

PSC 372: Feminist Political Thought Final Podcast Assignment Fall 2019

Overview

This semester we have been returning to questions about how to live a feminist political life, not only through our readings but also through the podcast you have been following. This final assignment weaves these dimensions of the course together: you will yourself make a podcast about feminist political life that synthesizes themes from the course.

Podcasts are increasingly a way that people—and especially people 35 and under—engage politics, culture, gender politics, and feminism, so this project also connects our study this semester to the broader political world. As such, this will be an open and public project: we will turn the class’s podcasts into a simple website and an Apple Podcasts stream (individuals can choose to opt-out of publicly posting their podcasts, with no negative consequences).

Objectives for this assignment:

- Synthesize course material and ideas, podcasting, and informed personal feminist political thinking
- Explore multiple forms and modes of engaging feminist politics and political thought
- Learn and use audio recording and editing skills that may be useful beyond the classroom
- Demonstrate fulfillment of the following SUNY Plattsburgh Student Learning Outcomes:
 - Communicate effectively through oral, written, and visual methods appropriate to the audience, situation and purpose;
 - Demonstrate knowledge within a chosen field of study
 - Use information literacy and appropriate technologies to access, evaluate, synthesize, and communicate information.

Topic

You will make a podcast exploring the question “what does it mean to live a feminist political life” in the context of the state of contemporary feminism and gender politics. As we have learned throughout the semester, “private”/intimate spheres, cultural life and cultural production, economic relations, and so on are also realms of feminist political analysis and action – you may focus on feminist political life in these realms. In the course of your podcast, you should refer to thinkers we have engaged with during the semester (see below requirements). There are many different ways to organize, conceptualize, and plan podcasts, and I encourage you to think imaginatively about the ways you might bring in different forms of media, might address different political, social, economic, and cultural issues, might guests on your podcast from your social, academic, and other circles, might creatively engage with the podcast form.

You may work either by yourself or with a partner, with the requirements differing slightly (see below). There will be intermediary steps along the way to creating your podcast.

Directions and Requirements

Length: individual, 20-25 minutes; pair, 30-35 minutes

Content:

- Talk to and include clips from people within the SUNY Plattsburgh community (students, staff, faculty) who are not in this class contributing to the topic in some form
 - Individual. At least two people; pair, at least three people
 - You may focus your podcast entirely around a discussion with a selected group of friends, colleagues, staff, faculty, etc., with you coming up with guiding questions and directing the conversation. If you choose to do this, be sure to provide context at the beginning of your podcast about who these people are, why they are part of the podcast, why it is important for

your listener to hear what they have to say, etc.), and use time at the end of your podcast to reflect on important ideas and lessons from the conversation.

- Use at least one clip of at least 30 seconds of audio media from a popular song, other podcast, spoken word performance, poetry reading, etc. (let me know if you have questions)
- Include at least three different sound effects and/or music clips
 - See <https://tinyurl.com/audio-sources> for sources of free, licensed sound and music
- Refer to at least two different readings from the class, from at least two different units of the class
- You should write out a script for your podcast, although you are not required to turn it in.

Episode description: When you submit your assignment, you must include an “episode description” – a write-up of about 100-125 words explaining the content and drawing in your potential listener. This will be included in the Apple Podcasts feed

- Below your episode description, you must provide links to the source of all your audio (sound/music, spoken media, etc.)

Other requirements for pairs:

- Each person should have an approximately equal amount of speaking time
- Each person will individually email me a 100-150 word overview of their specific contributions to making the podcast

Alternate paper option

Write a script for an imagined podcast episode including yourself as host and a discussion including at least two different authors we’ve read this semester, about the same topic as the podcast directions. An example would be, for instance, to have Sara Ahmed, Kimberle Crenshaw, and the Redstockings on to talk about #MeToo, the Combahee River Collective, Audre Lorde, and Cathy Cohen to talk about #BlackLivesMatter, Wendy Brown, Carole Pateman, and bell hooks to talk about paid family leave, etc.

Key dates and in-progress assignments

For each assignment not turned in on time, the grade for your podcast will decrease by one letter grade. Any of these can be turned in early.

- Monday October 7, 5pm: Let me know by email if you plan to do the podcast individually or in a pair, or if you will do the paper assignment.
- Wednesday, October 23, 5pm: Submit topic overview (150-200 words) by email. Discuss what the podcast will cover, how it will cover that topic, and why this is an important conversation to have
- Monday, November 11: Submit a basic outline for your podcast by email (minimum 300 words)
- Monday, November 18: Bring 2 printed copies of a planning document of at least 600 words (draft of a full or partial script, detailed outline, etc.) to class
- Wednesday, December 4: Reflection on the podcast you have been following throughout the semester is due (more details forthcoming)
- Wednesday, December 11: Podcast is due. Please submit:
 - Audio file of podcast in .mp3, .mp4, .wav, or .aac format (follow instructions on Moodle to submit to class dropbox)
 - Episode description + audio sources (document to Moodle) – one per individual/pair
 - For pairs, each person emails individual summary of their contributions to me

Technology

- You will either check out a USB microphone from the Political Science Department or use the One-Button Studio in the library for a majority of your audio. Further details will be provided.
- You will receive a tutorial in audio recording, production, and editing in class on 15 November or 18 November.
- You should plan to use either Audacity (PC or Mac) or GarageBand (Mac) or Adobe Audition (should be on many library computers) for editing and producing your audio.