**Department of Women’s and Gender Studies**

**WGST 100-991**

**Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies**

**Fall 2018**

**Instructor** Jeffrey Walters **Time** W 7-9:45pm

**E-mail** Through URCourses only **Location** CL 125

**Office Hours** MWF 11-1 (Cl 228)

\*\*\*Please allow 24 hours for replies to all correspondence during weekdays. There will be no replies or correspondence during weekends and holidays\*\*\*

**Course Description**

**Course Description:**

This course will examine the historical development of feminism and women's studies. Women's representation in academic practice will be analyzed using examples from humanities, the arts, and social sciences. Strategies for change and for the empowerment of women will be considered.

**Learning Objectives and/or Outcomes:**

Class members will become familiar with the main debates and concerns in both feminism and the discipline. It will quickly become evident that issues pertaining to women and gender are never limited to the analysis of gender considerations but are always connected to many factors including race, class, colonialism, sexual orientation, and abilities (and that Women’s and Gender Studies might not just be about women).We will stress crucial vocabulary and key terms that are used in the discipline and introduce major areas of study, which can each be pursued as courses unto themselves at the senior level.

**Prerequisites:**

**Course Requirements**

Classes will be based in lectures with frequent class discussions. Asking questions and participation is encouraged.

**Final Grade Determination**

Mid-Term Oct 15 25%

Term Paper Dec 3 35%

Final Exam Dec 19 40%

*Mid-term Exam (25%)-October 15*

Will be based on all the material covered up to this point and may comprise a mixture of essay, short answer, and/or multiple choice questions.

*Term Paper (35%)-December 3rd*

To be at least 2500 words. APA format should be used. Papers will be assessed, and comments given, based on their:

1. **Style.** Is the paper clearly written? Is the spelling and grammar correct? Is it interesting to read?
2. **Structure**. Does the paper develop in a way that makes clear what the major point is? Does it mix analysis and argument together in a mutually reinforcing way?
3. **Depth of Research.** How far beyond the assigned readings and ideas expressed in lectures does the paper go? Does it identify relevant scholarly debates as well as correctly portray the major position? Does it correctly cite sources in APA?
4. **Strength of Argument.** Is the argument well-grounded and sensible? Is it clear and logical? Does the empirical evidence match with the logic of it? Does the paper make a clear case without being polemic?

*Final Exam (40%)-December 19th*

Scheduled tentatively for Wednesday, December 19th from 7-10pm. Place to be determined. Will be comprehensive meaning it will include **all** material covered in class.

*Late Policy*

There is none. There will be no acceptance of any late assignment or granting of any ‘make up assignment.’ The term paper is due by 11:55pm on the deadline outlined above. ***Digital copies are to be downloaded into the Turnitin link via UR Courses on the date due and you must verify that I have received it by then***. No hard copies, please.

Extensions may be granted in cases of family emergency, or personal (documented) illness. Foreseeable events such as a busy week at work, several other assignments due that week, or simply not getting started in time are not, under any circumstances, reasons for an extension. Come speak to the instructor for further clarification.

Students are asked to consult Section 5.1 of the *University of Regina General Calendar* to inform themselves of the regulations and penalties with regard to academic misconduct ***in particular plagiarism, attendance, and general behaviour***.

All requirements are mandatory in order to receive credit for the course. Failure to complete any requirement will result in a grade of NP. \*\***Any special needs should be made aware to the instructor as soon as possible.\*\***

**\*\*\*by registering in this course you are entering into a contract that the contents of the syllabus will be abided by you\*\*\***

**Required Texts**

Simalchik. 2017. ***Women's Realities, Women's Choices: An Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies, Canadian Edition***. Oxford.

Additional readings may be assigned and distributed to the class during the seminar or posted in URCourses.

The text can be found at the University of Regina Bookstore.

**Course Outline-Themes and Readings**

**1. Introduction: Foundations**

Readings: Preface and Chapter 4

**2. Constructions of Sex and Gender**

Readings: Chapter 2

**3. Gendered Identities**

Readings: Chapter 3

**4. Cultural Representations and Body Politics**

Readings: Chapters 1 and 5

**5. The Family, Work, and Religion**

Readings: Chapters 6, 9, 10, and 11

**6. Health, Reproduction, and Change**

Readings: Chapters 7, 8, and 12

**Grade Descriptions**

See *University of Regina General Calendar*, Section 5.9.

90-100 An outstanding performance with very strong evidence of:

* An insightful and comprehensive grasp of the subject matter:
* A clear ability to make sound and original critical evaluation of the material given:
* Outstanding capacity for original creative and/or logical thought:
* An excellent ability to organize, to analyze, to integrate ideas, and to express thoughts both in speech and in writing.

80-89 Very good performance with string evidence of:

* A comprehensive grasp of the subject matter:
* An ability to make sound critical evaluation of the material given:
* A good capacity for original, creative and/or logical thinking:
* A very good ability to organize, to analyze, to synthesize, to integrate ideas, and to express thoughts both in speech and in writing.

70-79 Above average performance with evidence of:

* A substantial knowledge of the subject matter:
* A good understanding of the relevant issues and a good familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques:
* Some capacity for original, creative, and/or logical thinking:
* An above-average ability to organize, to analyze, and to examine the subject material in a critical and constructive manner, and to express thoughts both in speech and in writing.

60-69 A generally satisfactory and intellectually adequate performance with evidence of:

* An acceptable basic grasp of the subject material:
* A fair understanding of the relevant issues:
* A general familiarity with relevant literature and techniques:
* An ability to develop solutions to moderately difficult problems related to the subject material:
* A moderate ability to examine the material in a critical and analytical manner, and to express thoughts in writing.

50-59 A barely acceptable performance with evidence of:

* A familiarity with the subject material:
* Some evidence that analytical skills have been developed:
* Some understanding of relevant issues:
* Some familiarity with the relevant literature and techniques:
* Partially acceptable attempts to solve moderately difficult problems related to the subject material and to examine the material in a critical and analytical manner:
* Basic competence in writing.

0-49 An unacceptable performance.