

POL4090: Contemporary Feminist Theory
Spring 2025
Wednesdays 3-4:50 pm

Dr. Linda Beail
Colt 116

lbeail@pointloma.edu

Office Hours: MWF 10:30 am – noon and by appointment

Getting in touch with me: For short questions – email me at lbeail@pointloma.edu. As a general rule, I answer emails during the work day (9-4), and I try to answer emails within 24 hours, except on weekends. If I happen to miss your email, please follow up again with me. I want to make sure I get back to you! For everything else – come to office hours or make an appointment. Office hours are a chance for you to get help on class assignments; go over material covered in class; talk about connections between class material and other ideas; talk about the political science major/possible careers/vocation; and so on. I would love to get to know each of you better and help you succeed in this course, so I encourage you to take advantage of this time.

PLNU MISSION: To Teach – To Shape – To Send. Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service becomes an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we aspire to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course engages students in important topics and debates in 21st century feminist theory via critical reading and analytic thinking. We will collaborate in reading, thinking, talking & writing about key recent feminist texts, grappling with current political & cultural issues via contemporary feminist theory.

SPIRITUAL CARE

PLNU strives to be a place where students grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith.

If you have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain, or if you have prayer requests, you can contact the [Office of Student Life and Formation](#).

INCOMPLETES AND LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due— including assignments posted in Canvas. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

PLNU COPYRIGHT POLICY

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

PLNU ACADEMIC HONESTY POLICY

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own

when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the course. Faculty should follow and students may appeal using the procedure in the university Catalog. See [Academic Policies](#) for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

PLNU ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS POLICY

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities. Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will issue an academic accommodation plan ("AP") to all faculty who teach courses in which the student is enrolled each semester.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course and/or if they do not wish to utilize some or all of the elements of their AP in that course.

Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND DISCRIMINATION

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe learning environment for all students. If you (or someone you know) have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that help and support are available through the Title IX Office at pointloma.edu/Title-IX. Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, it is required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office.

If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at counselingservices@pointloma.edu or find a list of campus pastors at pointloma.edu/title-ix

PLNU ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university drop date or, after that date, receive the appropriate grade for their work and participation.

FINAL EXAM POLICY

Successful completion of this class requires taking the final examination **on its scheduled day**. The final examination schedule is posted on the [Class Schedules](#) site. No requests for early examinations or alternative days will be approved.

CAMPUS RESOURCES

The **PLNU [Tutoring Center](#)** offers support with everything you need to succeed — whether it's learning study strategies and test-taking techniques, getting help from a tutor, using technology to read and write, or editing a

research paper. They also offer individual or small group tutorial sessions and special review sessions before exams for several courses. These services are **free** for PLNU undergraduate students. Some helpful **study strategies** that may assist you in this course can be found [here](#).

Research librarians are available to help you with your research papers and projects in Ryan Library. You can reach them by phone at (619) 849-2337, by text at (619)592-8884, or by [email](#). To search the library’s databases for books and articles, or to find quick and easy reference to our citation style guide and resources in political science, please visit our department’s excellent [research guide](#) from Ryan Library.

[The Wellness Center](#) is available for medical, counseling and nutrition services to students. Many college students experience strained relationships, stress, anxiety, depression, physical health challenges, and other barriers to learning. The Wellness Center offers help and resources to deal with these kind of issues. T

STYLE GUIDELINES

In political science, the most common form of citations is the **“author-date” format** from the [Chicago Manual of Style](#). Please use this style if using citations in this class – examples are available at the hyperlink. For our short response papers and in-class exams, if you are referring to something from our shared syllabus, simply indicate the author’s name or title and where to find the idea/quote in your text – you do not need formal footnotes or works cited. For example: “As Plato says in the *Apology*, “it really is the greatest benefit for a person to converse every day about goodness” (paragraph 38a, p. 19).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

The **main work** of this course is the **careful reading, thoughtful consideration, and engaged discussion of the texts & ideas** of contemporary feminist theory. Therefore, it is essential that you attend class each day, and that you come prepared to discuss the readings at hand. **Quality** of participation is as important to your grade as quantity; the best participants are not necessarily those that talk the most, but that regularly engage in our conversation with something meaningful and helpful to contribute. Sometimes that may be an insightful question that provokes thoughtful reaction, rather than a profound answer. Making space for others’ voices and perspectives, as well as bravely and wisely offering your own, are good political skills that we will practice.

Course Assignments	Percentage of Course Grade
Attendance & Participation in Class Discussion	25%
Lead class session discussion	10%
Four “Quote Analysis” assignments	40%
Final Project	25%
TOTAL	100%

Grading Scale:

A	93-100%	C	73-76
A-	90-92	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	0-59

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Leslie Kern, *Feminist City*, Verso 2021.

Sara Ahmed, *The Promise of Happiness*, Duke University Press, 2010.

Kate Manne, *Down Girl: The Logic of Misogyny*, Oxford University Press, 2018.

Other chapters, articles and essays as assigned (provided links).

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to revision by instructor):**January 15**

Introduction, community building and course collaboration

January 22

Manne, *Down Girl*, Introduction and Chapters 1-2 (pp. 1-77)

January 29

Manne ch. 3-5 (pp. 78-176)

[Emily Doe \(Chanel Miller\), Victim Impact Statement](#) (2015)

February 5

Manne ch. 6-7 (pp. 177-248)

Vanessa Friedman, "[The Face of Courage](#)," *New York Times* December 19, 2024 (Gisele Pelicot case)

Quote Analysis #1 due**February 12**

Jennifer Nash, *Black Feminism Reimagined: After Intersectionality* (Introduction and chapter 1, pp. 1-58)

Moya Bailey, [We Don't Need Misogynoir to Critique Kamala Harris](#), *Yes! Solutions Journalism*, August 15, 2024

Moya Bailey and Izzetta Autumn Mobley, "[Work in the Intersections: A Black Feminist Disability Framework](#)," *Gender & Society*, 33(1), 19-40.

February 19

Jesmyn Ward

Audre Lorde

Saidiya Hartman, *Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments* (excerpt)

February 26

Jesmyn Ward – Writers' Symposium by the Sea (attend together as a class)

Quote Analysis #2 due**March 5**

Kern, *Feminist City* Introduction and chapter one (pp. 1-54)

March 19

Kern, *Feminist City* chapters 2-3 (pp. 55-114)

March 26

Kern, *Feminist City* chapters 4-5 and conclusion (pp. 115-177)

Quote Analysis #3 due

April 2

Ahmed, *The Promise of Happiness*, introduction and ch. 1 (pp. 1-49)

April 9

Ahmed, *The Promise of Happiness*, chapter 2 (pp.50-87), chapter 4 (pp. 121-159), conclusion (pp. 199-224)

April 16 – WPSA Seattle

Quote Analysis #4 due

April 23

April 30

Final exam/projects