

June 13, 1975

Seymour Riklin
University Center for Adult Education
60 Farnsworth
Detroit, Mich. 48202

Dear Mr. Riklin:

To my great delight (and slight surprise, since I know how heavy her schedule will be this coming fall), when I passed on your proposal to Raya about teaching a course for UCAE this fall, she immediately said -- if it can center about International Women's Year, I'd like it.

Within 15 minutes she had dictated to me some immediate ideas for such a course. First she proposed that it could be called something like: ~~WOMEN AS REASON AS WELL AS FORCE~~, NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY. Next, she outlined six possible classes for such a series:

- 1) Russia 1917; Germany 1919; Portugal 1975
- 2) Working Women in America -- from Abolitionism to the Women's Liberation Movement Today
- 3) Women Theorists: Simone de Beauvoir; Kate Millett; Sheila Rowbotham; Juliet Mitchell; Maria Barreno
- 4) The Black Dimension: In Africa and in America
- 5) Literature and Revolution
- 6) Philosophy and Revolution

It sounds like an exciting series already -- and I hope the scope and thrust appear good to you. Raya did ask me to tell you that she could not possibly continue it for longer than the six weeks from the end of September and through October, as she has heavy commitments for New York in November. The \$40/class fee would be agreeable, and she would prefer evening classes, not days.

How does it sound to you? Please let us know.

Many thanks for your suggestions regarding offering the educational TV channel here the tape of Raya's interview in Alabama. I'll be sure to let you know how that turns out, as I imagine you would like to catch the program when and if they air it.

Best wishes,

Olga Sufritz
Olga Sufritz

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June 18, 1975

Chickamange
interview

Seymour Riklin
University Center for Adult Education
60 Farnsworth St.
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Dear Mr. Riklin:

I just spoke to Raya in Canada, and felt it would be best to write you a few of the additional suggestions she has for the course this Fall, rather than try to give them all to you on the phone when I call you on Friday. First, on the overall title, she suggested as substitute for the first one she sent along: WOMEN AS REVOLUTIONARIES. She would prefer WOMEN AS THINKERS AND AS REVOLUTIONARIES, but was afraid that might be too long, also. (She stressed to me that the "AS" is especially important, since she will not be dealing only with "woman revolutionaries", but women as a revolutionary force.) If, of course, you feel that is still not catchy enough, I'm sure you know what her thrust will be, and will come up with something that suits your purposes best.

Second, yes, she does have a whole list of recommended reading she would like to suggest for those taking the course -- here is the list she dictated over the phone to me: Marx -- 1844 Philosophic Manuscripts; Dunayevskaya -- Philosophy and Revolution, Marxism and Freedom, Notes on Women's Liberation; Trotsky -- History of the Russian Revolution; Rosa Luxemburg -- The Russian Revolution, The General Strike; Kestel -- Biography of Rosa Luxemburg; Millett -- Sexual Politics; De Beauvoir -- The Second Sex; Mitchell -- Women's Estate; Rowbotham -- Women, Resistance and Revolution; Barraco -- The Three Maria's; Speech at Berkeley, Cal., reprinted in News & Letters; Sontag -- Against Interpretation. I don't know if you had in mind anything this extensive when you asked if Raya would want to recommend a text for the class -- and Raya said that if only a limited list was what you wanted the four books I have circled in red in the above list are the four she would consider the most essential.

Third, in the list of six lectures she had me send you earlier, she would like to add the word "Today's" before the words "Women Theorists" as the third lecture, since theorists like Luxemburg will be taken up under a different lecture. She would also like to add after lecture six, Philosophy and Revolution: Women as Reason as well as Force. (She was bound to get that in, as you can see.)

Fourth, Raya would prefer a different, more recent photo than the one already used before. I will be able to get one to you very shortly -- what is the deadline for that?

And finally, on the introductory "blurb", she said she took for granted that Philosophy and Revolution, from Hegel to Sartre and from Marx to Mao will be listed first. And she suggested that instead of the Afro-Asian Revolution, it would be better for this class to list her Notes on Women's Liberation: Women as Reason and Revolutionary Force. She considers that in the list of places where she has lectured the most important of all is the Hegel Society of America Conference which she addressed this past November on "Hegel's Absolute Idea as New Beginning." Her paper will be published soon by Martinus Nijhoff, The Hague. You might also wish to include the fact that Philosophy and Revolution is already undergoing translation into both Italian and Spanish for publication next year in Italy and in Mexico.

Best wishes,

Olga Surpinto