper, Betsy Damon, Martha Rosler
Show video of a performance piece
Assigned readings

Class V – Lecture – The Goddess
Why are women creating goddess images in the 20th century? How does the imagery today relate to ancient times?
Discuss issues of power
Slides – Louise Bourgeois, Ana Mendiata, Mary Beth Edelson, Yolanda Lopez, Niki de St. Phalle

Afternoon Field Experience - Studio visit of an artist who uses the figure/goddess imagery
Review/critique due

Class VI- Lecture – The Body: Part I
How have women artists used/reclaimed the body? How is representation of woman different now than in the past? What are the issues raised?
Slides – Alice Neel, Hollis Sigler, Sylvia Sleigh, Eleanor Antin
Assigned readings
Assignment for Wednesday: Look for an ad in a newspaper or magazine that represents a woman. Rework it/ update it to represent a woman from a feminist perspective

Class VII – Lecture – The Body: Part II
How are issues of sexuality and gender represented?
What does it mean to be feminine?
How does identity come into play?
Slides – Mary Frank, Joan Semmel, Hannah Wilke, Mary Frank, Louise Bourgeois, Harmony Hammond
Assigned readings

Class VIII – Lecture – Pattern and Decoration Movement
Use of untraditional media
Slides – Miriam Shapiro, Joyce Kozloff, Cynthia Carlson, Joan Snyder, Faith Ringgold, Betye Saar
Assigned readings
Afternoon Field Experience – Gallery visit

Class XI – Lecture – 21st century artists whose work evolved from the feminist movement,
What new issues do they raise?
Slides – Cindy Sherman, Janine Antoni, Lorna Simpson, Carrie Mae Weems, Barbara Kruger, Jenny Holtzer

Class X – Panel Discussion
Role play pretending to be different artists and have a mock debate on an issue(s) relevant to the artist
Biographical paper due

Required Texts:

Leslie Sills, Instructor, pg. 3

Lippard, Lucy R. **From the Center: feminist essays on women’s art.** E.P. Dutton & Co., Inc., New York, 1976

**Recommended Reading:**


Hammond, Harmony. **Lesbian Art in America: A Contemporary History.** Rizzoli, New York, 2000


__________. **Modern Art in the USA.** Prentice Hall, 2000

Lippard, Lucy R. **Eva Hesse.** New York University Press, 1976


Peterson, Karen and Wilson, J.J. **Women Artists: Recognition and Reappraisal From the Early Middle Ages to the Twentieth Century.** Harper & Row, New York, 1976

Wilding, Faith. **By Our Own Hands.** Double X, Inc. 1977

**Course Requirements:** Grades will be based on the following

- 25% homework assignments
- 50% term paper
- 25% class participation