

WOST 210: Introduction to Women's Studies Fall 2009 Syllabus

TR 12:00—1:15

CM 40

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(Voice mail only)

Office Hours: TR 10:30 to 11:30 and 3:00 to 4:00 and by appointment

Course materials:

Shaw, Susan and Janet Lee, eds. *Women's Voices, Feminist Visions: Classic and Contemporary Readings*. 4th ed. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2009.

Program goals

These are the goals of the IPFW Women's Studies Program:

- Analyze academic disciplines from a feminist and antiracist perspective.
- Encourage original scholarship and research about women that takes into consideration gender, race, class, and sexual orientation.
- Integrate self-exploration with academic skills.
- Provide a non-authoritarian learning environment which values students ideas and encourages an open exchange of information and opinion.
- Promote an individual and critical approach to learning.
- Promote knowledge of the diversity of women's experiences.

Course description

"Clear thinking, active discussion, and excellent writing are all necessary for intellectual freedom and these require *hard work*."

-Adrienne Rich in "Claiming and Education"

This course will involve reading about, discussing, and writing about feminism as it relates to your personal situations, American history/culture, and the global culture. It is important that you understand from the outset that women's studies and feminism are nearly synonymous. By its very nature, feminism tackles sensitive issues. We will not shy away from these in WOST 210. Be prepared to read about, discuss, and write about the complexities of sexuality, race, class, and gender. In order for our classroom to be a safe space to confront these issues, we will need to be respectful of each other's thoughts, opinions, and experiences and agree that the confidences shared in WOST 210 do not leave the room.

Assignments

The following is an overview of each assignment. More comprehensive assignment descriptions will be provided when each assignment is officially assigned.

- **Reaction papers**—You will write ten 500-word reaction papers in response to questions posed at various points throughout the semester. There will be eleven reaction topics so that you can skip one if you're feeling pressed for time or if the topic doesn't resonate with you.
- **Profile**—You will choose one of the authors of the readings in *Women's Voices, Feminist Visions* and present an oral report (with some kind of visual aid like a PowerPoint or a handout) on his or her background and contributions to feminism.
- **Community project**—You will attend one community event and/or gathering that can be interpreted as feminist-minded and write a 900-word description of and reaction to your experience. We will discuss possible events throughout the semester.
- **Research paper**—Finally, at the end of the semester, you will write a 2,000-word research paper and a corresponding annotated bibliography on one of the issues within feminism that we've discussed in class (or another issue approved by me). Your paper will argue for a position within that issue.

Grades

For each assignment, I will use a traditional grading scale with each letter, A through D, separated by 10%.

A	100% to 90%
B	89% to 80%
C	79% to 70%
D	69% to 60%
F	59% to 0%

Each assignment will receive a letter grade directly corresponding to its point total. The breakdown for your final grade will be:

Reaction papers (2 points each)	20% (20 points)
Profile presentation	20% (20 points)
Research paper	30% (30 points)
Participation	20% (20 points)
Community project	10% (10 points)

Attendance and Participation

Hopefully by now you realize that WOST 210 is going to be an intense, participatory course. In order for you to succeed in this course, you need to be present at each class meeting. Attendance is important, but if you do not participate in class discussions, you are not only hurting yourself, you are preventing your classmates from

learning from your perspective. If I find that your attendance and participation are lacking (usually this means missing more than two classes), it will affect your grade.

If you miss class, you are responsible for the material that is covered. Also, please note that the due dates hold regardless of whether or not you are in class to turn in something. I will accept assignments via email (excluding oral reports, obviously) if they are in the form of Microsoft Word attachments.

Academic Honesty

Please make sure that all the writing you turn in this semester is your own. Plagiarism is a serious offense that can result in expulsion from the university. If you are confused as to how to cite a source so that it is clear that you are using someone else's words, please ask me or make an appointment at the Writing Center.

Special Needs

If you have a disability or acquire one, contact Services for Students with Disabilities (Walb 113) for the services and accommodations available at IPFW. There are many other services available and information about them can be located in your student handbook.

Course Calendar

The following is a tentative schedule. Any and all changes I make will be announced both in class and via email. Please note that reading needs to be done before the day it is listed. For example, read pages 1 to 24 in Chapter 1 of *Women's Voices, Feminist Visions* before Thursday, as we will be discussing that reading in class on Thursday. Also, please be aware that this schedule is fairly "naked" so far. It is mostly a record of your responsibilities for each class meeting. Be assured that we will be doing more than what is listed here.

Week 1

T Aug. 25—Introductions, Syllabus, Watch *Designing Women*: "Reservations for Eight," Discussion: How is feminism represented in pop culture?

R Aug. 27—Read Ch. 1 p. 1 to 24, Discussion: What is women's studies?, Reaction papers assigned

Week 2

T Sept. 1—Read Ch. 1 p. 25 to 58

R Sept. 3—Profile presentation and community project assigned

Week 3

T Sept. 8—Read Ch. 2 p. 59 to 75, **Reaction #1 due**

R Sept. 10—Read Ch. 2 p. 76 to 123

Week 4

T Sept. 15—Read Ch. 3 p. 124 to 139, **Reaction #2 due**

R Sept. 17—Read Ch. 3 p. 140 to 169

Week 5

T Sept. 22—Read Ch. 4, p. 170 to 185, Watch: *If These Walls Could Talk 2*, **Reaction #3 due**

R Sept. 24—Read Ch. 4, p. 186 to 222, Watch: *If These Walls Could Talk 2*

Week 6

T Sept. 29—Read Ch. 5 p. 223 to 243, Profile subject due, **Reaction #4 due**

R Oct. 1—Read Ch. 5 p. 244 to 295, Watch: *Killing Us Softly III*

Week 7

T Oct. 6—Read Ch. 6 p. 296 to 325, **Reaction #5 due**

R Oct. 8—Read Ch. 6 p. 326 to 376

Week 8

T Oct. 13—Fall Break: No class

R Oct. 15—Profile presentations

Week 9

T Oct. 20—Profile presentations

R Oct. 22—Profile presentations

Week 10

T Oct. 27—Read Ch. 7 p. 378 to 395, **Reaction #6 due**

R Oct. 29—Read Ch. 7 p. 396 to 425

Week 11

T Nov. 3—Read Ch. 8 p. 426 to 447, **Reaction #7 due**

R Nov. 5—Read Ch. 8 p. 448 to 497

Week 12

T Nov. 10—Read Ch. 9 p. 498 to 514, **Reaction #8 due**

R Nov. 12—Read Ch. 9 p. 515 to 554, Research paper assigned

Week 13

T Nov. 17—Read Ch. 10 p. 555 to 577, Discussion: How to do women's studies research, **Reaction #9 due**

R Nov. 19—Read Ch. 10 p. 578 to 610, **Research paper topic due**

Week 14

T Nov. 24—Read Ch. 11 p. 611 to 668

R Nov. 26—Thanksgiving Break: No class

Week 15

T Dec. 1—Read Ch. 12 p. 669 to 682, **Reaction #10 due**

R Dec. 3—Read Ch. 12 p. 683 to 706, **Annotated bibliography due**

Week 16

T Dec. 9—Read Ch. 13 p. 707 to 721, **Reaction #11 due**

R Dec. 11—Read Ch. 13 p. 722 to 755, Course evaluations

Final exam time

T Dec. 15 at 1:00 p.m.—**Research paper due**