GRC 323(38283); CL323 (33240), E322 (34685);
EUS347 (36160), WGS (48385)

Lynn Wilkinson
Germanic Studies Spring 2010
Burdine 360 – Wed. 10-12
LRW@mail.utexas.edu

Simone de Beauvoir and Hannah Arendt:
Intellectual Women/Women as Intellectuals

What does it mean to be a woman and an intellectual? This course focuses on major works by two women who helped define the field in the mid-twentieth century, the French writer Simone de Beauvoir and the German-Jewish-American Hannah Arendt.

We will consider their works from a variety of perspectives. To what extent are the preoccupations of these women intellectuals defined by gender? Do they define the relationship or relationships between public and private in ways that differ from many male writers? How do the lives shape the works? What kind of stories do they tell?

We will also consider the different contexts of the two writers, as well as some recent perspectives on the nature and origins of "intellectuals."

This course satisfies the substantial writing component requirement.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING: Two three-page papers (20%), one final ten-page paper (50%), and one oral report (10%). Class participation will count 20%.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Please let me know by the third day of class at the latest if you have a disability that has been certified by SSD, Services for Students with Disabilities. See http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/resp_fac.php or the SSD website for more information.

Late papers will not be accepted unless you have made arrangements with me in advance.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Simone de Beauvoir: *She Came to Stay; The Second Sex* (excerpts)*; The Blood of Others; Memoirs of a Dutiful Daughter; Mandarins; A Very Easy Death*

Toril Moi: *Simone de Beauvoir: The Making of an Intellectual Woman* PQ 2603 E362 Z855 1994 (on reserve)

Hannah Arendt: *The Human Condition*; *Between Past and Future*; *Eichmann in Jerusalem*; *Men in Dark Times; The Portable Hannah Arendt*

Recommended (on reserve):

Letters to Sartre PQ2603 E362 Z49513 1992B

A Transatlantic Love Affair: Letters to Nelson Algren PQ2603 E362 Z4828 1993

Hannah Arendt, Karl Jaspers: Correspondence JC263 A7413 1992

Between Friends: The Correspondence between Hannah Arendt and Mary McCarthy JC 263 A69 A3 1995

Elizabeth Young-Bruehl: *Hannah Arendt: For Love of the World* JC 251 A74 Y68
Dierdre Bair: *Simone de Beauvoir : A Biography* PQ 2603 E362 Z59 1990
Margaret A. Simons, ed.: *Feminist Interpretations of Simone de Beauvoir* PQ 2603 E362 Z673 1995
Bonnie Honig, ed.: *Feminist Interpretations of Hannah Arendt* JC 251 A74 F46 1995

Syllabus

Week 1
Arendt: Interview (*Portable Hannah Arendt;* PHA)
Beauvoir: Introduction, *The Second Sex*
Jan. 19 Introduction
Jan. 21 Arendt: Interview (*Portable Hannah Arendt;* PHA); Beauvoir: Introduction, *The Second Sex*

Week 2
Beauvoir: *The Second Sex*
Jan. 26 Part 1: Destiny, History 1-82
Jan. 27 Part 2: History 83-138; Part 3: Myth 139-198, 248-263

Week 3
Beauvoir: *The Second Sex;* Arendt: *The Human Condition*
Feb. 2 Part 4: "The Formative Years 267-424; Justifications: The Woman in Love 642-669
Feb. 4 *The Human Condition*:: Prologue, Chapters 1 "The Human Condition" and 2 "The Public and the Private Realm"; "On the Emancipation of Women" (BB)

Week 4
Arendt: *The Human Condition*
Feb. 9 Chapters 3 "Labor" 4 "Work" and 5 "Action
Feb. 11" Chapter 6 "The *Vita Activa* and the Modern Age"

Week 5
Beauvoir: *The Mandarins*
Feb. 16 Chapters 1-4
Feb. 18 Chapters 5-7
FIRST THREE-PAGE PAPER DUE IN CLASS

Week 6
Beauvoir: *The Mandarins;* Arendt: "The Infinitely Complex Red-tape Existence," "Total Domination"
Feb. 23 Chapters 8- 12
Feb. 25 Arendt (PHA)

Week 7
Arendt: *Men in Dark Times*: Isak Dinesen, Rosa Luxemburg
Dinesen: "Sorrow Acre," "Babette's Feast"

March 2 Arendt
March 4 Dinesen (BB)

Week 8
Arendt: Walter Benjamin; "The Jews and Society," "Jewess and Schlemihl," "Writing Rahel Varnhagen," "Berlin Salon"
March 9 "Walter Benjamin," "The Jews and Society" (PHA)
March 11 "Jewess and Schlemihl," "Writing Rahel Varnhagen," (PHA) "Berlin Salon" (BB)

S P R I N G B R E A K

Week 9
Arendt: "What Is Freedom?" (PHA)
Beauvoir: *The Blood of Others*
March 23 "What Is Freedom"; *The Blood of Others* 1
March 25 *The Blood of Others* 2
SECOND THREE-PAGE PAPER DUE IN CLASS

Week 10
Beauvoir: *Memoirs of a Dutiful Daughter*
March 30 Books 1 and 2
April 1 Books 3 and 4

Week 11
Beauvoir: *She Came to Stay*
April 6 Part 1
April 8 Part 2
150-WORD ABSTRACTS FOR FINAL PAPER DUE IN CLASS

Week 12
Arendt: *Eichmann in Jerusalem*
April 13 Chapters 1-8
April 15 Chapters 9-15

Week 13
Beauvoir: *A Very Easy Death*;
Arendt: "Reflections on Little Rock" "What Is Authority?" (PHA)
April 20 Beauvoir: *A Very Easy Death*
April 22 Arendt : "Reflections on Little Rock"; "What Is Authority?"

Week 14
Toril Moi: *Simone de Beauvoir*
Selections from Habermas, Bourdieu, Jacoby
April 27
April 29

Week 15
Concluding Discussion
May 4 **LAST DAY TO TURN IN REWRITES**
May 6 **FINAL PAPERS DUE IN CLASS**