

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

Fall 2008

Professor: Dr. P. Owen-Smith

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Office Hours: By appointment

Required Readings: Writing a Woman's Life by Carolyn G. Heilbrun

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 two distinctive features. We will follow a Theory Practice-Service Learning (TPSL) and an Intensive Writing format.

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. Question, Quotation, and Summary Points (QQSP) (20%)
2. Attendance, Class Participation, Class Facilitation, and Blackboard Discussion (10%)
3. Question development from Writing a Woman's Life (20%)
4. Community Placement and Theory/Practice Reflective Journal (20%)
5. Archival Research at Woodruff Library, Final Biographical Paper, and Presentation (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.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

8/27	Introduction to course
*9/1	No Class – Labor Day Holiday!
9/3	Discussion of TPSL and Community Placements What is Women's Studies?
9/8	What Is Women's Studies? (continued)
9/10	Community Placement Assignments Reading Set 1; QQTP <i>draft</i> due!
9/15	Reading Set 1 & Discussion; QQSP paper due
9/17	Reading Set 2 & Discussion; QQSP paper due
9/22	Discussion for <u>Writing a Woman's Life</u> assignment; Film – <i>I am Beautiful</i>
9/24	Reading Set 3 & Discussion; QQSP paper due
9/29	Reading Set 4 & Discussion; QQSP paper due
10/1	Reading Set 5 & Discussion; QQSP paper due
10/6	Reflective Journal Writing; TPSL Discussion
10/8	Reading Set 6 & Discussion; QQSP paper due
10/10	Last day for dropping without academic penalty
10/13	No Class - Fall Break
10/15	No Class
10/20	Questions due from <u>Writing a Woman's Life</u> Reflective Journal Writing; TPSL Discussion
10/22	Discussion of archival work at Woodruff Library
10/27	Reading Set 7 & Discussion; QQSP paper due!
10/29	Reflective Journal Writing; TPSL Discussion

11/3	No Class
11/5	Reading Set 8 & Discussion; QQSP paper due
11/10	Film: The Burning Times
11/12	Reading Set 9 & Discussion; QQSP paper due
11/17	Reflective Journal Writing; TPSL Discussion
11/19	Reading Set 10 & Discussion; QQSP paper due
11/24	Reading Set 11 & Discussion; QQSP paper due
11/26-11/28	Thanksgiving Break
12/1, 12/3, 12/8	Archival Research Presentations
12/8	Final Biographical Paper due