

Introduction to Women's Studies

Department of Women's Studies

WST 3015-797 (3 credit hours)

Fall 2009

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| Instructor: | T.A.'s: | |
| Cyrana Wyker | Sally Gage | Amy Tinkler |
| Office: FAO 19d | Office: FAO 19d | Office: FAO 17B |
| Phone Number: | Phone Number: | Phone Number: |
| Office Hours: | Office Hours: | Office Hours: |
| Tues. & Wed. 8am-9am | Mon. & Wed. 3:30-4:30pm | Tues. & Thurs. 1- 2pm |
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Course Description

This course is designed to introduce students to the interdisciplinary field of Women's Studies. We will critically examine issues from historical, political, and cultural perspectives, and explore the ways that gender, race, class, and sexuality are socially constructed. In addition, this course will investigate the ways that pop culture and the media impact society by viewing them through the lens of Women's Studies.

This course is part of the University of South Florida's Foundations of Knowledge and Learning (FKL) Core Curriculum. It is certified for Social and Behavioral Sciences and for the following dimensions: Inquiry, Critical Thinking, Global Context, Human & Cultural Diversity. Students enrolled in this course will be asked to participate in the USF General Education assessment effort. This might involve submitting copies of writing assignments for review, responding to surveys, or participating in other measurements designed to assess the FKL Core Curriculum learning outcomes.

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Develop a definition of feminism and recognize manifestations of feminist thought
- Comprehend the meaning of social construction and identify areas that have been socially constructed
- Recognize the importance of language in creating and understanding culture
- Recognize the various components that create an identity (such as, but not limited to, gender, race, class, and sexuality) and how those components intersect
- Recognize institutions and understand the role they play in shaping people's lives
- Understand the role that pop culture and the media affect women and men

Required Texts

Women's Voices, Feminist Visions: Classic and Contemporary Readings, Forth Edition, edited by Susan M Shaw and Janet Lee (2009). ISBN 978-0-07351228-0

Course Requirements

Quizzes (20%): You will be responsible for logging into blackboard and taking an online quizzes comprised of multiple choice, fill in the blank, and true/false questions. Quizzes are located under “Assignments” in Blackboard. Quizzes will be bi-weekly (with the exception of an exam week) and typically cover the previous week’s and the current week’s assigned readings and chapters. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped. The quiz will be made available on **Wednesday at 10am** and remain open until **Sunday at 5 pm**. Please note that regardless of when you log on to take the quiz the quiz will close at 5pm on Sunday. Thus, **DO NOT LOG IN TO TAKE THE QUIZ AT THE LAST MINUTE!** Quizzes will be timed according to the number and difficulty of quiz questions. Specific quiz dates will be given in the following course schedule.

Exams (50%): You will be responsible for logging into blackboard and completing two exams for this course. The exams will be comprised of multiple choice, fill in the blank, true/false, and essay/short answer questions. The exams will be located under “Assignments” in Blackboard. Examinations will be available for the entire (Mon. - Fri.) exam week. The exams will be timed according to the number and difficulty of the exam questions. The Exam will be made available **Monday at 10am** and remain open until **Sunday at 5pm**. Please note that the exam will close at 5pm on Sunday.

DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO LOG IN THE EXAMS WILL CLOSE AT 5pm (even if you are in the middle of your exam).

NO MAKE-UP EXAMS WILL BE GIVEN. Specific exam dates are listed in the course schedule.

If you are “kicked” out of blackboard during a quiz or test you must **contact Blackboard help desk at 974-1222 or 866-974-1222**. After contacting Blackboard help, email your T.A. or instructor to notify them of the problem. Save all documentation (the ticket receipt and the reply from Blackboards help desk). We may request these documents to verify technical issues that resulted in an inability to complete the quiz or test.

Blackboard participation/discussion (30%): For this course you are required to participate in blackboard discussion. Each week a discussion question or assignment will be posted (locate this under “course discussion” in Blackboard. Every week you are required to post a response to the discussion question on Blackboard by **Wednesday at 5pm**. In addition to your response to the question, participation includes replying to ONE other post by **Saturday at 5pm**. Therefore, your grade is based on 2 posts a week.

CRITERIA FOR YOUR RESPONSE TO THE DISCUSSION QUESTION:

- Must post by 5pm on Wednesday. There will be no make-up opportunity if you miss your posting.
- You will not get credit for “I agree.” You must elaborate. Why do you agree or disagree?

- Your response **MUST** be thoughtful and engaging response that is informed by either the chapter or the assigned course readings. I encourage you to frame your opinions within the context of the course material.
- To receive maximum point value your response needs to be at least 75-100 words OR a well developed paragraph in length.
- Your response should present a standpoint or an argument and provide evidence to support your claim. It should be a nonconfrontational response.

CRITERIA FOR RESPONSES TO ANOTHER CLASSMATE'S POST:

- You must post a response to another classmate by 5pm on Saturday.
- This post needs to be 2 – 3 sentences in length.

***** DO NOT POST ANY OFFENSIVE MATERIAL.** You will receive a warning, your post will be removed and you will receive a ZERO for that assignment. If a problem persists you will be removed from the discussion board and receive a ZERO for your overall participation grade (this is 30% of your final grade).

NO extra credit will be offered in this course.

Grading Matrix for WST 3015:

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| A+ | 97 - 100% |
| A | 90 - 96 % |
| B+ | 87 - 89 % |
| B | 81 - 86 % |
| B- | 80 % |
| C+ | 77 - 79 % |
| C | 71 - 76 % |
| C - | 70 % |
| D+ | 67 - 69 % |
| D | 61 - 66 |
| D- | 60 % |
| F | below 60 % |

Note: A grade of “I” (incomplete) will only be made available under *very extreme* circumstances and only at the discretion of the instructor. Documentation of the circumstances will be required and requests for “Incompletes” must meet the criteria of USF.

Other Policies and Important Information

Blackboard: This course is entirely online. YOU are responsible for checking blackboard on a regular basis. Primary correspondence between the instructors and students will take place through Announcements on blackboard. Any specific concerns can be emailed to your instructor(s).

Emailing: During the first week of the semester you will be assigned a designated grader. You will direct all questions to this T.A./instructor. When you email your instructor allow for 48 hours email response BEFORE you resend your email.

ACADEMIC ETIQUETTE: Because this is a course designed to be interactive, respect for opinions voiced in class is essential and I expect everyone to treat each other courteously and with respect. In order for us to learn from each other, we have to allow each other to make mistakes, and to offer unpopular positions for debate. However, name-calling and other forms of verbal harassment will not be tolerated. As facilitators, I reserve the right to end any discussion that we perceive is damaging to any individual.

Academic Honesty: All students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty. Forms of cheating include, but are not limited to the following: plagiarizing a written assignment, taking or modifying a grade record, copying from another student’s work OR allowing another student to copy from your work. For information on plagiarism please see www.ugs.usf.edu/catalogs/0304/adadap.htm#plagiarism. Cheating and Plagiarism will not be tolerated and may result in a grade of “FF.” For the full text of the policy, please see the Undergraduate Catalogue address given above. I reserve the right to submit any papers to a plagiarism detection service subscribed to by USF.

Students with Disabilities: Any student with a disability is encouraged to meet with me privately during the first week of class to discuss accommodations. A current Memorandum of Accommodations from the Office of Student Disability Services is a prerequisite for receiving accommodations in the classroom.

Religious Preference Absence Policy: Students who anticipate the necessity of being absent from class due to the observation of a major religious observance must provide notice of the date(s) to the instructor, in writing, by the second class meeting. If a major religious observance interferes with “handing” in written work, you must “hand” it in earlier than the assignments due date. No exceptions.

Emergency Circumstances or prolonged campus closure: In the event of an emergency, it may be necessary for USF to suspend normal operations. During this time, USF may opt to continue

delivery of instruction through methods that include but are not limited to: Blackboard, Elluminate, Skype, and email messaging and/or an alternate schedule. It's the responsibility of the student to monitor Blackboard site for each class for course specific communication, and the main USF, College, and department websites, emails, and MoBull messages for important general information.

We reserve the right to alter this syllabus at any point in the semester.

Tentative Course Schedule

We reserve the right to alter the course schedule and assignments at any point in the semester.

| Date | Assigned Readings Denoted by Chapter number or Author's last name followed by the page number. (Example: Smith, 48.) | Required Coursework All Quizzes and exams are located on Blackboard. |
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| Week 1 Aug. 24 th – 28 th | Ch. 1, p. 1-14. | Mandatory introduction post due by Wed. at 5pm. YOU WILL BE DROPPED FROM THE COURSE IF YOU DO NOT POST. |
| Week 2 Aug. 31 st – Sept. 4 th | Baumgardner and Richards, 28 Hooks, 40. Rhode, 54. Quidlen, 56. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Syllabus Quiz - Participate in Blackboard discussion. |
| Week 3 Sept. 7 th – 11 th | Ch. 2, 59 – 76. Hill Collins, 76. Frye, 84. Pharr, 87. McIntosh, 91. Yamato, 99. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quiz 1 (covers Ch. 1 & 2) - Participate in Blackboard discussion. |
| Week 4 Sept. 14 th – 18 th | Ch. 3, 124 – 140 Fausto-Sterling, 140 Lorber, 142 Rosenberg, 15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participate in Blackboard discussion. |

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| Week 5 Sept 21 st – 25 th | Ch. 4, 170 – 186. Schwartz and Rutter, 186. Hooks, 193. Baumgardner, 197. Moraga, 204. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quiz 2 (covers Ch. 3 & 4) - Participate in Blackboard discussion. |
| Week 6 Sept. 28 th – Oct. 2 nd | Ch. 5, 223- 244 Jacobs Brumberg, 249. Steinem, 254. Martin, 280. Weil Davis, 287. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participate in Blackboard discussion. |
| Week 7 Oct. 5 th – 9 th | | Exam One (covers Ch. 1-5) |
| Week 8 Oct. 12 th – 16 th | Ch. 6, 296-326 Satcher, 326. Gordon, 336. Silliman, et. al., 360. Cooney, 369. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participate in Blackboard discussion. |
| Week 9 Oct. 19 th – 23 rd | Ch. 7, 378 – 396 Goldman, 396 Miya-Jervis, 402 Gomes, 408 Lorde, 414. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quiz 3 (covers Ch. 6 & 7) - Participate in Blackboard discussion. |
| Week 10 Oct. 26 th – 30 th | Ch. 8, 426 – 448 Pat Mainardi, 448 Burk, 483. Baker, 486 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participate in Blackboard Discussion. |
| Week 11 Nov. 2 nd – 6 th | Ch. 9, 498 – 515 Lorde, 517 Levy, 522 De Leon, 534 Valenti, 549. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quiz 4 (covers Ch. 8 & 9) - Participate in Blackboard discussion. |
| Week 12 Nov. 9 th – 13 th | Ch. 10, 555- 576 Smith, 578. Leuchtag, 581 Carr, 593 Fonda, 606. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participate in Blackboard Discussion. |

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| Week 13 Nov. 16 th – 20 th | Ch. 11, 611 – 633 MacKinnon, 634 Bravo, 641 Fang, 656 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quiz 5 (covers Ch.10 & 11) - Participate in Blackboard discussion. |
| Week 14 Nov. 23 rd – 27 th Thanksgiving Weekend | Ch. 13, 707- 722 Hogeland, 722 Kimmel, 729 Joseph, 754. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Post a response to the discussion question on Blackboard. - The response to another classmate is OPTIONAL this week. |
| Week 15 Nov. 30 th – Dec. 4 th | PREPARE! | Exam Two (covers Ch. 6-13) |
| Week 16 Final Exam Week | | There is no final exam in this course. |