“The Theory of Intersectionality and its Application in the Classroom”

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Through my years of teaching I have come to believe that the theory of intersectionality is necessary and vital when attempting to bring accurate, holistic, and globally-aware feminist perspectives into the classroom. This theory has the conceptual space for the multitude of issues that must be given weight when bringing transnational feminism to students – gender, race, class, disability, age, religion, culture, language, immigrant status/citizenship, sexuality, and so forth – and for building a framework for Arab-Canadian and Arab-American feminisms. In this talk, I will explain why this theory offers the best model for bringing globally-aware feminist perspectives into the classroom, then discuss practical ways of integrating this framework into our pedagogy. I will also explain the importance of including environmental issues into the matrix, as well as the ways in which Said’s work on Orientalism connects with and supports the theory of intersectionality.