

Las Positas College
3000 Campus Hill Drive
Livermore, CA 94551-7650
(925) 424-1000
(925) 443-0742 (Fax)

Course Outline for WMST 1

INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN'S STUDIES

Effective: Spring 2018

I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

WMST 1 — INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN'S STUDIES — 3.00 units

Examines the cultural, historical, social, political and economic experiences of women in the United States. Introduces feminist perspectives on a wide range of issues affecting women incorporating race, class, ethnicity, sexual orientation and the life cycle. Analysis of African American women, Asian American women, Chicanas, European American women and Middle Eastern American women.

3.00 Units Lecture

Grading Methods:

Letter or P/NP

Discipline:

- Women's Studies

	<u>MIN</u>
Lecture Hours:	54.00
Total Hours:	54.00

II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: 1

III. PREREQUISITE AND/OR ADVISORY SKILLS:

IV. MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of this course, the student should be able to:

- Explore the theoretical background of the interdisciplinary study of women;
- Analyze the impact of race, class, age, ethnicity and sexual orientation on women's lives;
- Synthesize material from primary and secondary sources in order to analyze the role of women in the United States;
- Explore the process of transforming social structures through feminism;
- Examine the effect of the social and political women's movements in the United States;
- Investigate contemporary social problems for women in the United States;
- Examine one's own personal position and how it relates to the rest of society.

V. CONTENT:

- The historical and theoretical framework of Women's Studies as an interdisciplinary field of study
- Social classification of gender at micro, macro and global levels
- Cross-cultural constructs of female beauty
- Sexuality including heterosexual, homosexual and bisexual relationships
- Women and work including pay inequity, sexual harassment and gender segregated occupations
- Legal and social policy systems impact on women's lives
- The politics of women's health in the U.S. including reproductive choice and ageism
- The role of women in the family
 - The impact of Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Feminist Spirituality on women's lives
- The intersection of race, class and sexual orientation for U.S. women
- Violence against women and girls
- The social movement of feminism
- The relationship of U.S. women to globalization
- The role of U.S. women in the military and peace movements
- The relationship between women and the environment through ecofeminism, environmentalism and sustainability
- Women and political activism
- The diverse images of Chicanas, African American and Asian American Feminists.

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- Lecture** -
- Discussion** -
- Small group work
- Guest Lecturers** -
- Reading of primary and secondary sources
- Writing about primary and secondary sources
- Group presentations
- Audiovisual material and analysis

VII. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:

A. Reading of assigned texts and discussion of material

B. Writing:

1. Complete a gender autobiography. Examine your life in three to five segments to be determined by your age. Questions to include but not limited to:
 - a. Were you treated differently than members of the opposite gender?
 - b. Were you expected to help with household chores? If yes, which ones?
 - c. Were you given specific messages about the "appropriateness" of your behavior?
 - d. Were you guided in your choice of friendships? Dates?
 - e. Were you guided in your choice of future opportunities? (education, employment, marriage, etc).
 - f. Were you accomplishments celebrated?
 - g. How has your gender affected your life thus far? How will it affect your life in the future?
2. Review a film and write a critique. Possible films include:
 - a. Silkwood
 - b. The Color Purple
 - c. The Joy Luck Club
 - d. The Incredible True Adventure of Two Girls in Love
 - e. Warrior Marks
 - f. Passion Fish
 - g. Leaving Normal
 - h. Go Fish
 - i. Erin Brockovich.
3. Group Presentation:
 - a. Choose from a list of topics including but not limited to: women in popular culture; women's work; women and religion; reproductive rights, and ecofeminism.
 - b. Research the topic, write a paper and/or outline including a bibliography of primary and secondary sources, and present the material to the class.
 - c. Multimedia viewing. View documentaries in class and provide analysis. Possible films: In the Game; Blood, Sweat and Lace; Maid in America; Issei Wahine=First Generation Women; The Celluloid Closet; Companeras; The Story of the First All Female Mariachi Band; and Wearing Hijab: Uncovering the Myths of Islam in the United States
 - d. Guest Lectures. Speakers on a variety of topics: infertility; rape prevention; women in law enforcement; and lesbian parenting.

VIII. EVALUATION:

A. **Methods**

1. Exams/Tests
2. Quizzes
3. Research Projects
4. Papers
5. Oral Presentation
6. Group Projects
7. Class Participation

B. **Frequency**

1. Quizzes as needed
2. One or two midterm exams and one final exam
3. Daily participation (small or large group discussion)
4. Four journal writing/papers and/or critiques
5. One group presentation.
6. One oral presentation based on research project
7. One research project.

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Anzaldua, Gloria and Analouse Keading, eds *This Bridge We Call Home.*, Routledge, 2002.
2. Findlen, Barara. Ed *Listen up Voices From The Next Feminist Generation.*, Seal Press, 2001.
3. Kimmel, Michael, and Amy Aronson. *The Gendered Society.* Sixth ed., Oxford University Press, 2017.
4. Kirk, Gwyn, and Margo Okazawa-Rey. *Women's Lives: Multicultural Perspectives.* 6th ed., McGraw-Hill, 2013.
5. Kolmar, Wendy. *Feminist Theory: A Reader.* 4th ed., McGraw-Hill, 2013.
6. Orbach, Susie *Bodies.*, Picador, 2009.
7. Taylor, Verta. *Feminist Frontiers.* 9th ed., McGraw-Hill, 2012.
8. Walker, Alice *The Color Purple.*, Pocket Books, 1985.
9. Gillis, Melissa , and Andrew Jacobs. *Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies.* 1st ed., Oxford University Press, 2017.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

A. Greenbooks and Internet access