

Feminist Theory POLI 116A; Karen L. Shelby, Ph.D.  
UCSD, Spring 2008

Respond to *one* of the following prompts in an essay of 6-8 double-spaced pages (12 point type; 1 inch margins). Your essay should integrate insights from and be built out of the articles assigned for this class. You may discuss articles from before the midterm, but the essay should focus mainly on articles assigned after the midterm. Think of the articles as the textual building blocks that will allow you to construct your own argument about the issues you're addressing. Without them, there is no edifice/argument. Therefore, you should make specific reference to our texts, articles, authors, etc. Use either parenthetical references or footnotes to cite specific ideas or passages. Do not, however, use texts from outside the course; I want you to focus only on the texts that I have assigned to you. As part of your essay, you should answer the question: *Which approaches or perspectives do you find most compelling, and why?*

Essay Prompts:

1. Simone de Beauvoir tells us that "One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman." How do our authors show us different ways of understanding the process of becoming? What connection do they show between our understandings of the process of becoming an individual/subject and the formation of feminist politics? Which approaches or perspectives do you find most compelling, and why?
2. Rosi Braidotti maps out three forms of difference with which feminist theory and politics have been contending. What are these three forms of difference, and how do various authors from throughout the quarter reveal something about (engage with or discuss) these forms of difference? How does confronting these forms of difference shape feminist politics? Which approaches to or perspectives on difference(s) do you find most compelling, and why?

Remember to submit your final essay via Google Docs (instructions posted separately) by 3pm on Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup>.