

**WMST 2010 (Honors) Introduction to Women's Studies, Spring 2007**  
**(Call #21-347)**  
**Cecilia Herles, Ph.D.**

**Meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m., Benson, Room 103**

**Contact Information:**

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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 journals, exams, presentations, and other assignments.

**Required Texts:**

Taylor, Whittier, & Rupp. 2007. *Feminist Frontiers* (7th edition).  
Kesselman, McNair, & Schniedewind. 2006. *Women: Images and Reality* (4th edition).

**Course policies:**

This syllabus may be revised.

Attendance is required. You are allowed three unexcused absences. If you need an absence to be excused, you must bring in 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): coming to class late, reading newspapers or concentrating on non-course related material, engaging in side-conversations, cell phone ringing, etc.

## **Assignments and Grading:**

### **Discussion leader (10%)**

You will be required to lead the discussion on a discussion day. Depending on the number of students enrolled in this class, you may be required to work with another student. Be prepared to give a brief 5-10 minute presentation of the material and to facilitate the class discussion.

### **Journal (10%)**

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 8 journal entries by **Thursday, April 5th.**

### **Class participation (10%)**

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 project (10%)**

You are required to participate in one major group presentation, which will present a substantive topic for an entire class period. 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 **Tuesday, April 10th and Thursday, April 12th.**

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

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. This is due by **Thursday, March 8th.** You will be expected to explain this analysis to the rest of the class in a brief 3-5 minute presentation on March 8th.

### **Written assignment (10%)**

This assignment will focus on the film that will be shown in class. It is not supposed to be a summary of the film. Instead, you will be required to analyze the film and critically discuss how it relates to women's studies and the articles we have read in class. Your analysis must be at least two double-spaced pages. **This is due no later than Tuesday, April 17th.**

### **Exam (20%)**

This exam will be taken in class, and it is designed to 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 on **Tuesday, March 6th.**

**Take-home final exam (20%)**

This exam 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. You will be required to critically analyze the concepts in this take-home final exam, and submit a paper copy to me by **Tuesday, May 8th at 3:00 p.m.**

**Reading assignments are listed below. Completion of all assignments before class and regular attendance of class is required. Both of these factors will be part of your overall class participation grade. The instructor reserves the right to give unannounced quizzes that may count towards your participation grade. More than five absences may result in the lowering of a student's grade by one letter. The instructor also reserves the right, at her discretion, to withdraw administratively any student who accumulates more than five absences at any point during the semester.**

<b>Week One</b> Tuesday, 1/9 Thursday, 1/11	<b>What is Women's Studies?</b> Introductions Read <b>WIR</b> p. 1-29 (Readings 1-6)
<b>Week Two</b> Tuesday, 1/16 Thursday, 1/18	<b>Theoretical Perspectives</b> Read <b>FF</b> p. 1-15 & p. 31-38 (Rdgs. 1-2, 4-5) Read <b>FF</b> p. 38-70 (Rdgs. 6-7)
<b>Week Three</b> Tuesday, 1/23 Thursday, 1/25	<b>Body and Beauty</b> Read <b>WIR</b> p.115-125 & <b>FF</b> p.119-129 ( <b>WIR</b> Rdg. 29, <b>FF</b> Galler & Rdg.13) Read <b>WIR</b> p. 125-139 (Rdg.s 30-37) ( <u>Discussion day</u> )
<b>Week Four</b> Tuesday, 1/30 Thursday, 2/1	<b>Body/Sexuality</b> Read <b>FF</b> p. 300-312 & p. 318-331, (Rdgs. 28 & 30) Read <b>FF</b> p.341-346 & p.349-363, (Rdgs. 32-33) ( <u>Discussion day</u> )
<b>Week Five</b> Tuesday, 2/6 Thursday, 2/8	<b>Body/Health</b> Read <b>FF</b> p. 373-389, (Rdg. 35) Read <b>WIR</b> p.310-323 & p.328-334 (Rdgs. 78 & 80) ( <u>Discussion day</u> )
<b>Week Six</b> Tuesday, 2/13 Thursday, 2/15	<b>Reproductive Freedom</b> Read <b>FF</b> p. 389-402, (Rdg. 36) Read <b>WIR</b> p. 351-360, (Rdgs. 86-89) ( <u>Discussion day</u> )
<b>Week Seven</b> Tuesday, 2/20 Thursday, 2/22	<b>Women and Work</b> Read <b>WIR</b> , p. 179-188, & <b>FF</b> p. 193-204, ( <b>WIR</b> Rdgs. 45-46 & <b>FF</b> Rdg.19) Read <b>FF</b> , p. 229-250 (Reskin, Rdg. 22, Boris) ( <u>Discussion day</u> )
<b>Week Eight</b> Tuesday, 2/27 Thursday, 3/1	<b>Women, Work, and Family</b> (midpoint) Read <b>WIR</b> p. 243-257, & 261-275, (Rdgs.63-64, 66-70) Read <b>FF</b> p. 251-257, & p. 285-299 (Rdgs. 23, Wagle, 26-27) ( <u>Discussion day</u> )
<b>Week Nine</b> Tuesday, 3/6 Thursday, 3/8	<b>EXAM</b> <b><u>Current events analysis due and presentations</u></b>
<b>Week Ten</b>	<b>(March 12-16 UGA Spring Break) (no class)</b>

**Week Eleven**

Tuesday, 3/20

Thursday, 3/22

**Race, Class, and Age**Read **WIR** p. 375-388, & 392-393 (Rdgs.93-97, 99)Read **WIR**, p. 394-408 & p.434-443 (Rdgs.100-101,111-112) (Discussion day)**Week Twelve**

Tuesday, 3/27

Thursday, 3/29

**Sexualities and Abuse**Read **WIR** p. 415-423 & p. 427-432 (Rdgs. 105-106, 108-109)Read **WIR** p. 481-488, 499-507, & p.528-533 (Rdgs. 122-123, 128, 136) (Discussion day)**Week Thirteen**

Tuesday, 4/3

Thursday, 4/5

Film TBA

Film TBA and **journals due****Week Fourteen**

Tuesday, 4/10

Thursday, 4/12

**Group project****Group project****Week Fifteen**

Tuesday, 4/17

Thursday, 4/19

**Violence****Written assignment due** Read **FF** p.415-425 (Rdg.38)Read **FF** p. 441-452 (Rdg. 41) (Discussion day)**Week Sixteen**

Tuesday, 4/24

Thursday, 4/26

**Feminism as a Movement and Global Issues**Read **WIR** p. 577-591 (Rdgs. 147-149)

Last day of class. Review