Legal Studies 189 Spring 2014  
Professor Kathy Abrams  
Course Syllabus

Where not otherwise noted, readings are contained in the course reader that is available at Copy Central (Bancroft on Bowditch). The readings which are followed by “bcourses course page” are available on the course page for our class at bcourses.berkeley.edu. The readings which are followed by an URL should be accessed on the internet.

I. Introduction [Jan 23]

Martha Chamallas, Introduction to Feminist Legal Theory (2003) [bcourses page]

II. Equality Theory

A. Equality Theory: Liberal or “Sameness” Feminism

[Jan 28]


B. Challenges in Application

[Jan 30]


Sexual Coercion in the Military (bcourses page).
III. Difference and Care

[Feb 6, Feb 11]

A. Difference Theory: The “Ethic of Care”

Carol Gilligan, In a Different Voice (1980). [1-4, 24-65]

Robin West, Jurisprudence and Gender, 55 U. Chi. L. Rev 1 (1989) [12-29, 32-38]


B. Difference Theory: Care Work and Social Structures

[Feb 11 (cont’d), Feb 14, Feb 18]


Heather Boushey, Center for American Progress and Joan Williams, Center for Worklife Law, Three Faces of Work-Family Conflict: The Poor, the Professionals and the Missing Middle (2010) [1-10, 60-72]

Sheryl Sandberg, Why We Have Too Few Women Leaders, TED Talk, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18uDutylDa4.
IV. Dominance Feminism

A. Dominance Theory

[Feb 20, 25, 27]


MIDTERM – Tuesday March 4

B. Theory in Action: Sexual Harassment

[March 6]


[March 11]

