FREN 445: Studies in Gender and Feminism
Spring 2013
Professor Peggy Kamuf
Wednesday, 2:00-4:50

In this course we will study some aspects of the long and highly charged debates in France concerning sexual difference and equal rights for women. We will focus on several periods of this intellectual and political history: the Enlightenment and the Revolution, when many women and men were challenging age-old beliefs about feminine inferiority, the role of women in the family and in public life, a period of great political and social upheaval, which nevertheless left the status of French women in society largely unchanged or even worse; the 19th century after 1830, when utopian and social revolutionary movements once again took up the demand for equal rights and for women's liberation from enclosure within home and family; the period 1945 to the present, which opens with the sensational success of *Le deuxième sexe* by Simone de Beauvoir (1948) and registers the impact of the modern feminist movement in France.

With works by Simone de Beauvoir, Hélène Cixous, George Sand, Annie Leclerc, Gisèle Halimi, Mona Ozouf, Olympe de Gouges, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and Choderlos de Laclos, the readings will include fictions, historical studies, critical and theoretical works, and memoirs.

If you'd like more information, contact Professor Kamuf (kamuf@usc.edu)