

P.S. You don't have to be a girl/woman/grrrl/femmy person to learn from or enjoy any of this. I promise.

KATE ✍️

### Happy reading/making/learning!

curated by yours truly. wealth of knowledge and prompts to explore, lovingly yourself a student! you now have \*in your hands\* a interested in feminism, art, and/or punk, consider to knowledge-production. So if you're even remotely who has access to knowledge and artifacts related care, challenging The Academy™ and ideas surrounding makes me think of the zine itself as a radical act of The idea that it could be distributed to anyone also

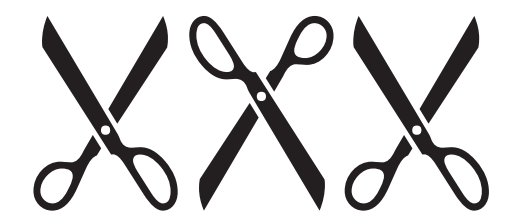
exercises with me. (My info is on the last page.) © constructing it. Maybe you'll even share your sketch some folks can benefit from the work I put into takes a while for me to see to fruition, at least make the syllabus into a zine. Even if this class exercises live in the world somehow, so I chose to important to me that the research and sketchbook No matter where this work may find itself, it's

with care that I desperately want to teach. develop the syllabus of my dreams, a course designed professional and creative prowess, I've decided to Iowa. As part of a class assignment and a result of (and a few certificate programs) at the University of Greetings! My name is Katie. I'm working on my MFA

## a Word from Your ZINESTER

# FEMINIST ART PUNKS:

Riot Grrrl, Zines, & the Radical Power of Self-Authorship



## KATIE KIESEWETTER

Regardless of who or where you are when you "take" this class, the idea is that once you've engaged with the material and started making your own creative works, you should feel confident that you are a writer / artist / maker and are capable of creating content that expresses your identity within, against, and beyond feminist (and art and punk) history. And again, you don't have to identify as a "grrrl" in order to riot with us.

(like you!) to participate. a better way forward and make space for more folks understanding these complications can help identify the shortcomings of and lingering questions provided by movements that seem otherwise progressive to the less-than-critical researcher. All movements are fraught with complications. Working through and of riot grrrl and "third wave" American feminism and highlights the voices of POC and queer zinesters, "Feminist Art Punks" also addresses the whiteness, Americanness, cis-ness, and heteronormative aspects of riot grrrl and "third wave" American feminism and source materials that were also self-authored.

authorship as they learn from the riot grrrl primary their own content and realize the power of self-structure remains open to allow students to create spirit of riot grrrl and DIY culture, the assignment supplementary to students' creative work. In the with research materials acting as informative and primarily from an experiential, hands-on approach "Feminist Art Punks" addresses knowledge-production

## Feminist Art Punks OBJECTIVES

### BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE?

This rad syllabus zine is a developing work in progress (because we all have more to learn all of the time. But you, dear reader, are holding the first download + print edition. Once assembled, be sure to date it below!



KEEP IN TOUCH  
katiekiesewetter.com  
@radkatdesign



PRINT/SNIP/FOLD:



Braslie, Monica. "From Riot Grrrl to MamaGrrl in Omaha, Nebraska." *Canadian Woman Studies*, vol. 20, no. 4, winter-spring 2001, pp. 63-68. Brown, Wendy. "The Impossibility of Women's Studies." *Differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies* 9, no. 3 (1997): 79-101. "Can Riot Grrrl Tiktok Re-Imagine a Flawed Scene?" billboard.com, *Billboard*, 13 August 2021.

Blisten, Jon. "The Go-Go's Call for 'Inclusion of More Women' During Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Speech." *tollingsstone.com, Rolling Stone*, 31 October 2021. Agerstoun, Mary Jo and Elissa Auther. "Considering Feminist Activist Art." *MMSA Journal* 19, no. 1 (2007): vii-xiv.

### ARTICLES/ESSAYS

*The Punk Singer: A Documentary Film* about Kathleen Hanna. Directed by Sini Anderson, IFC Films, 2014.

Moxie. Directed by Amy Poehler, Paper Kite Productions, 2021.

Kerrl Koch, Urban Cowgirl Productions, 2006. *Don't Need You: The Herstory of Riot Grrrl*. Directed by Antagonist Art Movement, 1996.

*Anything Boys Can Do*. Directed by Ethan H. Minsker, Marcus, Sara. *Girls to the Front: The True Story of the Riot Grrrl Revolution*. New York: HarperCollins, 2010.

### BOOKS

Darms, Lisa. *The Riot Grrrl Collection*. New York: The Feminist Press, 2013.

### RESEARCH

**9. Music Video** (Storyboard)  
Select a song we've discussed this semester. Sketch out an original storyboard for a music video.

**10. Riot Grrrl Legacy Organization** ("Business" Proposal)  
Do you have an idea that supports the legacy of grrrl power? Pitch it.

**11. Final Project Proposal**

**12. Your Riot Grrrl Manifesto** (List-Style Manifesto)  
What have you learned about Revolution Girl Style? What would you change? What/who do you support?

**13. Course Reflection**

## individual PROJECTS

**The Radical Power of Self-Authorship**  
Students will use what they've learned to develop creative midterm and final capstone projects. Projects should be in conversation with or a response to course research and should be related to students' own interest areas and creative goals.

- Midterm Project Ideas**
  - Print, Painting, etc.
  - Short-Form Zine
  - Poem / Song Lyrics
  - Short Story / Essay
  - Pitch Something!
- Final Project Ideas**
  - Chapbook, Long-Form Zine, Artist Book
  - Curated Exhibit
  - Festival Proposal
  - Infographic
  - Video Essay / Podcast
  - Performance or Video
  - Pitch Something!

Against Mei, Avril Lavigne, Beach Bunny, Bikini Kill, Blondie, Bratmobile, The Cranberries, Fugazi, The Go-Gos, Halley, Heavens to Betsy, Hole, The Linda Lindas, Le Tigre, Madonna, Mannaguin Pussy, MIA, Nirvana, No Doubt, Olivia Rodrigo, Paramore, Patti Smith, PINK, Pinkshiff, Pussy Riot, Rage Against the Machine, Salt 'n Pepa, 7 Year Bitch, Sincere Engineer, Steeler-Kinney, The Slits, Tribe 8, War on Women, Willow Smith, Yeah Yeah Yeahs, and so many more...

### MUSIC

Robinson, Phoebe and Jessica Williams (Hosts). "Pussy Riot Drops By to Play Putin vs. Trump." *wmycstudios.org, 2 Dope Queens*, 7 November 2016.

September 2021. Sexual Harassment. She's Not Done Yet." *npr.org, NPR*, 28

Gross, Terry. "Anita Hill Started A Conversation About Crenshaw, Kimberle." *ted.com, TED*, October 2016.

### PODCASTS/SPEECHES

Smith, Rachel. "Revolution Girl Style, 20 Years Later." *npr.org, NPR*, 22 September 2011.

pp. 809-841. Rosenber, Jessica, and Gitana Garotalo. "Riot Grrrl: Revolutions from Within." *Signs*, vol. 23, no. 3, 1998,

Nash, Jennifer C. and Emily A. Owens. "Introduction: Institutional Feelings: Practicing Women's Studies in the Corporate University." *Feminist Formations* 27, no. 3 (2015): vii-xi.

July 2018. Keep Fighting Over Them, Explained." *vox.com, Vox*, 20

Edwards, Haley Sweetland. "How Christine Blasey Ford's Testimony Changed America." *TIME*, 4 October 2018.

## sketchbook EXERCISES

**1. Riot Grrrl Performance Response** (Blurb)  
In words and images, write a response to a Riot Grrrl performance of your choice.

**2. Your Top Six** (Zine Sketch)  
Using the single-sheet, single cut zine style, outline your "top six," making one labelled drawing for each category: album, book, food, movie, work of art, celebrity or historical figure.

**3. Feminist Men** (Researched Profile + Portrait)  
What makes a feminist? Outline a profile (name, DOB, occupation, etc.) and draw a sketch of someone you consider to be a feminist man. Explain why.

**4. Personal Statement of Purpose** (Essay)  
Why are you here? What do you hope to contribute to the legacy of feminist punk art?

**5. Protest Art** (Poster Sketch)  
Sketch a poster, using text and image, about something you wish to change in the world. Include a position statement and an overview of the topic.

**6. Midterm Project Proposal**

**7. Institutional Issues** (Zine Sketch - Any Format)  
Sketch out a zine concept about a topical issue related to institutions.

**8. Midterm Project Reflection**

# FEMINIST ART PUNKS

GWSS: 3000 / ARRS: 3000 / WRIT: 3000 | Tuesday & Thursday 1:30-3:20pm | (This is all fiction, of course, but even stories need structure!)

THEME	TUESDAY	THURSDAY	Homework
<b>WEEK 1: Intro + Objectives</b>	<p><b>Course Introduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activity: Name three fem/woman-lead artists or bands from each decade, 1980s-Now</li> </ul>	<p><b>Not Your Mother's Feminism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"...to be young and to be creative."</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Read:</b> <i>Girls to the Front</i> (Ch 1+2), <i>The Riot Grrrl Collection</i> (Introducing... My Riot Grrrl, <i>What Is a Riot Grrrl Anyway?</i>, and "What's Riot Grrrl" Flyer)</li> <li><b>Sketchbook:</b> Performance Response</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK 2: Becoming Riot Grrrls</b>	<p><b>Starting an All-Grrrl Movement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are the benefits and limitations of labels / naming?</li> </ul>	<p><b>DIY &amp; Zine Culture</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What's a zine? Why a zine?</li> <li>Watch in class: YBCA Riot Grrrl Activism through Art &amp; Zines</li> <li>Demo: Single-Cut Zines</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Read:</b> <i>The Riot Grrrl Collection</i> (Bikini Kill #1 + #2), <i>Girls to the Front</i> (Ch 4+5)</li> <li><b>Watch:</b> <i>Don't Need You</i></li> <li><b>Sketchbook:</b> Your Top Six</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK 3: Riot Grrrls and their Contemporaries</b>	<p><b>Punk &amp; Hardcore in the 1990s</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What made Riot Grrrl necessary?</li> <li>Introduce: Short Paper</li> <li>Assignment (3-5 page response to any one of our class texts or a comparison of two class texts)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Not the Only Feminist Music</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What do we make of Riot Grrrl's place among other music genres of the time (hip hop, ska, grunge, etc)?</li> <li>Demo: Adobe InDesign</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Read:</b> <i>The Riot Grrrl Collection</i> (Bamboo Girl #5, Chop Suey Spex #1, Slant #5), Mimi Nguyen Interview (from <i>Zines!</i> Vol. 2)</li> <li><b>Sketchbook:</b> Feminist Men</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK 4: The Intersectional, &amp; The Transnational, &amp; The Self</b>	<p><b>American Grrrls</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What made this movement so quintessentially American?</li> <li>What does/would a transnational approach to Riot Grrrl look like?</li> <li>Activity: Listen and write/draw to "Straight Outta Vagina" / Pussy Riot and "Pussy Riot Drops by to Play Putin vs. Trump" (2 Dope Queens)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Intersectionality &amp; Riot Grrrl</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where did Riot Grrrl fall short?</li> <li>Activity: When was the first time you resonated with a celebrity, character, public figure? Who? Why? Draw.</li> <li>Demo: Adobe Illustrator</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Read:</b> "How Christine Blasey Ford's Testimony Changed America" / "Anita Hill Started A Conversation About Sexual Harassment: She's Not Done Yet"</li> <li><b>Listen:</b> "Dead Men Don't Rape" 7 Year Bitch, "Fat Pig" Tribe 8</li> <li><b>Sketchbook:</b> Personal Statement of Purpose</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK 5: Social Justice</b>	<p><b>Combating Violence with Art</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are things changing?</li> <li>Activity: Listen and write/draw to "Anita Hill Started A Conversation About Sexual Harassment: She's Not Done Yet"</li> </ul>	<p><b>Broad Topics, Personal Dialogue</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What does the insertion of the self do? What does acting on behalf of a group do?</li> <li>Activity: Sketch + Pass Protest Art</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Watch:</b> <i>Anything Boys Can Do</i></li> <li><b>Listen:</b> "Feels Blind" Bikini Kill, "I'm gonna tell my therapist on you" Pinkshift</li> <li><b>Sketchbook:</b> Protest Art or Art as Position Statement</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK 6: The Self, The Body, &amp; Control</b>	<p><b>The Femme Brain on Display</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feminine / Feminist Thought: What is conditioned? What is forced? What is rebellion?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Femme &amp; Queer Bodies on Display</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Who is Feminism for? Whose bodies and whose rights?</li> <li>Demo: Adobe Photoshop</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Read:</b> "Institutional Feelings" (introduction), <i>Girls to the Front</i> (Ch 8+9)</li> <li><b>Sketchbook:</b> Midterm Project Proposal</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK 7: School of Rock</b>	<p><b>The Action is in the Streets and the (Feminist) Classroom</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are the limitations and possibilities of The Academy?"</li> </ul>	<p><b>Midterm Project Workshop</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss Proposals in Small Groups</li> <li>1-on-1's + Sketchbook Check</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Read:</b> <i>Girls to the Front</i> (Ch 10+11), <i>The Riot Grrrl Collection</i> (class pickl)</li> <li><b>Watch:</b> <i>Movie</i></li> <li><b>Sketchbook:</b> Institutional Issues</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK 8: Students of Rock</b>	<p><b>Student (Feminist) Activist Artists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What can your education do for you and vice-versa?</li> <li>Discussion: Your Majors and/vs Our Class</li> </ul>	<p><b>Midterm Project Work Day</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open Studio</li> <li>Demo: Pamphlet Stitch Bindings and French Folds</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Work on your projects!</b></li> </ul>
<b>WEEK 9: Midterm</b>	<p><b>Midterm Project Presentations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group A</li> </ul>	<p><b>Midterm Project Presentations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group B</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Watch:</b> <i>The Punk Singer</i></li> <li><b>Listen:</b> "Modern Girl" Sleater-Kinney, "Deceptacon" Le Tigre</li> <li><b>Sketchbook:</b> Midterm Project Reflection</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK 10: The Pre- &amp; Post-Riot</b>	<p><b>Riot Grrrl Legacy Bands</b></p> <p>How do we compare artists' newer work with their Riot roots?</p>	<p><b>Laying the Ground Work</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How did artists of the past pave the way Riot Grrrl? What was considered influence? What was rebelled against?</li> <li>Demo: Sound Recording</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Read:</b> <i>The Riot Grrrl Collection</i> (class pickl)</li> <li><b>Watch:</b> "Don't Let Me Get Me" P!NK, "Rich" Yeah Yeah Yeahs (Ruby Rose as character), "Bad Girls" MIA</li> <li><b>Sketchbook:</b> Music Video Storyboard</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK 11: Grrrls After Riot</b>	<p><b>The Music Video</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What does a visual medium add to or take away from songs about women, girls, and queer folks?</li> </ul>	<p><b>SadGirl, Emo, Sk8er Girl, &amp;&amp;&amp;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What do we make of 00s-10s Pop Punk? How do the stakes change?</li> <li>Demo: Adobe PremierePro</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Read:</b> Mission Statements: Girls Rock!, To the Front DIY, Get in Her Ears, Safe Gigs for Women, Loud Women, <i>The Riot Grrrl Collection</i> (class pickl)</li> <li><b>Sketchbook:</b> Imagine Your Own Riot Grrrl Legacy</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK 12: The Resurgence of "Riot Grrrl"</b>	<p><b>Contemporary Riot Grrrls</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why is this movement still relevant? What is a legacy?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Riot Grrrl Recycled, Nostalgia, or Something New?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Influence vs. "Cheap" Copies</li> <li>Demo: Class Choice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Read:</b> <i>Girls to the Front</i> (Ch 12+13)</li> <li><b>Sketchbook:</b> Final Project Proposal</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK 13: Grrrls Today</b>	<p><b>Final Project Workshop</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discuss Proposals in Small Groups</li> <li>1-on-1's + Sketchbook Check</li> </ul>	<p><b>Revolution Girl Style Now</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Imagining the "Fourth Wave"</li> <li>Demo: Class Choice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Read:</b> Revisit <i>The Riot Grrrl Collection</i> "What is Riot Grrrl" Flyer and Riot Grrrl Manifesto in <i>Bikini Kill #2</i>, scan your course notes and sketches, revisit your favorite texts</li> <li><b>Sketchbook:</b> Your Riot Grrrl Manifesto</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK 14: Feminist Art Punks</b>	<p><b>Guest Artist or Studio Visit</b></p>	<p><b>Final Project Work Day</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open Studio</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Read:</b> <i>Girls to the Front</i> (Epilogue, Postscript, Acknowledgements)</li> <li><b>Sketchbook:</b> Course Reflection</li> </ul>
<b>WEEK 15: Finals!</b>	<p><b>Final Project Presentations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group B</li> </ul>	<p><b>Final Project Presentations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Group A</li> <li>Share Course Reflections</li> </ul>	<p><b>CONGRATS! You did it.</b></p> <p>Now keep the legacy going. ☺ ☺</p>