

INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN'S STUDIES - WS/SOC.SCI 103  
Fall 1996

Dr. P. Owen-Smith  
317 Seney  
Ext 4-8322  
Office Hours: By appointment

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Dorenkamp, A.G., McClymer, J.F., Moynihan, M.M. &  
Vadum, A.C. Images of Women in American Popular  
Culture (2nd ed.)

hooks, b., Talking Back: Thinking Feminist/Thinking  
Black

Warshaw, R., I Never Called It Rape

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is an introduction to the study of women in the social sciences. The primary purpose of the course is to position women and their contributions in historical context. Emphasis will be placed on the thesis that both historical and contemporary ideas about women and gender systems are intimately linked to social evolution and change. Particular attention will be given to the intersection of gender, race, class, ethnicity, and sexual orientation as it informs our study.

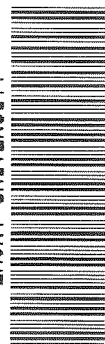
In an effort to engage students in a learning process that "makes the world MORE rather than less real" (hooks, 1989), EVERY student will actively participate in and assume responsibility for the class. Therefore, the class format will emphasize discussion and reactions to assigned readings, films, and lectures.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:

1. Class attendance/participation (40% of final grade) - Based on attendance, *active participation* in class and preparation for discussion, Learn Link entries, and written comments of readings.

Each week a set of readings is assigned (see attached schedule). Of the 13 assigned reading sets, you are required to turn in typed comments for 10. In other words, you may mis 3 of them without losing credit. However, it is expected that you will have read ALL of the assigned readings BEFORE coming to class. The typed comments should be no longer than approximately one page in length. These comments should be a reflection on or reaction to several of the readings or they might consist of a comparison between two or more readings in that respective set. They can be statements or questions but hopefully they will be of the

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type that will spark discussion. Two-three students will be responsible for leading the discussion of these readings each week. A list of discussion leaders will be given out in class but EVERY student will have this opportunity before the semester ends. TYPED COMMENTS ARE DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS ON THE DATE DESIGNATED "READINGS." LATE COMMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Each student is required to make at least 10 Learn Link entries. These entries may be a reaction to or comment about any course related materials. This Learn Link assignment is intended to provide opportunity for out-of-class conversation among students.

2. Out of class exercises (10% each) - Three activities will be conducted in the course of the semester: (1) a biographical sketch of a famous woman in history; (2) a curriculum evaluation activity; and (3) an oral history interview. Each of these activities will then be described in a 2-3 page typed paper. Detailed information will be given on each activity plus instructions for the written analysis via a separate handout.

3. Exams (15% each) - There will be a midterm and final examination. Each exam will consist of both multiple choice and essay questions and based on the readings, class discussions, lectures, and films. The final exam will not be cumulative and will cover only the material since the midterm.

The Student Honor Code of Oxford College applies to every member of the class. Please note that the use of former students' papers in any manner is considered a violation of this code and thus will not be tolerated under any circumstances.

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

#### COURSE SCHEDULE:

8/29	Introduction to course
9/3	<b>WOMEN IN HISTORY &amp; POLITICS - HERSTORY</b>
9/5	<b>READINGS: <u>Images of Women:</u></b> "Woman's Place," pp.59-62 "Declaration of Sentiments, Seneca Falls Convention," pp. 67-71 "Speech at Akron Women's Rights Convention," Sojourner Truth, pp.12-13 "Address on Woman's Rights," Sojourner Truth, pp.376-377 "Address to the First National Conference of

Colored Women," Ruffine, Josephine St.  
Pierre, pp.89-92  
"The Solitude of Self," Stanton, Elizabeth  
Cady, pp. 377-381  
"What It Would be Life If Women Win,"  
Steinem, Gloria, pp. 399-401  
"Alternatives," Firestone, Shulamith, pp.402-  
406

9/10

**FEMINISM AND FEMINIST THEORY**

9/12

READINGS: Images of Women:  
"Sisters," pp. 326-327

Talking Back:

"Feminist Theory: A Radical Agenda," pp. 35-  
41  
"Toward a Revolutionary Feminist Pedagogy,"  
pp. 49-54

9/17

**WOMEN'S NATURE - film**

9/19

READINGS: Images of Women:  
"Women's Nature," pp. 2-4  
"How the Americans Understand the Equality of  
the Sexes," de Tocqueville, Alexis,  
pp.34-40  
"The Woman Warrior: Memories of a Girlhood  
Among Ghosts," Kingston, Maxine Hone,  
pp.34-40  
"In A Different Voice," pp. 43-46  
"Some Questions to Ask Your Daughter Before  
She Chooses Her High School," Emma  
Willard School, pp.48-50

9/24

**WOMEN AND SEXUALITY - film**

9/26

READINGS: Images of Women  
"The Turbid Ebb and Flow of Misery," Sanger,  
Margaret, pp.97-100  
"Roe V. Wade," U.S. Supreme Court Reports,  
pp.103-107  
"Thoughts on Abortion for Our Sisters,"  
Brodhead, Meg & Schaeffer-Duffy, Claire,  
pp.107-108  
"The Well of Loneliness," Hall, Radclyffe,  
pp.193-197  
"Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian  
Existence," Rich, Adrienne, pp.40-43  
"A Few Words About Breasts," Ephron, Nora,  
pp. 139-145

\*10/1

**ASSIGNMENT I DUE - Biographical Sketch**

10/2 Last date to withdraw without penalty

10/3 **WOMEN AND FAMILY**

10/8 **READINGS: Images of Women:**  
 "Sweethearts and Wives," pp. 176-178  
 "The Yellow Wall Paper," Perkins Gilman, Charlotte, pp. 78-79  
 "Happy Women," Alcott, Louisa May, pp. 187-189  
 "1855 Marriage Contract," Stone, Lucy & Blackwell, Henry B. pp. 217-218  
 "The Problem That Has No Name," Friedan, Betty, pp. 100-103  
 "Can a Woman Be Liberated and Married?" Rivers, Caryl, pp. 219-226

10/10 **MOTHERHOOD**

\*10/14-10/15 **FALL BREAK !!!!**

10/17 **READINGS: Images of Women:**  
 "Mothers," pp. 227-230  
 "Impressions of an Indian Childhood," Zitkala-Sa, pp. 234-238  
 "I Stand Here Ironing," Olsen, Tillie, pp. 249-254  
 "Lesbian Mothers," Martin, Del & Lyon, Phyllis, pp. 254-259  
 "My Daughter and Me: Deja Vu Over and Over Again," Adams, Jane, pp. 265-268  
 "Separating Mom From the Concept Called Mother," Quindlen, Anna, pp. 268-270

10/22 **WOMEN AND WORK**  
**READINGS: Images of Women:**  
 "Workers," pp. 271-275  
 "Letters of a Woman Homesteader," Steward, Elinor Rupert, pp. 275-277  
 "How I Found America," Yezierska, Anzia, pp. 283-287  
 "The Traffic in Women," Goldman, Emma, pp. 287-291  
 "Dolores Huerta: A Woman of the Boycott," Baer, Barbara & Matthew Glenna, pp. 304-309  
 "I'm Nobody's Girl: New York's New Indentured Servants," Laurino Maria, pp. 309-315  
 "The Debate Over La Difference," Noble, Barbara Presley, pp. 322-323

\*10/24 **MIDTERM EXAM**

\*10/29 **ASSIGNMENT II DUE - CURRICULUM EVALUATION**

10/31

**WOMEN AND SPIRITUALITY - film**

11/5

✓ READINGS: Images of Women:

- "Comments on Genesis," Stanton, Elizabeth Cady, pp. 18-22
- "The Pastoral Letter of the General Association of Congregational Ministers of Massachusetts," pp. 63-64
- "Letters on the Equality of the sexes," Grimke, Sarah Moore, pp. 64-67
- "Public Effort-Excommunication," Foote, Julia, pp. 73-75
- "Women and Spirituality: Two Contemporary Views," p. 411
- "Statement to Pope John Paul II," Sister M. Theresa Kane, pp. 411-412
- "Power, Authority, and Mystery: Ecofeminism and Earth Based Spirituality," Starhawk

11/7

**WOMEN IN POPULAR CULTURE - film**

11/12

✓ READINGS: Images of Women:

- "Woman as object," pp. 119-121
- "The Double Standard of Aging," Sontag, Susan, pp. 122-130
- "Maureen Peal," Morrison, Toni, pp. 354-361
- "Barbie: Two Views," pp. 145-146
- "Barbie Doll," Percy Marge, p. 146
- "A Doll is Born," Jones, Lisa, pp. 147-148
- "Madonna: Two Views," p. 149
- "Madonna," Paglia, Camille, pp. 149-150
- "Madonna the Feminist," Gordon, Suzanne, pp. 151-152
- "Erotica vs. Pornography," Steinem, Gloria, pp. 153-157
- "Feminism, Moralism, and Pornography," Willis, Ellen, pp. 157-162

11/14

**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN - film**

11/19

✓ READINGS: Talking Back:

- "Violence in Intimate Relationships: A Feminist Perspective," hooks. bell pp. 84-91
- "'Whose Pussy is This?': A Feminist Comment," hooks, bell, pp. 134-141

Images of Women:

- "Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl," Jacobs, Harriet, pp. 162-165

11/21

✓ READINGS: I Never Called It Rape, Warshaw, Robin

11/26

**INTERSECTIONS: GENDER, CLASS, RACE, & SEXUAL  
ORIENTATION**

**READINGS: Talking Back:**

"On Being Black at Yale," hooks, bell, pp.  
62-72

"Keeping Close to Home: Class and Education,"  
hooks, bell, pp. 73-83

"Homophobia in Black Communities," hooks,  
bell, pp. 120-126

11/27-12/1

**THANKSGIVING BREAK!!!**

\*12/3

**ASSIGNMENT III DUE - ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW**

12/5

**FEMINISM TODAY**

**READINGS: Images of Women:**

"Visions," pp. 374-375

"Blame It On Feminism," Faludi, Susan, pp.  
111-115

"Feminism's Identity Crisis," Kaminer, Wendy,  
pp. 416-420

"Where is the Love?" Jordan, June, pp. 420-  
424

**Talking Back**

"Black Women and Feminism," hooks, bell, pp.  
177-182

12/10

**Closing Comments**