Film Critique Reference Sheet

**AXIS OF IDENTITY:**

* **Gender** – expected behaviors of men/women; gender identity
* **Race/Ethnicity** – people grouped by physical features (skin color)/culture (language, traditions, beliefs)
* **Class** – (aka: socioeconomic status) – categorize people by wealth ($), upper, middle, poor (working class, working poor, underclass)
* **Sexuality** – sexual desires of a person (heterosexual, homosexual, **LGBT** = lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered)
* **Ability** – physically or mentally able (or not) – dis/ability (wheelchair, learning disability, morbid obesity)
* **Nationality** – belonging to a certain nation, (developed/developing; Global North/Global South)
* **Religion** – Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Animism (within each religion, there are sects - Christianity: Catholic/Mormons)
* **Age** – discrimination of: young (don’t know enough), old (useless)

**THEORISTS:** (theorists are people with ideas that try to explain the world)

GENDER ROLES:

* **John Stuart Mill** – [essentialist] females and males are biologically (naturally) different
* **Mary Wollstonecraft** & **Margaret Mead** – [social constructionist] females and males learn gender roles from society

MARRIAGE:

* **Betty Friedan** – marriage is worse for women than men, women are stuck in the house & can’t live their own lives (focuses only on white, middle/upper class women)
* **Gayle Rubin** – man asks woman’s father for permission to marry her, father “gives away” the bride at weddings; females are expected to (sexually) please others, but not themselves

SEXUALITY:

* **Charlotte Bunch** – women that stay straight to receive privileges
* **Gayle Rubin** - females are expected to (sexually) please others, but not themselves

RACE:

* **Sojourner Truth** – “Ain’t I a Woman?” black women are not treated like white women, highlights differences between women of different race and class
* **Pauli Murray** – black women have a tougher life than white women – black women are more likely to: be single, have more kids, work longer, have less education, earn less, have spouse die earlier, be head of the household

SOLUTIONS:

* **Simone de Beauvoir** - men tell women they’re already equal, then tell them they will never be equal (always trying to keep women *The Second Sex*); women have only gained the rights men have given them – need to take some forcefully
* **Mary Wollstonecraft** – women should be educated so they can be better wives and mothers
* **Audre Lorde** - “For the master’s tools will never dismantle the master’s house.” something different needs to be done to change things
* **bell hooks** – recognize differences among women, but all women should work together to help women gain equality
* **Valerie Solanas** – *SCUM Manifesto*: Society for Cutting Up Men (kill all men) and women will be better off (extremist, schizophrenic, shot Andy Warhol)

WOMEN VS. WOMEN:

* **Victoria Woodhull** – wives don't leave husbands because they’d be looked down upon by society, but wives look down on (free) prostitutes
* **Helen Cixous** – men have led women to hate women, women need to find their voice & kill the “false” woman who has been silent and hateful of other women

RELIGION:

* **Elaine Pagels** – Christianity talks of God as male, but several texts were left out of the Bible referring to God as “Mother”

**VOCABULARY:**

* **“personal is political”** – personal lives are affected by politics (e.g. laws) and the actions we take in our personal lives can have affect politics
* **intersectionality** - how all axes of identity (e.g. race, class, gender) intersect to shape our lives
* **suffrage ­**– right to vote
* **subordinate** – lower in rank or position; less than
* **dominant** – controlling all others; of a superior position
* **feminism** – belief in equality for all genders
* **social constructionism** - females and males learn gender roles from society
* **essentialism** - females and males are biologically (naturally) different
* **solidarity** – stick together to achieve a goal
* **privilege** – a right only given to a particular group
* **ostracize** – exclude (leave someone out of a group)
* **oppression** – cruel/unfair treatment over a long period of time
* **machismo** – idea that men are aggressive & powerful (over women), popular in Latino culture
* **patriarchy** – rule of the fathers (males)
* **misogyny** – hatred of women