

Introduction to Women's Studies
WST 3015-004
Spring 2009

CPR 115
M/W/F 8:35 – 9:25am.

Course Instructor: Cyrana Wyker
Office Hours: M/W 10-11am, T/TH 11-12pm

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.

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 edited by Susan M Shaw and Janet Lee (2005)

Course Requirements

Exams (2 at 25% each): There will be two exams in this course. Exams will be multiple choice and will allow you to demonstrate your ability to synthesize course readings, lectures and discussions.

THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP EXAMS OR EXAMS GIVEN EARLY, except with a doctor's note or prior arrangements made well in advance and subject to my discretion. If you need to miss an exam for any reason, you must speak with me in advance, but this is discouraged. I reserve the right to refuse to give make-up exams.

Group Discussion (30%): You will be divided into groups of five. These groups will be permanent throughout the semester. Each group member must participate in group discussions.

At the end of the semester you will turn in a peer review and grade your group members based on their contributions to group discussion throughout the semester.

Attendance (20%): I will be taking attendance every Friday. Only with documentation will any absences be excused. I respect your decision to miss class. DO NOT EMAIL ME WITH NOTIFICATION.

Grading Matrix for WST 3015:

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

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 facilitator, I reserve the right to end any discussion that I perceive is damaging to any individual in the classroom.

Academic Honesty: USF has a policy on Academic Honesty. 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. 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.

Tentative Course Schedule

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

Date	Topic	Readings and Assignments
Monday Jan 5	Introductions	Hand out syllabus
Wednesday Jan 7	Introductions	Group Assignments And Activity
Friday Jan 9	Women’s Studies Perspectives	<i>WVFW</i> : p. 1-17
Monday Jan 12	Women’s Studies Perspectives	<i>WVFW</i> : p. 22-44
Wednesday Jan 14	Women’s Studies Perspectives	<i>WVFW</i> : P. 44-58
Friday Jan 16	NO Class	Enjoy your civil rights!
Monday Jan 19	NO CLASS	MLK day!

Wednesday Jan 21	Systems of Privilege & Inequality	<i>WV</i> : p. 60 -86
Friday Jan 23	Systems of Privilege & Inequality	<i>WV</i> : p. 86-118
Monday Jan 26	Learning Gender in a Diverse Society	<i>WV</i> : p. 124 - 139
Wednesday Jan 28	Learning Gender in a Diverse Society	<i>WV</i> : p. 139- 149
Friday Jan 30	Learning Gender in a Diverse Society	<i>WV</i> : p. 149- 163
Monday Feb 2	Sex, Power, & Intimacy	<i>WV</i> : p. 165 - 180
Wednesday Feb 4	Sex, Power, & Intimacy	<i>WV</i> : p. 180 - 199
Friday Feb 6	Sex, Power, & Intimacy	<i>WV</i> : p. 199 - 229
Monday Feb 9	Inscribing Gender on the Body	<i>WV</i> : p. 229 - 248
Wednesday Feb 11	Inscribing Gender on the Body	<i>WV</i> : p. 248 - 282
Friday Feb 13	Inscribing Gender on the Body	<i>WV</i> : p. 282 - 299
Monday Feb 16	Review for Midterm	STUDY!
Wednesday Feb 18	Exam 1	
Friday Feb 20	NO CLASS	
Monday Feb 23	Health and Reproductive Rights	<i>WV</i> : p. 301 - 332
Wednesday Feb 25	Health and Reproductive Rights	<i>WV</i> : p. 332 - 352

Friday Feb 27	Health and Repro. Rights	<i>WVAV</i> : p. 352 - 370
Monday Mar 2	Family Systems, Family Lives	<i>WVAV</i> : p. 372 - 389
Wednesday Mar 4	Family Systems, Family Lives	<i>WVAV</i> : p. 389 - 406
Friday Mar 6	Family Systems, Family Lives	<i>WVAV</i> : p. 406 - 428
Monday Mar 9	Women's Work	<i>WVAV</i> : p. 429 - 451
Wednesday Mar 11	Women's Work	<i>WVAV</i> : p. 451 - 481
Friday Mar 13	Women's Work	<i>WVAV</i> : p. 481- 502
March 16-20	SPRING	BREAK!!!
Monday Mar 23	Women Confronting Culture	<i>WVAV</i> : p. 503- 518
Wednesday Mar 25	Women Confronting Culture	<i>WVAV</i> : p. 518- 532
Friday Mar 27	Women Confronting Culture	<i>WVAV</i> : p. 532- 552
Monday Mar 30	Resisting Violence Against Women	<i>WVAV</i> : p. 554- 578
Wednesday Apr 1	Resisting Violence Against Women	<i>WVAV</i> : p. 578 - 593
Friday Apr 3	Resisting Violence Against Women	<i>WVAV</i> : p. 593 - 614
Monday Apr 6	State, Law, and Social Policy	<i>WVAV</i> : p. 615 - 637
Wednesday Apr 8	State, Law, and Social Policy	<i>WVAV</i> : p. 637 - 649
Friday Apr 10	State, Law, and Social Policy	<i>WVAV</i> : p. 649 - 664

Monday Apr 13	Classroom Feature	TBA Peer Evaluations Distributed.
Wednesday Apr 15	Classroom Feature	TBA
Friday Apr 17	Classroom Feature	TBA Peer Evaluations Due Today!!!
Monday Apr 20	Activism and Change	<i>WVFW</i> : p. 704 - 742
Wednesday Apr 22	Exam Review	No further readings!
Friday Apr 24	Exam 2	STUDY!