

INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN'S STUDIES

FALL 2009

WOST W210-03

CRN# 11883

MW 4:30-5:45 p.m.

CM 212

Instructor: Holly Helmke

email: helmkeh@ipfw.edu

Women's Studies: 481-6711

Goals of Women's Studies

- ◆ To analyze academic disciplines from a feminist and anti racist perspective
- ◆ To encourage original scholarship and research about women that takes into consideration gender, race, class, age and sexual orientation
- ◆ To integrate self-exploration with academic skills
- ◆ To provide a learning environment which values students' ideas, encourages an open exchange of information and opinion
- ◆ To promote an individual and critical approach to learning
- ◆ To advance the diversity of women's experiences

Introduction to Women's Studies

This course begins the academic study of Feminist Theory. The course examines the structural arrangements of the U.S. society from a Feminist prospective. The position of women in the various U. S. institutions (family, work, economy, government, law, education, organized religions, health care systems, and media) is analyzed over Feminist Theory. Violence against women will be studied in the various forms it takes. The history of women in the U. S. will be discussed, especially the stories of those women active in the Feminist movement. There is no study of women possible without the inclusion of a feminist analysis of class, race, age, and sexual orientation.

This class is taught from a Feminist prospective. Feminist philosophy and theory are at the core of WOST 210. This is a study of Feminism.

Text:

Women's Voices, Feminist Visions: Susan M. Shaw / Janet Lee / Fourth Edition

There will also be various articles distributed, some will be required readings; others will be for your perusal. Films will also be viewed.

Requirements:

Attendance and Participation:

1. This is a READ, WRITE and DISCUSS course. It is essential to be present, prepared, and participate in discussion. Poor attendance will adversely affect your grade.
2. Text pages assigned each week in the syllabus will be your responsibility.
3. All written assignments described below MUST be submitted in HARD COPY. I will not accept email as it is your responsibility to print on your time, and submit your work when it's due. This is important; please refer to your class portfolio information below.
4. There will be NO excused absences.

Reaction Papers:

There is a Reaction Paper due each week. I require it to be typed.

Projects:

Projects will be discussed further during the first weeks of class.

Class Portfolio

It is imperative that a 3-Ring Binder be kept for ALL of the Papers submitted for this course. Included in this Binder will be:

- Syllabus
- Table of Contents
- Visitor/Guest Discussion (Q&A)
- Midterms
- Class discussion/Movie reviews
- Final Project
- Grade Worksheet

This needs to be kept current, and submitted each Thursday.

Failure to have this notebook completed by the last project will result in an "F"

The IPFW Writing Center

Improve your writing for any class free individual conferences with experienced writing consultants in Kettler G19, The IPFW Writing Center. Bring assignments, questions, ideas, and a draft (if you have one). Consultants will help you brainstorm, develop, and logically organize your ideas, and work on issues of meaning, style, and editing. Because it takes time to present ideas; learn strategies for a clear style; and improve your documentation and proofreading skills. Come to the Writing Center as you begin a paper and continue working there as you revise. Drops ins are welcome, however, appointments are recommended, which can be done over the phone (260 481-5740), in person or by visiting their website <http://ipfw.edu/casa/writing> The Center is open: Mon.-Thursdays 10-6 p.m.; Fri. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and Sun.1-5 p.m.

Grade Formula:

| | |
|----------------------|------------|
| Reaction Papers (10) | 300 Points |
| Project 1 | 50 Points |
| Project 2 | 150 Points |
| 450-500 Points | A |
| 400-499 Points | B |
| 350-399 Points | C |
| 300-349 Points | D |
| ≤ 299 Points | F |

- ◆ *MORE than 2 Absences will result in reduction of your grade by one full step.*
- ◆ *Unsatisfactory work will be returned for re-writes.*

Oral Presentation:

Research is also a social process: in addition to presenting your ideas on paper, an important part of the course is to learn to present and defend your ideas to others. Each student is required to give an oral presentation 7-10 minutes in length of their research followed by a question and answer session. This exercise will help you polish presentation and public speaking skills, and also provide valuable feedback for improving/revising your final paper.

You will be graded on:

- Clarity of content (ideas & data) of presentation
- Clarity of depth of analysis of content
- Ability to connect with audience
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***~This is your journey, and I expect you to be responsible for it.
I am more than happy to serve as one of your resources. ~***

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE
WOST W210-03
M-W, 4:30-5:45 p.m.
Holly Helmke - FALL 2009

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| Week 1 | Mon. | 8/24 | Introduction to Course, Expectations, and Syllabus Read Text Chapter 1: <i>Women's Studies: Perspectives & Practices</i> (Pgs. 1-57) |
| | Wed. | 8/26 | "A Century of Women I" Movie/Discussion |
| Week 2 | Mon. | 8/31 | "A Century of Women II" Movie/Discussion Read Text Chapter 2: <i>Systems of Privilege & Inequality in Women's Lives</i> (Pgs. 60-122) |
| | Wed. | 9/2 | "A Century of Women III" Movie/Discussion Reaction #1 due; Discussion |
| Week 3 | Mon. | 9/7 | "A Century of Women III" Movie/Discussion Read Text Chapter 3: <i>Learning Gender in a Diverse Society</i> (Pgs. 124-169) |
| | Wed. | 9/9 | "Killing Us Softly" Movie /Discussion Reaction #2 due; Discussion |
| Week 4 | Mon. | 9/14 | Guest Speaker – TBA Read Text Chapter 4: <i>Sex, Power & Intimacy</i> (Pgs. 170-222) |
| | Wed. | 9/16 | Reaction #3 due; Discussion |
| Week 5 | Mon. | 9/21 | Guest Speaker – Carol Rulka Read Text Chapter 5: <i>Inscribing Gender on the Body</i> (Pgs. 223-295) |
| | Wed. | 9/23 | Reaction #4 due; Discussion |
| Week 6 | Mon. | 9/28 | Guest Speaker – Melissa Carrion Read Text Chapter 6: <i>Health & Reproductive Rights</i> (Pgs. 296-376) |
| | Wed. | 9/30 | Reaction #5 due; Discussion |
| Week 7 | Mon. | 10/5 | Guest Speaker – Amanda Parker Read Text Chapter 7: <i>Family Systems, Family Lives</i> (Pgs. 378-424) |
| | Wed. | 10/7 | Reaction #6 due; Discussion |
| Week 8 | Mon. | 10/12 | Fall Break – No Class! Read Text Chapter 8: <i>Women's Work Inside & Outside the Home</i> (Pgs. 426-497) |
| | Wed. | 10/14 | Project I Due; Discussion |
| Week 9 | Mon. | 10/19 | Read Text Chapter 9: <i>Women Confronting & Creating Culture</i> (Pgs. 498-554) |
| | Wed. | 10/21 | Reaction #7 due; Discussion |

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| Week 10 | Mon. | 10/26 | Guest Speaker: Daphne Derbyshire Read Text Chapter 10: <i>Resisting Violence Against Women</i> (Pgs. 555-610) |
| | Wed. | 10/28 | Reaction #8 due; Discussion |
| Week 11 | Mon. | 11/2 | Guest Speaker: TBA Read Text Chapter 11: <i>State, Law, and Social Policy</i> (Pgs. 611-667) |
| | Wed. | 11/4 | Reaction #9 due; Discussion |
| Week 12 | Mon. | 11/9 | Read Text Chapter 12: <i>Religion & Spirituality in Women's Lives</i> (Pgs. 669-705) |
| | Wed. | 11/11 | Guest Speaker: Michael Spath |
| Week 13 | Mon. | 11/16 | Read Text Chapter 13: Activism, Change & Feminist Futures (Pgs. 707-755) |
| | Wed. | 11/18 | Reaction #10 due; Discussion |
| Week 14 | Mon. | 11/24 | Oral Reports – Activism discussion |
| | Wed. | 11/26 | Thanksgiving Break – No Class! |
| Week 15 | Mon. | 11/30 | Oral Reports |
| | Wed. | 12/2 | Oral Reports |
| Week 16 | Mon. | 12/7 | Oral Reports |
| | Wed. | 12/9 | Oral Reports |
| FINAL | Wed. | 12/16 | 4:00-6:00p.m. ~ Happy Holidays! |