

**WMST 2010 : Introduction to Women's Studies, Fall 2007**

**Instructor: Dr. Cecilia Herles**

**Meets M, W, F 9:05 a.m.-9:55 a.m. in Aderhold Hall, Room G5**

Office hours: After class and by appointment

Office phone: (706) 542-2846

Web site: <http://cherles.myweb.uga.edu/>

My Email: [cherles@uga.edu](mailto:cherles@uga.edu) (This is the best way to contact me)

**Course description:**

As an introductory course, this class is designed to present students with the fundamental concepts and necessary tools of analysis for the study of women. The course will focus on social practices, cultural representations, and institutions that shape women's lives in American society. Throughout the course, we will be identifying, developing, and critically examining numerous feminist tools of analysis. This course includes journals, exams, group projects and presentations, and other assignments.

**Required Texts:**

Taylor, Whittier, & Rupp. 2007. *Feminist Frontiers* (7<sup>th</sup> edition).

Kesselman, McNair, & Schniedewind. 2006. *Women: Images and Reality* (4th edition).

**Course policies:**

This syllabus may be subject to revisions.

Attendance is required. You are allowed three unexcused absences. Each additional absence will lower your participation grade 10 points. If you need an absence to be excused, you must bring me your excuse document the next class after your absence (e.g. a health professional signed document).

Please be punctual to class, and please be punctual with your work. Late work will be deducted 10 points for each 24-hour period.

All academic work must meet the standards in "A Culture of Honesty." Students should follow the University's Academic Honesty Policy explained at

[http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/culture\\_honesty.htm](http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/culture_honesty.htm)

All cases of academic dishonesty will be dealt with as outlined by the University.

Makeup examinations will not be scheduled unless the student is able to provide compelling, verifiable reasons why I should allow one.

**Class behavior:**

(My apologies to those of you who are aware of this)

A mature and appropriate participation in class is expected from students. Disruptive or otherwise disrespectful behavior will not be tolerated. Students may be asked to leave the room at the instructor's discretion. This policy is not meant to stifle honest academic discussion. Unacceptable behavior includes (but is not limited

to): reading newspapers or concentrating on non-course related material, engaging in side-conversations, cell phone ringing, etc.

### **Assignments and Grading:**

#### **Journal (required by due date in order to pass the class)**

You will be asked to keep a reflective journal, in which you will write one entry a week. The purpose of this journal is for you to explore and work with the concepts for each topic. Journal entries should be about one typed double-spaced page per entry. The entries will be graded according to the following criteria: analytic/critical approach to the reading, and ability to make a connection between yourself and the reading. You must submit at least 5 journal entries by **November 12**.

#### **Class participation (20%)**

Active participation in this course is essential. You should be prepared for every class: having done the assigned reading and worked on your journal entries. This is a discussion-based class. Participation will be evaluated on an A-F grading scale. The students who will be evaluated most highly:

- 1) Demonstrate that they have read and thought about the material assigned for the class.
- 2) Demonstrate that they listen to their peers and build upon their ideas.
- 3) Develop questions or topics for discussion.
- 4) Demonstrate that they can articulate and illustrate the concepts discussed in the articles.

#### **Group presentation (10%)**

You are required to participate in one major group presentation, which will present a substantive topic for an entire class period. Depending on class enrollment, the class will be divided into approximately 5 groups. Each group will explore one of the institutions that have a large effect on women. Within the parameters set, the method of presentation is left to the individual groups. Creativity is encouraged. This cooperative learning experience will receive a grade from the instructor and from the individuals in the group through a confidential evaluation. This method is used to encourage full group participation. Please let me know in advance if you need to use any multi-media equipment. The day of your presentation you will provide me with a detailed outline of your work and a bibliography. A visual aid of some kind will also be required (poster, handout, film clip, etc.). These presentations will be discussed further during the semester. They will be held on **November 12<sup>th</sup>, November 14<sup>th</sup>, November 16<sup>th</sup>, November 19<sup>th</sup>, and November 26<sup>th</sup>**.

#### **Current Event analyses (10%)**

This is due **September 28th**. In an effort to make this course relevant to your everyday lives, we will examine women's studies and feminism in current events. Find a newspaper or magazine article that deals with gender or another topic covered in women's studies. Attach this article to a typed, double-spaced account of the article (no more than two pages) including: a short summary of the article, how the article relates to women's studies, and your perspective on the issue. Failure to include any of the above items will result in loss of points. You may also use print or television advertisements, but if you cannot provide the ad, you must also summarize the characters, plot, and product.

#### **Exam (30%)**

This will test your understanding of the concepts and issues discussed in the readings and in class. All readings, discussions, and handouts are possible sources of exam questions. The exam will be given in class on **Friday, September 14<sup>th</sup>**.

### **Final exam (30%)**

This will test your understanding of the concepts and issues discussed in the readings and in class. All readings, discussions, and handouts are possible sources of exam questions. This take-home final exam will be cumulative and it will be due at the beginning of class on the last day of class, **December 5<sup>th</sup>**. No late exams will be accepted.

#### **Week One**

Friday, 8/17

#### **Week Two**

Monday, 8/20

Wednesday, 8/22

Friday, 8/24

#### **Week Three**

Monday, 8/27

Wednesday, 8/29

Friday, 8/31

#### **Week Four**

Monday, 9/3

Wednesday, 9/5

Friday, 9/7

#### **Week Five**

Monday, 9/10

Wednesday, 9/12

Friday, 9/14

#### **Week Six**

Monday, 9/17

Wednesday, 9/19

Friday, 9/21

#### **Week Seven**

Monday, 9/24

Wednesday, 9/26

Friday, 9/28

#### **Week Eight**

Monday, 10/1

Wednesday, 10/3

Friday, 10/05

#### **Week Nine**

Monday, 10/8

**Tuesday, 10/9**

Wednesday, 10/10

Friday, 10/12

#### **Week Ten**

Monday, 10/15

Wednesday, 10/17

Friday, 10/19

#### **What is Women's Studies?**

Introductions

#### **Diversity and Difference**

Read WIR (p. 1-21, Reading 1-3)

Read WIR (p. 21-29, Readings 4-6) Small groups

Read FF (p. 1-15, p. 31-38, Readings 1-2, and 4-5)

#### **Theoretical Perspectives and the Body**

Read FF (p. 38-56, Readings 6)

Read FF (p. 56-70, Reading 7) Small groups

Read FF (p. 119-129, Galler and Reading13)

#### **Body continued**

No class

Read WIR (p. 115-125, Reading 29) Small groups

Read WIR (p.125-139, Reading 30-37)

#### **Body/Sexuality**

Read FF (p. 300-312, 318-332, Readings 28 and 30)

Read FF (p. 341-345, Reading 32) and review for exam

#### **Exam**

#### **Health**

Read FF (p. 351-363, Reading 33)

Read FF (p. 373-389, Reading 35) Small groups

Read WIR (p. 310-323, & p. 328-334, Readings 78, 80-81)

#### **Reproductive Freedom**

Read FF (p. 389-402, Reading 36)

Read WIR (p. 351-360, Readings 86-89) Small groups

**Current Events analysis due. Group projects meeting**

#### **Women and Work**

Read WIR (p. 179-188, Readings 45-46)

Read FF (p. 193-204, Reading 19) Small groups

Read FF (p. 229-250, Reskin, Reading 22, Boris)

#### **Women, Work, and Family**

Read WIR (p. 243-257, Readings 63-64)

#### **(midpoint of the semester)**

Read WIR (p. 261-275, Reading 66-70) Small groups

Read FF (p. 251-257 & p. 285-299, Rdgs 23, Wagle, Rdg 26-27)

#### **(midpoint withdrawal deadline)**

#### **Race, Class, Age, Sexualities**

Read WIR (p. 375-388, & p. 392-393, Readings 93-97, 99)

Read WIR, p. 394-408 & p. 434-443, Rdgs. 100-101, 111-112)

Small groups

Read WIR (p. 415-419, & p. 427, Readings 105, 108-109)

**Week Eleven**

Monday, 10/22

Wednesday, 10/24

Friday, 10/26

**Week Twelve**

Monday, 10/29

Wednesday, 10/31

Friday, 11/2

**Week Thirteen**

Monday, 11/5

Wednesday, 11/7

Friday, 11/9

**Week Fourteen**

Monday, 11/12

Wednesday, 11/14

Friday, 11/16

**Week Fifteen**

Monday, 11/19

W-F, 11/21-11/23

**Week Sixteen**

Monday, 11/26

Wednesday, 11/28

Friday, 11/30

**Week Seventeen**

Monday, 12/3

Wednesday, 12/5

**Abuse**

Read WIR (p. 478-488, Reading 122)

Read WIR (p. 499-507, &amp; p. 528-533, Rdgs 128, 136) Small groups

Fall Break, no class ☺

**Harassment, Abuse, and Violence**

Read FF (p. 415-425, Reading 38)

TBA **Group projects meeting**

Read FF (p.441-452, Reading 41)

**Representation**

Film

Film

Film **Group projects meeting****Group presentation and journals due****Group presentation****Group presentation****Group presentation**

No class ☺

**Feminism as a Movement and Global Issues****Group presentation**

Read WIR ( p. 535-541, p.577-582, Reading 147) Small groups

Final exam will be given out.

Read WIR (p. 587-591, Reading 149)

**Review**

Review

**Final exam will be due at the beginning of class.**