

The Liberation Workshop on WOMEN AND REVOLUTION

This course will explore the relationship between the Women's Liberation Movement and other revolutionary currents with a hope of extending the present debates on the direction and strategy of Women's Liberation. The course will include a bibliography of readings, some of which will be required reading before each of the sessions. Though women have not been socialized to disciplined intellectual work, we hope, nonetheless, that women participating in this course will put some effort into the study necessary for advanced and fully-participating discussion groups.

Most of the sessions will have a speaker who will be limited to 30 or 45 minutes, after which we will have general discussions. What follows is an outline of the course as it is planned so far. A more detailed plan and reference bibliography will be available by the evening of the first session, on February 20th.

1 - BASIC MARXISM

Because Women's Liberation and Marxist revolutionary currents have radically affected one another, and since this relationship is fundamental to the course, we feel a basic elaboration of Marxist concepts is necessary. The women leading these discussions will attempt to be as concrete as possible in explaining the concepts that Marxists use to understand and analyze the world.

Before the first session of this part of the course, 2 basic readings will be required:

The Essential Marx by Fischer and Marek, Herder & Herder Books, New York, 1970 (160 pp.)

An Introduction to Marxist Economic Theory by Ernest Mandel, Pathfinder Press, New York, 1970 (78 pp.)

(Both of these books are available at the Book Centre/Books and Music, on the east side of Yonge Street, 2 or 3 blocks south of Bloor. Other readings will be available here or at the Women's Place.)

Feb. 20 - Dialectical and Historical Materialism

- a look at how Marxists see change, and the relationships between economic, political and cultural forms;

- read, in addition to above,

Trotsky: "The ABC's of Historical Materialism"

(an excerpt of a book to be made available at The Women's Place)

Shulamith Firestone's The Dialectic of Sex will be necessary reading, as well as articles yet to be finally selected.

April 10 - The Rise of Women's Liberation in the 60's

April 17 - The Analyses Arising out of the Women's Movement:
The "Marxism as Feminism" Debate

April 24 - A continuation of the above

4 - WOMEN IN REVOLUTIONARY POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS OR TENDENCIES

The suggestion for this section is to invite women from organizations like the Communist Party, League for Socialist Action, Anarchists and one or two other groupings to explain: the effect of Women's Liberation on their organization; the policy of their organization on women, and strategy for carrying it out; the participation of women in the leadership of the organization, etc. Likely, 2 presentations would be made each evening of May 1st, May 8th and possibly May 15th. The following week would be scheduled for a debate among the attendencies and among the participating women in the course about the policies thus far presented.

5 - EDUCATION AND STRATEGY

The length and depth of this section will obviously depend on the success of the first 4 parts of the course. We hope that it will be a long and fruitful discussion.

LECTURE SERIES

February 23rd,	Part 2 of Mothers and Daughters - Similarities and Differences in Motivation.
March 23rd,	Prostitution
April 27th,	Recent Landmarks in Sex-Role Stereotyping Research in Psychology.

WOMEN'S PLACE REGULAR SCHEDULE

Office Workers Meeting	-	Every first Wednesday
C.R. Drop-In (to meet other groups)	-	" Thursday
General Information Meeting	-	Every third Thursday
High School Women's Collective	-	Every Thursday
Lesbian Drop-In	-	Every Friday

(If any woman wants to talk on the phone without coming down, Pat or Ellen are available to talk about lesbianism.)

Feb. 27 - The Labour Theory of Value, Alienation; Commodity Fetishism

- Chapters 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 of The Essential Marx are important as well as the first 45 pages of An Introduction to Marxist Economic Theory

Mch. 6 - Classes and the Class Struggle: The State

- Chapters 5, 10, 11, 12, 13 in The Essential Marx and pp. 54-78 of An Introduction...
- Also read a pamphlet by Ernest Mandel The Marxist Theory of the State (30 pp.)
(available at the Vanguard Bookstore on Queen Street near Spadina)

Mch. 13 - Classical Marxist Look at Women's Oppression and Some Problems With It

- Sections from Engels' The Family, Private Property and the State and from Juliet Mitchell Women's Estate.
- Also Kathleen Gough The Origin of the Family, a 16 page pamphlet available at the Women's Place.

2 - WOMEN UNDER CAPITALISM

While recognizing that women's oppression has most definitely not been confined to capitalist societies, and in fact, is characteristic of "socialist" countries today, we will explore here the particular characteristics of that oppression under capitalism. We hope that the broader questions of the universal oppression of women will be dealt with in Sections 3 and 4 of the course.

General readings for this section will be: Juliet Mitchell, Women's Estate as well as articles by Margaret Benston, John and Mickey Rowntree, Peggy Morton and Laurel Impus, which will be made available at the Women's Place. At present, the particular readings for each session have not been decided. They will be available February 20th.

March 20 - Women in the Work Force

March 27 - The Family

April 3 - Cultural and Sexual Oppression of Women

3 - THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT OF THE 1960'S

We will explore the most recent women's movement, the phases that brought it into existence, its relationship to other movements of the time, its organizational tendencies and problems, and the analyses that have developed out of it.