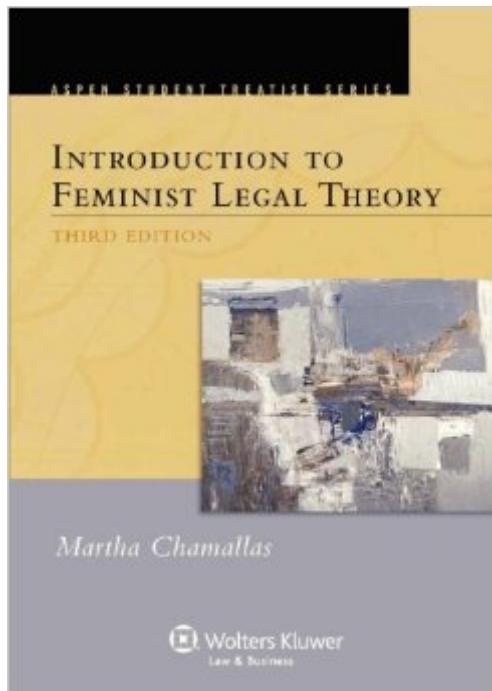


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# Introduction To Feminist Legal Theory, Third Edition (Aspen Treatise)



## Synopsis

The leading text in the field, *Introduction to Feminist Legal Theory* was the first book that served as an introductory survey of feminist jurisprudence. Its historical view of feminist legal theory places issues in social context and thoroughly reviews the evolving paradigms of contemporary feminism from the 1970s through the present. The full range of legal issues affecting women are covered, including gender discrimination, rape, sexual harassment, motherhood, reproductive issues, and much more. Clear, energetic presentation keeps students engaged and involved with succinct overviews, intellectually stimulating material, and jargon-free prose. The Third Edition features up-to-date theories and topics, such as the "autonomy" feminism and "masculinities" theory. Expansion of the current theory-based structure includes the "big three" feminisms described in the previous edition and the "new three" feminisms, which are expanded in the third edition. New applied areas are covered as well, such as transgender legal issues and sex trafficking. While the book remains U.S.-focused, important new material on global and comparative feminism has been added. Throughout the text, students will find discussion about changes in the law since 2003 on issues such as rape, pay equity, sex stereotyping, marriage equality, Title IX, and more. Thoroughly updated, the revised Third Edition presents: Up-to-date theories and topics "autonomy" feminism, "masculinities" theory, "social justice" feminism, LGBT and critical race perspectives. Two-part organization, focusing on chronology and substantive areas of the law that are of particular importance to feminist legal scholars. Part one focuses on chronology by examining the three generations of feminist legal theory that have emerged since 1971: the Generation of Equality (1970s), the Generation of Difference (1980s), and the Generation of Complex Identities (1990s to present). This part will also include the "new three" feminisms in the 3rd edition (intersectional, autonomy and postmodern feminism). Part two focuses on substantive areas of the law, which fall into three categories: economic subordination of women, sexual subordination of women, motherhood and reproduction. Introduction of new applied areas: transgender legal issues, sex trafficking, reproductive justice. More material on global and comparative feminism, while remaining U.S.-focused. Discussion of changes in the law since 2003: rape, domestic violence, pay equity, torts and tax laws, same-sex marriage, Title IX, and more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The word "introduction" in the title of Professor Chamallas's treatise appropriately signals its wonderful accessibility--the volume can be read and understood by a novice to feminism, or even by nonlawyers. But do not let it fool you. The book is a tour de force. It organizes, relates and describes more than 40 years of scholarly and legal developments in a field that grew from new movement to mature yet evolving subject. The book concisely illuminates the central debates of the era and explains the basic concepts and vocabulary of feminism in a legal context. The influence of these ideas has been such that even readers without previous explicit exposure to feminism concepts will likely recognize some of the issues and perspectives. At the same time, with Chamallas's outstanding treatment and with the combination of experience and currency she brings, all readers--from novice to expert, from skeptic to true believer--will see the world around them differently after reading this book. There have been many developments in the decade since the previous edition of this volume, and they are thoroughly integrated into the work. Nonetheless, there are perhaps a couple of signal new achievements to mention. First, in an effort to advance understanding as well as perhaps assist feminism in moving beyond problematic division into "camps," the book provides an "enemies list" for feminism--six problems on which feminists have focused--that Chamallas uses to frame subsequent sections of the book. The enemies, in order of appearance: Difference, Subordination, Devaluation, Essentialism, Victimization, and Normalization (if you don't know what some of these are, don't worry, just read pp. 28-30). Second, as feminism has developed into a deeper, more complicated and diverse field, the substantial enrichment of legal understanding that results from exposure to feminism (through this book) has grown commensurately.

No one better illuminates the richness and continuing relevance of feminist legal theory than Martha Chamallas. At a time when simplistic accounts of gender dominate conventional wisdom (think "the end of men" and the "opt-out revolution" that wasn't), Chamallas' insight into the complex relationships of women, men, and gender, and the role of law in constructing and regulating them, is more pertinent than ever. The new edition of *Introduction to Feminist Legal Theory* is perfect for classroom use, providing a solid grounding in the basics in a way that makes the concepts accessible and engaging to students. At the same time, it is foundational in the field, a must-read for legal scholars, whether they are visitors to the field of legal feminism or dwell in its domain.

If you need to know the history of feminist legal theory, and you have no alternative source, this book will provide it. The writing, however, is verbose and poorly organized. The author has a habit of burying topic sentences in the middle of paragraphs, making the reader's job more difficult.

Wonderful book in so many ways. Great with Gender and Law course, and helped students think critically and holistically about a variety of issues.

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