

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

For the midterm exam, you should be prepared to address any of the three questions chosen below. As time is limited on your exam, you should be prepared to quickly present your answer.

Midterm Exam Possible Essay Questions:

1. In lecture, I gave you Iris Young's definition of oppression as potentially comprising five characteristics. What are these? How do the articles and theories we've discussed so far this quarter reflect these five characteristics and their inter-relation? What strategies do our authors offer to confront these elements of oppression? With which approach(es) do you most agree? Why? Make *specific reference* to texts, authors, lectures, discussions from class, etc. in your answers.
2. Several of our authors offer an "intersectional" analysis of human existence, whether they call it that or not. What is intersectionality? Who are these authors, and what are their approaches? What theoretical or practical problems are they seeking to confront with their analyses, and in what contexts? With which of these approaches do you most agree? Why? Make *specific reference* to texts, authors, lectures, discussions from class, etc. in your answer.
3. Feminists have been engaged with the state, both as a potential source of bettering women's lives and as a site of critique. Discuss these feminist engagements with the state. What are the risks of engaging the state? What are the potential necessities or rewards? (Do not limit yourself only to texts assigned under the title Feminism and the State.) With which approach(es) do you most agree? Why? Make *specific reference* to texts, authors, lectures, discussions from class, etc. in your answer.