

WOST W301:
International Perspectives on Women
“Global Feminisms”
Fall 2009

Instructor:
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CM 281
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Preferred email is through the class
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Class Meets
Wednesdays: 6:00-8:45pm Neff 278

Office Hours

- Tuesdays/Thursdays: 1:15-2:45pm
- Wednesdays 4:30-5:45pm
- Or by appointment

Course Description from the IPFW Catalog:

Feminist analysis of women’s legal, social, and economic status in two or more cultures other than those of the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Europe. Interdisciplinary approach. May be repeated once with a different topic. Approved by Arts and Sciences for the Cultural Studies (Non- Western Culture) requirement. Prerequisite: W210 and sophomore, junior, or senior standing or consent of the WOST director.

Course Objectives

Understand the basic narrative of women’s and feminist issues in a non-Western context.	Understand how women have found or are seeking agency in confronting these issues.	Understand the relevant feminist theory that drives the scholarly debate.	Understand present-day controversies over how to combine theory with activism throughout the world.
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Course Methodology

Lectures	Discussion	Exams	Reading	Blogging/Journaling	Research Project
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- The course is divided thematically along several issues common to feminism in the non-western world.
- The first half of the course will focus on identifying challenges to transnational space.
- The second half of the course will focus on women’s agency and activism.
- The final two weeks will be class presentations on the research projects.

Grading

There are two examinations and one analytical project. If you receive a "0" for missing any of these major parts, you will receive an automatic failing grade for the course! Make-ups will be granted only in very rare situations. It is your responsibility to communicate with the instructor if you cannot meet deadlines. I never, never, never, curve.

Exams. There will be one midterm and one final. Both will be essay and short answers. The essay portion will be worth *at least* 40% of each exam. Exams will cover all reading, including the primary documents, and all material covered in lectures and discussion.

Analytical Project: There is one analytical project since you are receiving Area VI credit. Papers will be about 15-pages. Extensive project details can be found on Blackboard. Choosing one question or issue in one non-Western country or region, this project is based on YOUR interpretation of primary sources and/or events. Over-reliance on secondary sources or veering away from the assignment without my consent will be costly. Analysis of primary sources is the most important grading criterion but presentation counts and I will subtract one point for every misspelled word and grammar error.

Analytical Presentation. Your will be longer, but you will distill your research into a 10-minute presentation to the class. You may use PowerPoint and/or other graphic materials. Extensive details will be found on Blackboard. If you are absent on the day of your scheduled analytical presentation, it is a 0. There are no make-ups or late presentations.

Late Assignments. Printers break; computers crash; things happen: chaos is commonplace. Plan for it accordingly by saving frequently and making back-ups of your work. Ultimately, it is your responsibility to set aside enough time for these bits of the unforeseen. I will not accept anything late and work that falls into the participation grade will be accepted on any day in which you are absent.

Participation Grade. As this course meets once-a-week, attendance is expected and is therefore part of the participation grade. There could be pop quizzes. There are no make-ups on any in-class assignments, quizzes, or homework. Some homework may be turned in online. Most assignments are on the syllabus, but some may be added as necessary. **No late work will be accepted. I will not accept homework if you are absent. No in-class work or missed quizzes can be made up.** Homework and in-class assignments will constitute 20% of the final grade. Fundamental components of the participation grade include attendance, individual blog, and weekly analytical writing.

- *Blogging/Journaling.* WOST really likes the journaling, but since this class meets only weekly, your journaling will be done online.
- *Weekly Analytical Writing:* Rather than reading all assignments, you will be assigned an individual reading assignment. You will read it and write a summary of that reading. That will be due to me via attach file by 5:00pm on class days so I can make copies for the class.

Turing in your work. **All written work completed outside of class that is turned in must be typed.** There are 247 computers available free for student use and the computer lab at Helmke Library is open 24/7. Do not send email attachments unless directed to do so.

Extra Credit. There will be an occasional opportunity for additional extra credit that will be announced in class and/or posted on Blackboard. Extra credit will be averaged into the Participation grade. No extra credit will be given if it is e-mailed to me during class time or if you are absent on that day.

Grades:

Midterm	= 15%
Final	= 15%
Paper	= 50%
Participation	= 20%

Grading Scale:

93-100 = A	76-78 = C
91-92 = A-	72-75 = C-
89-90 = B+	69-71 = D+
86-88 = B	65-68 = D
82-85 = B-	62-64 = D-
79-81 = C+	0-61 = F

Classroom Policies

Attendance: Your education costs money and we meet only once each week. The classroom environment depends on everyone's participation and preparation. Therefore, attendance is mandatory. However, you will be allowed **two** absences for the entire course. **There are no excused absences!** Exceeding the allowable absences will result in a 10 point subtraction of your participation grade at the end of the semester for each absence. Missing either of the presentation weeks will result in double points off. It will be an automatic failing grade if you have reached the sixth absence. Arriving more than ten minutes late, leaving more than ten minutes early, or sleeping in class will result in one-half absence. Attendance will be by a sign-in sheet. Signing in for someone else is considered academic dishonesty and will result in your failure of the class! <http://www.ipfw.edu/academics/regulations/attendance.shtml>

Academic Honesty: Honesty and integrity are important character traits and expected in this classroom. See <http://www.ipfw.edu/academics/regulations/honesty.shtml> for the IPFW policies on academic honesty. Academic honesty also covers plagiarism, which can be defined as passing off someone else's work or ideas as the student's own. A note on web plagiarism: if a student purposefully takes a paper or someone else's work from the web and turns it in as her own work, this will be easily detected, and the student will face charges of academic dishonesty. All suspected charges of dishonesty are reported to the department chair and the Dean of Students. Academic dishonesty could result in the failure of this class and possible expulsion from IPFW.

Issues of Accessibility: If you have a disability, which may require a classroom accommodation, you **MUST** register with the Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD), if you have not already done so. Their phone is 260-481-6657 and they are in Walb Student Union, Room 113. <http://www.ipfw.edu/ssd/> Information shared with SSD will be kept confidential to the extent consistent with State and Federal law. Every effort will be made to assure that you have the best educational experience possible. I cannot make exceptions for students who have not registered with SSD. Note to SSD students: you must notify me in writing at least one week before any scheduled exam if you plan to take your exam there.

Course Withdrawals. If for any reason you are unable to complete this course, it is YOUR responsibility to adhere to all university policies and procedures to "drop" this class. Stopping attendance does not constitute drop or withdrawal. Failure to comply with IPFW policy will result in a failing grade for the course. "Incompletes" are granted only under the rarest of circumstances. Participation in the Introduction Discussion Board indicates that you are planning to complete this course.

Personal Conduct and Technology: Students must conduct themselves in a manner that is conducive to learning for themselves and others. This includes clothing and discussion. Humor and discussion are encouraged if appropriate to the class. Recording devices and/or laptops are NOT permitted except by permission from the instructor and only in rare circumstances. **Turn off your cellular phones and pagers.** In short, observe adult behavior. If I catch students using their cell phone, PDA, etc., the device will be confiscated and held by me until the end of class for the first infraction. On the second infraction, the offending student will retrieve her/his device from Campus Police. **A third infraction will mean automatic failure of the course.**

Class Cancellation Policy. In the event that class is cancelled for any reason, class work is still expected and it is YOUR responsibility to check Blackboard for instructions. It will be YOUR responsibility to check Blackboard in the event of school closure for instruction and any changes in syllabus.

Contacting the Instructor

See me anytime you have questions regarding the material or assignments. I am generally here during my stated office hours and much more. If I'm here, and my door is open, you are welcome to stop in and I will gladly make appointments in the evenings. However, since there are few women's studies emergencies, I will not make appointments on Thursday evenings or Fridays except in extreme cases. (Caveat: I serve on a board of directors that meets once a month over part of my office hours. I'll let students know when I cancel office hours.)

Please note that discussion after class needs to be minimal as the room is fully booked. No discussion on academic progress will take place in the classroom. Those discussions always take place in my office.

While you may feel free to call me at my office or on my cell phone, the best way to get my attention is through e-mail. **Use the classroom email on Blackboard first.** I can also be reached at nusselj@ipfw.edu. You may call my home or cell phone, but do not leave urgent messages on my cell phone unless you have also called 911.

Required Reading

There is no required text book for this course! Instead, you will retrieve readings from Blackboard or REX. IPFW allows unlimited printing so I suggest you print from a computer lab. While this method saves you money, you must still actually do the reading.

In the first half of the class, we will focus on identifying the issues that face women in the global context. After the midterm, our focus will be focused on how local experiences shape or are shaped by feminism across the world.

As many of the situations under discussion are very fluid, readings will be updated as necessary, and as a result, are not included in the syllabus. Each week, I will place a backpack on Blackboard with your reading assignments and where to find them. These will generally be posted by Thursday evening for the next week. Each week will include group reading for the entire class and then assigned reading for individuals for which you will prepare a summary to share with the class. You will be encouraged to supplement topical discussion with your own research. Additional assignments will be announced in class.

Using Blackboard

IPFW policy states that email communication will be done through your IPFW account or through class web pages on Blackboard. **PLEASE BE AWARE OF IPFW'S NEW POLICIES ON EMAIL!** IPFW cannot possibly keep up with student email addresses outside of our system. Therefore, it is YOUR responsibility to have your IPFW e-mail forwarded to your preferred account. **I will contact you through Blackboard** and it is YOUR responsibility to check this site regularly. I will not accept an excuse that says you could not access Blackboard or that you did not check your email here.

This course will make regular use of Blackboard for e-mail, handouts, quizzes, and other materials important to your success in this class. In short, there will be few handouts in class and instead, you will retrieve them from Blackboard. It is YOUR responsibility to learn how to use this system. If you need help, contact the IT Help Desk at 481-6030 or at <http://www.its.ipfw.edu/helpdesk/default.htm>. CASA, on the lower level of Kettler Hall, can also help you. See me if you have questions specific to the course.

Schedule

1	August 26	Course Introduction Theoretical Framework Assignment: Introductory Discussion Board on Blackboard
2	September 2	East vs. West: Intersections or Collisions of Feminism. What is gender? Focus: Muxe in Mexico Lesbian Culture in Beijing Classroom Roundtables: Non-Western religious philosophy
3	September 9	Covenant Culture: definitions of marriage and family Focus: Religious Diversity Panel Classroom Roundtables Paper Topic Confirmed on Blackboard
4	September 16	Women's Work: Industrialization Focus: Economic Policy in Post-revolutionary Cuba Japanese Women in Early Industrialization Kiva Project Classroom Roundtables
5	September 23	Race, Nation, and Human Rights Focus: Colombia and FARC Is having a baby a right? China and the One Child Policy Classroom Roundtables Due: Thesis Statement, Abstract, and Bibliography
6	September 30	It's a matter of class and the classroom; Women and Health Focus: Three Cups of Tea in Pakistan Assignment: Watch "Persepolis" Focus: AIDS Sub-Saharan Africa Classroom Roundtables
7	October 7	Globalization and the New World Economy Focus: Latin American Women and Third World Debt Country in Focus: West African Market Women Classroom Roundtables
8	October 14	MIDTERM
9	October 21	Sexuality and Beauty Focus: Muxe in Mexico Lesbian Culture in Beijing Assignment: Watch "The Third Sex" Classroom Roundtables
10	October 28	War, Environment, and Ecofeminism Focus: West African Market Women Classroom Roundtables Last day to drop is October 30 Due: Paper Introduction
11	November 4	Rural Women Focus: The Panihari of India Web Assignment: Watch Video Stream of "Water Women of India" Classroom Roundtables
12	November 11	Women and Violence Focus: Transnational Feminist NGOs in Latin America Classroom Roundtables
13	November 18	Human Rights Are Women's Rights Focus: Aung San Suu Kyi in Myanmar Challenges to the World
14	November 25	No Class: Thanksgiving Recess
15	December 2	FINAL PAPER DUE Class Presentations
16	December 9	Class Presentations
17	December 16	Final Exam