

Oxford College of Emory University
INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN'S STUDIES
WS 100

Spring 2009

Professor: Dr. Pat Del Rey

Email: pdelrey@uga.edu

Phone: 404 933 3053

Office hours: Tues and Thurs after class – please make an appointment

Student Instructor: Kathy Arreola - she is available for individual appointments and will hold at least one group class per week in the evening.

NOTE: APRIL 10, 2009 The Second Oxford Women's Studies Research Symposium-noon-7pm in the Student Center

Course Description

An interdisciplinary and multicultural approach to the study of gender and the fundamental concepts and tools of analyses in the academic field of women's studies. The focus will be on the social practices, cultural representations and institutions that establish masculinity and femininity as normative. In this survey course we will critically examine themes that are essential to understanding the importance of gender, as we seek to understand the relationship of race, class, ethnicity and sexuality to gender on diverse women's lives in the US.

This is a writing intensive course.

Required Readings

1. Kesselman, Amy, Lily McNair, Nancy Schneidewind, *Women: Images and Realities, A Multicultural Anthology*, 4th edition, 2008 McGraw-Hill.
2. Taylot, Verta, Nancy Whittier, Leila Rupp, *Feminist Frontiers* 7th edition 2007, McGraw-Hill 2007.

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

- To participate actively in class discussions and in Learn Link conversations 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.
- 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 evaluate specific ways in which class, ethnicity, sexual orientation and age intersect with gender in defining your own lives and the experiences of girls and women

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

Requirements of the course and percentage contribution toward your grade:

1. Quotation and Talking Points (QTP) (25%) – Due at the beginning of each class. For most of the class periods a set of readings is assigned (see attached schedule). You are required to read these selections prior to the class designated for discussion of the readings and to submit a one-page, typed response to these readings. This response paper will consist of two parts: (1) a quotation from the reading that you found particularly compelling or controversial. For this, please identify the author of the quote, page number and name of the text. **YOU MUST EXPLAIN THE REASON THE QUOTE WAS SIGNIFICANT TO YOU.** This part of the QTP should be single spaced. (2) a brief outline of ideas prompted by the readings that you can use as “talking points” in class discussion. You can use bullets to identify the talking point and state the author. It does not need to be a quote. This part is longer than the first part and should be double spaced. The entire QTP must not exceed 1 page. You can redo any QTP and I will average your new grade with your previous grade. The resubmission must be a new attempt at thinking and analysis of the topic and not just an addition of my corrections to the original submission. If you do not come to class, I will accept your QTP by email, if it arrives before class begins on the day of the class.

2. Attendance (5), Class Participation (5), and Learn Link Entries (10) Total = 20%

– Since your individual voice is considered very significant to all of our learning, you should attend every class and actively participate in discussion. Excessive absences are not acceptable. Your grade will suffer after 3 absences and those of you who are never absent will be rewarded.

Each student will make at least 10 LearnLink entries during the course of the semester. Each entry should be a response or personal reaction to a concept presented in the lecture/readings, in a film, by another student, in the world at large, and should be approximately 3-4 sentences in length (at least!). It is hoped that these entries will serve as a type of conversation among students in the class. Please respond thoughtfully and respectfully to one another on this and demonstrate careful reflection as opposed to an “off the cuff” reaction. I am interested in whether you are able to incorporate ideas from the class and then articulate them in your postings on learnlink. A regular consistent series of entries is expected, not all posted at the end of the semester. In fact, each month is worth 25% of your learnlinkgrade.

In addition, each student in the class will be responsible for leading the discussion of the readings for one or more class sessions. It will be incumbent on the facilitators to submit to me a list of discussion questions that they will use to lead the discussion of the readings. *This should occur the class prior to the discussion.* A list of discussion leaders for each class will be given out in class, but every student will have the opportunity before the semester ends, possibly, more than once.

3. Mid-term exam on 2/26 (30%) Final project (25%) due on 3/24

Final project to be presented to the class on the last days of class . Each student will have 10 minutes to present a feminist analysis and evaluation of a newspaper article or magazine ad or film showing the class that you have learned the tools of analysis used in the field of women's studies. All final projects must be approved by me and will be evaluated as follows: 15 points for deep and extensive feminist analysis of your topic; 5 points for effort; and 5 points for a thorough understanding of the topic. You must submit to me a 4 page paper, in addition to your final presentation.

Course Schedule

1/15 Introduction to the course

Course overview; course requirements; and class expectations

Introduction to the academic field of women's studies

Interdisciplinary and multicultural

What is the history of the field?

Deconstructing what is considered to be "natural"

1/20 Theoretical perspectives and dominant ideas in the field of women's studies

Understanding patriarchy (power relations and hierarchies); feminism (several perspectives that place women at the center of the analysis; all perspectives seek to understand women's oppression); the social construction of gender (learning to be a woman; woman as object; masculinity and femininity); understanding and valuing differences between women; the social construction of race; white privilege; the personal is the political; homophobia as social control of gendered behavior

REQUIRED READINGS for 1/20

FEMINIST FRONTIERS pp.1-16; 31-37

1/22 More on theoretical perspectives and key ideas

QTP

REQUIRED READINGS for 1/22

FEMINIST FRONTIERS pp. 38-69; 82-93

1/27 The social construction of gender

REQUIRED READINGS for 1/27

WOMEN pp.15-40

Feminist Frontiers pp.82-93

1/29 Language, culture and gender

QTP

REQUIRED READINGS

FEMINIST FRONTIERS pp. 95-104; 119-138

2/3 Gender Socialization

REQUIRED READINGS for 2/3

FEMINIST FRONTIERS pp: 139-159

WOMEN pp. 84-96

2/5 Femininity and Women's Bodies QTP

Women pp. 99-104; 115-129; 241-242 (women in sport)

2/10 Biology constructing women's bodies

FEMINIST FRONTIERS pp. 349-363

WOMEN p.155 *Demanding a Condom*; 161-164

2/12 Sexuality: Challenging the patriarchy QTP

FEMINIST FRONTIERS pp. 300-301; 318-345

2/17 Film—I Am Beautiful

2/19 Intersections of race, class and ethnicity on gender

Women pp.375-388; 392-398; 408-414

2/24 Review for Mid-term

2/26 Midterm exam

3/03 Understanding and valuing differences between women QTP

Women pp. 415-419; 423-429; 432-433 and 464-469

3/05 Gender and the Work Environment

Feminist Frontiers pp. 191-204; 217-231; 250

3/17 Gender in the work environment (continued)

Politics of housework

WOMEN pp.188-208

QTP

3/19 Health and reproductive justice

Women pp. 309-323; 338-341; 347-351; 359-367

QTP

3/24 In class Presentations for final projects

3/26 In class Presentations for final projects

3/31 In class Presentations for Final Projects

4/2 Women and Families: Brides and Mothers

Feminist Frontiers pp.251- 257; 296-299

Women pp.261-265.

4/7 Gender violence: Violence against women and girls

Women pp. 477-488; 499-518; 520-522;

QTP

4/9 Violence against women and girls (continued)

Feminist Frontiers pp.415-440

4/14 Feminist movement and early social protest: Historical perspectives QTP

Women pp. 535-565

4/16 Feminist movements, social protest, and women organizing

Feminist Frontiers pp. 503-518;

Women pp.565-582

4/21 Arab American Women and Feminism

QTP

Feminist Frontiers pp. 484-493; 550-556.

4/23 Film –Cut From Different Cloth: Burqas and Beliefs-DVD

A documentary film by Cliff Orloff and Olga Shalygin

Women in Afganistan

4/28 Review of course

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.