Participants enrolled in this course will read a variety of texts by and about women. They will also study well-known texts associated with feminist theory, feminist literary history, and concepts of empathy, sympathy, and sentimentality as they connect to depictions of women’s lives and stories. In addition, participants will develop projects that will allow them to explore empathy and its functions and limits in texts by and about women.

Requirements: One short conference length paper (6-8 pages), one longer researched paper (12-17 pages), two presentations, reading, discussion, and an exam.

Tentative list of texts

_Essential Feminist Reader_, Estelle B. Freedman, 0812974603

Cathy N. Davidson _Revolution and the Word_

Louisa May Alcott _Work_

Louisa May Alcott _Hospital Sketches_

Pauline Hopkins _Contending Forces_

Rebecca Harding Davis _Life in the Iron Mills_

Harriet Jacobs _Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl_

Susan Warner _The Wide, Wide World_