

INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN'S STUDIES - WS 100/SOC.SCI 103

Fall 2009

Professor: Dr. P. Owen-Smith

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Office Hours: By appointment

Required Readings: Weekly required readings are on line and can be accessed through library e-reserves

About this class: This course is an introduction to the study of girls and women. The primary purpose of the course is to position women and their contributions in historical context. We will give particular attention to the intersection of gender, race, class, ethnicity, and sexual orientation as it informs our study of females.

This class has three distinctive features.

1. Theory Practice-Service Learning (TPSL)
2. Discussion-based in which all students will actively assume responsibility for the class
3. Writing Intensive

Course Goals: Each of us in this class should expect the following:

-To participate actively in class discussions on a regular basis and in a thoughtful manner. This means that each of us should be able to frame our conversations around the readings of the day and the theory presented and to listen respectfully and carefully to one another.

-To connect the theory of the readings, films, and lectures to our daily lives and the lives of girls and women throughout the world. Our community placements will be one important venue for doing this.

-To understand the ways in which all girls and women have been discriminated against, marginalized, and often treated as invisible in virtually every culture for which we have empirical research

-To see the specific ways in which class, ethnicity, sexual orientation and age intersect in defining girls' and women's lives and experiences

-To appreciate the gains made by the three waves of the feminist movement and acknowledge the work that still remains for the liberation of all women throughout the world

-To grow in heart and mind. This means that we will make a

conscious attempt to develop a tolerance and appreciation of others' ideas and convictions, particularly those who are different from our own.

-To *enjoy* this moment in time in our own journey of learning!!

Requirements of the Course: All of the following assignments will be discussed in class. Guidelines for these assignments will be posted to our Blackboard site.

1. Response Papers to Readings (30%)
2. Attendance (10%)
3. Class Facilitation and Peer Review (10%)
4. Class Participation and Blackboard Discussion (20%)
5. Community Placement and Theory/Practice Reflective Paper (30%)

The Student Honor Code of Oxford College applies to every member of the class. Please review this code carefully giving special attention to plagiarism. Remember that plagiarism occurs when one uses the words or ideas of another person without quotations and without adequate referencing. Please note also that the use of former students' papers may not be used in any form; to do so is to violate the Honor Code. Should you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please consult with me.

The plus-minus system will be utilized in the calculation of final grades.

****Please, no cell phones in the classroom! They are discourteous and interrupt the integrity of our learning experience. If I see or hear a cell phone in this classroom, I will ask you to leave.***

COURSE SCHEDULE:

8/26	Introduction to course
8/31	What is Women's Studies?
9/2	Discussion of TPSL and Community Placements
*9/7	Labor Day Holiday! Have fun and rest!
9/9	Community Placement Assignments What Is Women's Studies? (continued)
9/14	Reading Set 1 Discussion; Response Paper due
9/16	Reading Set 2 Discussion; Response Paper due
9/21	Reading Set 3 Discussion; Response Paper due
9/23	Film
9/28	Reading Set 4 Discussion; Response Paper due
*9/30	No Class! Take a break and relax!
10/5	Reading Set 5 Discussion; Response Paper due
10/7	Reading Set 6 Discussion; Response Paper due
*10/12	Fall Break! Stay safe and enjoy!
10/14	TPSL Discussion
*10/16	<u>Last day for dropping without academic penalty</u>
10/19	Reading Set 7 Discussion; Response Paper due
*10/21	No Class! Reflect on your community placement!
10/26	Reading Set 8 Discussion; Response Paper due
10/28	Film
11/2	TPSL Discussion
11/4	Reading Set 9 Discussion; Response Paper due!

11/9	Mid Semester Evaluative Feedback
11/11	Reading Set 10 Discussion; Response Paper due
11/16	Reading Set 11 Discussion; Response Paper
*11/18	TPSL Reflection Paper <i>complete draft</i> due
11/23	Film
*11/25-11/29	Thanksgiving Break! Take a break and be thankful!
11/30	Reading Set 12 Discussion; Response Paper
12/2	End of Semester Evaluative Feedback
*12/7	TPSL Reflection Paper due and Discussion