

## **ABSTRACT**

**THESIS:** The Season of the Vagina: A Third-Wave Feminist Analysis of the Television Series *New Girl* and *Girls*

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This thesis examines two of the female-driven sitcoms from the 2011-2012 season, *New Girl* and *Girls*. I analyze both series from a third-wave feminist perspective, looking at how each series portrays its respective lead character, Jess and Hannah, and how each series portrays funny women in general. Through these analyses, I ultimately argue that Jess on *New Girl* represents a much more promising feminist icon than Hannah on *Girls*. This is mainly because Jess is driven by self-love and self-confidence while Hannah is so defined by her self-hatred that she becomes difficult for viewers to relate. Most disappointingly, I find that female-driven sitcoms use humor as a weapon to discipline its characters.