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Course Outline for WMST 1

INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN'S STUDIES

Effective: Fall 2011

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:

Discipline:

	<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:

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

V. CONTENT:

- A. Introduce the historical and theoretical framework of Women's Studies as an interdisciplinary field of study
- B. Recognize social classification of gender at micro, macro and global levels
- C. Examine the cross-cultural constructs of female beauty
- D. Explore sexuality including heterosexual, homosexual and bisexual relationships
- E. Analyze women and work including pay inequity, sexual harassment and gender segregated occupations
- F. Analyze the effect legal and social policy systems have on women's lives
- G. Examine the politics of women's health in the U.S. including reproductive choice and ageism
- H. Investigate the role of women in the family
 - I. Explore the impact of Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Feminist Spirituality on women's lives
- J. Examine the intersection of race, class and sexual orientation for U.S. women
- K. Analyze violence against women and girls
- L. Explore the social movement of feminism
- M. Investigate the relationship of U.S. women to globalization
- N. Synthesize the role of U.S. women in the military and peace movements
- O. Explore the relationship between women and the environment through ecofeminism, environmentalism and sustainability
- P. Investigate women and political activism
- Q. Examine the diverse images of Chicanas, African American and Asian American Feminists.

VI. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:

- A. **Lecture** -
- B. **Discussion** -
- C. Small group work
- D. **Guest Lecturers** -
- E. Reading of primary and secondary sources
- F. Writing about primary and secondary sources
- G. Group presentations
- H. 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: Silkwood; The Color Purple; The Joy Luck Club; The Incredible True Adventure of Two Girls in Love; Warrior Marks; Passion Fish; Leaving Normal; Go Fish; Erin Brockovich. C. Group Presentation: 1. 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. Research the topic, write a paper and/or outline including a bibliography of primary and secondary sources, and present the material to the class. D. Multimedia viewing: 1. 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 E. 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. Papers
4. Group Projects
5. Class Participation
6. Other:
 - a. Methods
 1. Quizzes
 2. Exams
 3. Participation
 4. Film review
 5. Journals and/or autobiography
 6. Group presentation

B. **Frequency**

1. Frequency
 - a. Quizzes as needed
 - b. One or two midterm exams and one final exam
 - c. Daily participation (small or large group discussion)
 - d. One film review
 - e. Four journal writing and/or critiques
 - f. One group presentation

IX. TYPICAL TEXTS:

1. Anzaldua, Gloria and Analouse Keading, eds *This Bridge We Call Home.*, Routledge, 2002.
2. Brown, Rita Mae *Rubyfruit Jungle.*, Bantam Books, 1977.
3. Findlen, Barara. Ed *Listen up Voices From The Next Feminist Generation.*, Seal Press, 2001.
4. Freedman, Estelle *The Essential Feminist Reader.*, Random House, 2007.
5. Kesselman, Amy, Schniederwind, Nacy and Lily D. McNair *Women: Images and Realities: A Multicultural Anthology.* 4th ed., McGraw-Hill, 2008.
6. Kirk, Gwyn and Margo Okazawa-Rey *Women's Lives: Multicultural Perspectives.* 5th ed., McGraw-Hill, 2010.
7. Kolmar, Wendy and Frances Bartkowsik *Feminist Theory: A Reader.* 3rd ed., McGraw-Hill, 2010.
8. Orbach, Susie *Bodies.*, Picador, 2009.
9. Sapiro, Virginia *Women in American Society: An Introduction to Women's Studies.* 5th ed., McGraw-Hill, 2009.
10. Taylor, Verta, Whittier, Nancy and Leila J. Rupp *Feminist Frontiers.* 8th ed., McGraw-Hill, 2009.
11. Walker, Alice *The Color Purple.*, Pocket Books, 1985.

X. OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED OF STUDENTS:

- A. Greenbooks and Internet access