

**WMST 2010 : Introduction to Women's Studies, Spring 2008**

**Instructor: Dr. Cecilia Herles**

**Meets M, W, F 9:05 a.m.-9:55 a.m. in Benson, Room 103**

Office hours: After class and by appointment

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**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 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* (4<sup>th</sup> 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.

Please do not leave the classroom during class. It is distracting to the instructor and the other students. If you need to be excused early from class, you must contact me to obtain permission.

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:**

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

Active participation in this course is essential. You should be prepared for every class and you must complete the assigned reading. This is a discussion-based class, and you should be prepared to comment on the day's readings in a meaningful way. Class sessions will be largely devoted to discussion based on assigned readings. 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.

In accordance with the University policy, the students will be graded according to this plus/minus scale:

100-94= A    89-86= B+    82-80 =B-    75-73 =C    69-60= D  
90-93=A-    85-83= B    79-76 =C+    72-70 =C-    59 and below= F

#### **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 **April 14, April 16, April 18, April 21 and April 23.**

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

This is due at the beginning of class on **Friday, February 22.** 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, February 8.**

### **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, **Monday, April 28.** No late exams will be accepted.

#### **Week One**

Monday, 1/7

Wednesday, 1/9

Friday, 1/11

#### **Week Two**

Monday, 1/14

Wednesday, 1/16

Friday, 1/18

#### **Week Three**

Monday, 1/21

Wednesday, 1/23

Friday, 1/25

#### **Week Four**

Monday, 1/28

Wednesday, 1/30

Friday, 2/1

#### **Week Five**

Monday, 2/4

Wednesday, 2/6

Friday, 2/8

#### **Week Six**

Monday, 2/11

Wednesday, 2/13

Friday, 2/15

#### **Week Seven**

Monday, 2/18

Wednesday, 2/20

Friday, 2/22

#### **Week Eight**

Monday, 2/25

Wednesday, 2/27

Friday, 2/29

#### **Week Nine**

Monday, 3/3

Tuesday, 3/4

Wednesday, 3/5

Friday, 3/7

#### **Week Ten**

Monday, 3/10-Friday

#### **Week Eleven**

Monday, 3/17

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

Introductions

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

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

#### **Theoretical Perspectives**

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

Read FF (p. 38-56, Reading 6) Small groups

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

#### **Body**

Martin Luther King Day. No class

Read FF (p. 119-129, Galler and Reading 13) Small groups

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

#### **Body/Sexuality**

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

Read FF (p. 300-312, Reading 28)

Read FF (p. 318-332, Reading 30) Small groups

#### **Sexuality**

Read FF (p. 341-345, Reading 32)

#### **Review for exam and group projects meeting**

#### **Exam**

#### **Health**

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

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

Read WIR (p. 310-323, p. 328-334, Rds. 78, 80-81) Small groups

#### **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 withdrawal deadline

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

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

#### **Spring break**

3/14 No classes

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

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

Wednesday, 3/19	Read WIR (p. 394-398 Reading 100) Small groups
Friday, 3/21	Read WIR (p. 434-443 Readings 111-112)
<b>Week Twelve</b>	<b>Abuse</b>
Monday, 3/24	Read WIR (p. 415-419, & p. 427-432, Readings 105, 108-109)
Wednesday, 3/26	Read WIR (p. 478-488, Reading 122)
Friday, 3/28	Read WIR (p. 499-507, & p. 528-533, Rdgs 128, 136) Small groups
<b>Week Thirteen</b>	<b>Harassment, Abuse, and Violence</b>
Monday, 3/31	Read FF (p. 415-425, Reading 38)
Wednesday, 4/2	Read FF (p.441-452, Reading 41)
Friday, 4/4	TBA <b><u>Group projects meeting</u></b>
<b>Week Fourteen</b>	<b>Representation</b>
Monday, 4/7	Film
Wednesday, 4/9	Film
Friday, 4/11	Film <b><u>Group projects meeting</u></b>
<b>Week Fifteen</b>	<b><u>Group presentation</u></b>
Monday, 4/14	<b><u>Group presentation</u></b>
Wednesday, 4/16	<b><u>Group presentation</u></b>
Friday, 4/18	<b><u>Group presentation</u></b>
<b>Week Sixteen</b>	<b><u>Group presentation</u></b>
Monday, 4/21	<b><u>Group presentation</u></b>
Wednesday, 4/23	Review and Final exams handed out
Friday, 4/25	
<b>Week Seventeen</b>	<b>Feminism as a Movement and Global Issues</b>
Monday, 4/28	Last class. <b><u>Final exam is due at the beginning of class.</u></b>