The Feminist Critique of Science Outline

1) Feminist reject the notion that scientific methods offer an objective dispassionate investigation of the world around us.

2) Parsons is critical of the feminist critique of science.

3) Feminist argue the problem with science is

a) It is an enterprise run by men for men.

b) Radical feminists argue the very ideals and standards of science are problematic.

4) They make a distinction between epistemic values and non-epistemic values.

Epistemic Values – Values conducive to the aim of producing genuine knowledge.

Non-Epistemic Values – Important but do not set the norms for good scientific inference. (political values, spiritual values, aesthetic values)

5) Traditionally scientist have held science should make its product(s) independent of non-epistemic values.

6) Feminist argue that science cannot be free of non-epistemic values.

7) Science should adopt a feminist perspective. Why? What does this mean?

8) Postmodern era has replaced knowledge with interpretation.

9) Thomas Kuhn *The Structure of Scientific Revolution*