Classification of Schools of Feminism
(with Representative Figures)
Dr. Rodney G. Peffer

**Feminine Principle Feminism vs. Combined Feminine Principle-Political Feminism**
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19th C. Feminine Feminism
(Harriet Martineau; Catherine Beecher; Harriet Beecher Stowe; Florence Nightingale)

Core First Wave Feminism (19th C.)
(Susan B. Anthony; Elizabeth Cady Stanton; J.S. Mill & Harriet Taylor; Harriet Tubman; Emmeline Pankhurst)

Early 20th C. Feminine Principle-Political Feminism
(Jane Addams; Margaret Sanger; Ida B. Wells)

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**Anti-Feminine Feminism**
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Late 18th- Late 19th Century
Anti-Feminine Political Feminism
(Olympe de Gouges; Mary Wollstonecraft; Louise Michel (Anarchist); Eleanor Marx)

Early 20th C. Anti-Feminine Socialist Feminism
(Charlotte Perkins Gilmore; Beatrice Webb; Annie Besant; Rosa Luxemburg (C.P.); Alexandra Kollontai (C.P.); Emma Goldman (Anarchist) Lucía Sánchez Saornil (Anarchist))

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**1960s Second Wave (Gender System) Feminism**
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Political (Equality) Feminism vs. Radical Gender System (Liberation) Feminism
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A. Psychoanalytic Feminism
(Juliet Mitchell; Dorothy Dinnerstein; Nancy Chodorow)

B. Ethic of Care Feminism
(Anne Baier; Carol Gilligan; Nell Harding; Sara Ruddick; Rita Manning)

C. Anti-Radical-Gender System-Feminism Feminism
(Christina Hoff Sommers; Susan Faludi; Camille Paglia; Katie Roiphe; Rene Denfeld)

D. Feminine Principle Eco-Feminism
(Vandana Shiva; Susan Griffin; Karen Warren)

Third Wave Feminism
(Tori Amos; Annie De-Franco; Liz Phair; Margaret Cho; et al.)

A. Liberal Feminism
(Gloria Steinem; Bella Abzug; Betty Friedan; Naomi Wolf; Susan Moeller Okin; Martha Nussbaum)

B. Socialist Feminism
(Juliet Mitchell; Alison Jaggar; Ann Ferguson; Iris Marion Young; Carol Pateman; Nancy Fraser; Nancy Holmstrom)

C. Marxist Feminism
(Heidi Hartman; Evelyn Wood)

D. Anarcha-Feminism
(Peggy Kornegger; L. Susan Brown; Maria Mies; Starhawk; Lilith)

E. Non-Feminine Principle Eco-Feminism
(Carolyn Merchant; Val Plumwood; Mary Anne Warren; Victoria Davian)

F. Multi-Cultural/Cosmopolitan Feminism
(Angela Davis; Alice Walker; Maya Angelou; bell hooks; Audre Lorde; Elizabeth V. Spelman)

A. General Radical Gender System Feminism
(Kate Millet; Susan Brownmiller; Germaine Greer; Catherine MacKinnon; Sandra Lee Bartky; Linda J. Nicholson)

B. Existentialist Feminism
(Simone de Beauvoir)

C. Reproductive System Radical Feminism
(Shalumith Firestone; Mary O’Brien; Adrienne Rich)

D. Radical Separatist Feminism
(Adrienne Rich; Marilyn Frye)

E. Radical Lesbian Separatist Feminism
(Mary Daly; Andrea Dworkin; Ti-Grace Atkinson; Jill Johnston; Charlotte Bunch; Sarah Lucia Hoaglund)

F. Postmodernist/Post-Structuralist Feminism
(Julia Kristeva; Helene Cixous; Monique Wittig; Luce Irigaray; Chris Weedon; Judith Butler)
Schools of Feminism categorized according to their theories or perspectives on:

**Psychology:**
- Nature (All psychological differences between men and women are innate) - Harriet Martineau?
- Part Nature, Part Nurture – Steven Pinker; Steven Jay Gould; most Feminists
- Nurture (There are no innate psychological differences between men and women) – Andrea Dworkin

**Theories/Perspectives on the Nature and Choice of Gender Roles:**
- Feminine Principle Feminism (celebrates women’s perspectives, attitudes, beliefs, & abilities)
  - First Wave Feminism – Susan B. Anthony; Elizabeth Cady Stanton; Harriet Taylor
  - Recent Feminine Principle Feminism – Vandana Shiva; Karen Warren
- Ethic of Care Feminism – Carol Gilligan; Annette Baier; Noel Nodding; Rita Manning
- Non-Feminine Principle Feminism (argues for gender equality and that gender roles either should be freely chosen by people and not automatically forced on children according to their sex by means of status quo socialization … or we should try to socialize children to be somewhere in the middle of the spectrum of gender, rather than towards the masculine or feminine extremes) – All Other Feminists

**Socio-Ideological Theory:**
- Non-Gender System Feminism – Gloria Steinem; Alison Jaggar; Evelyn Wood; Germaine Greer; Vandana Shiva; Martha Nussbaum
- Gender System Feminism – Catherine MacKinnon; Andrea Dworkin; Mary Daley; Julia Kristeva
  - Reproduction-Oriented Gender System Feminism – Shalumith Firestone
  - Separatist Gender System Feminism – Adrienne Rich
- Lesbian Separatist Gender System Feminism – Andrea Dworkin; Mary Daley

**Socio-Political Theory:**
- Liberal – Gloria Steinem; Bella Abzug; Betty Frieden; Martha Nussbaum
- Socialist – Charlotte Perkins Gilman; Alison Jaggar; Anne Ferguson; Iris Marion Young
- Marxist – Alexandra Kollontai; Heidi Hartmann; Evelyn Wood
- Anarchist – Emma Goldman; Germaine Greer; L. Susan Brown
- Eco-Feminism – Vandana Shiva; Val Plumwood; Karen Warren

**Philosophy:**
- Analytical – Martha Nussbaum; Marilyn Friedman
- Existentialist – Simone de Beauvoir
- Post-Modernist/Post-Structuralist – Julia Kristeva; Christine Weedman; etc.

I think that, in theory, any option in one category is compatible with any option in any other category.

**Key:** *Blue Italics* indicate a *Holding Category* (not normally spoken of as an actual, specific school of Feminism but necessary to elaborate the relations between the various schools and sub-schools of Feminism)

**Classification of Schools of Feminist Thought in Terms of General Social-Political Perspective**

Feminine Principle Feminism **vs.** Non-Feminine Principle Feminism

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First Wave Feminism (19th C.) **Political Feminism** vs. Gender System Feminism
Classification of Schools of Feminist Thought in Terms of Philosophical Perspective

Non-Obscurantist Schools of Feminist Thought vs. Obscurantist Schools of Feminist Thought

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Normal (Clear-Thinking) Schools of Feminism; Existentialist Feminism;
Analytical Feminism Post-Modernist/Post Structuralist Feminism