

(Please note: This syllabus is tentative and may be re-negotiated or changed given the needs of our class)

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

Fall 2010

Professor: Dr. P. Owen-Smith

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Office Hours: By appointment

Required Readings: Listen Up: Voices From The Next Feminist Generation. (LU)

Other required readings will be 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 four distinctive features.

1. Theory Practice-Service Learning (TPSL)
2. Discussion-based in which all students will actively assume responsibility for the class
3. Group project and collaborative work
4. 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. In class we, as a class, will decide on the weights assigned to each of the following requirements.

1. Question, Quotation, and Summary Points (QQSP) (35%)
2. Midterm group activity (15%)
3. Class Facilitation (10%)
4. Class Participation and Blackboard Discussion (20%)
5. Community Placement and Theory/Practice Reflective Paper (20%)

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:

8/25	Introduction to course
8/30	Discussion of TPSL and Community Placements Discussion of Assignments and accompanying weights
9/1	<u>Perspectives on Feminism and Women's Studies</u> <u>(Please read "Claiming an Education" on E-reserve prior to class on 9/8)</u>
*9/6	<i>Labor Day Holiday! Have fun and rest!</i>
*9/8	Community Placement Assignments Response to "Claiming an Education" by Adrienne Rich
9/13	Reading Set 1 Discussion; QQSP Paper due
9/15	<u>Gender, Sex and Social Construction</u>
9/20	Reading Set 2 Discussion; QQSP Paper due
9/22	<u>Sexuality</u>
9/27	Reading Set 3 Discussion; QQSP Paper due
9/29	<u>Bodies</u> Film: <i>I am Beautiful</i>
10/4	Reading Set 4 Discussion; QQSP Paper due
10/6	TPSL Discussion
*10/11/-10/12	<i>Fall Break – Enjoy!</i>
10/13	Film: <i>Still Killing Us Softly 4</i> Mid-Semester Evaluative Feedback
*10/18 & 10/20	Group Projects and Annotated Bibliography
10/25	<u>Systems of Privilege and Inequality</u>
10/27	Reading Set 5 Discussion; QQSP Paper due
11/1	<u>Identities</u>

11/3	Reading Set 6 Discussion; QQSP Paper due
11/8	<u>Health and Reproductive Rights</u>
11/10	Reading Set 7 Discussion; QQSP Paper due
11/15	<u>Violence Against Women</u> *TPSL Reflection Paper <i>complete draft</i> due!
11/17	Reading Set 8 Discussion; QQSP Paper due
11/22	End of Semester Evaluative Feedback
*11/24-28	Thanksgiving Break! Take a break and be thankful!
11/29	<u>Women Confronting and Creating Culture</u>
12/1	Reading Set 9 Discussion; QQSP Paper due
12/6	Final TPSL paper due; Discussion

Happy Holidays to each of you!