This course approaches feminist theories as a diverse array of projects in radical imagination. From theory that came directly out of activist agitation for social change, to work deeply grounded in distilling lessons from history, to writing fixed on envisioning a dramatically different possible future, we will explore feminists’ efforts to think their way towards a better world. How have feminist theorists utilized different forms of aesthetic, rhetorical, and narrative creativity in their argumentation?

How have they reimagined categories like sex, gender, and sexuality? How does their work ask readers to be imaginative in relation to the social world as we know it? We will take up these questions as we explore a range of theoretical works, including essays, manifestos, poetry, and film. Thinkers to be considered likely include: Radicalesbians, The Combahee River Collective, Shulamith Firestone, Adrienne Rich, Audre Lorde, Gloria Anzaldúa, Octavia Butler, Judith Butler, and Chandra Mohanty.