

Gender in the Everyday World: WMS 105

Associate Professor Janet Hagen
Office Hours: TR 12:30-2:00 and by appointment
Location: C 216

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"Gender Equality Must Become a Lived Reality."
Michelle Obama

This course introduces students to the historical and contemporary issues that have shaped and affected women's lives within the discipline of Women's Studies. It offers students the opportunity to learn about the feminist movements and women's contributions toward social change. Emphasis will be on family, health, work, education, religion, violence against women, and popular culture. This course also incorporates projects that promote social change and the empowerment of women.

Prerequisite: ENG 101 eligibility

Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to

- articulate the purpose and history of Women's Studies as a discipline;
- explain how the socialization process of learning gender is shaped by many influences, including family, culture, ethnicity, race, religion, media, and popular culture;
- identify and explain how socially constructed categories like gender, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and sexual identity intersect and influence the diversity of women's experiences and serve to create systems of privilege and oppression;
- define and describe basic terms central to the field of Women's Studies: patriarchy, feminism, gender, sex, social construction, racism, classism, heterosexism, ageism, and ableism;
- integrate knowledge and experience to think critically in order to solve problems and arrive at creative solutions.

Required Texts

Women, Images and Realities: A Multicultural Anthology. Ed. Amy Kesselman, Lily D. McNair and Nancy Schniedewind. 4th ed. McGraw Hill, 2008.

Sold, Patricia McCormick

Grade Percentages

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| • Class participation | 15% |
| • Homework Assignments | 30% |
| • Service Learning Project | 30% |
| • Quizzes/Exams | 25% |

Breakdown of Grades and Policies

CLASS PARTICIPATION (15%): A class like this requires your engagement, which means reading *all* of the assigned material before class and participating in class discussions and group work. (If you do not do the readings, you will not be able to participate in the activities, which will affect your grade negatively.) Any work assigned during a class period may not be made up.

QUIZZES (10%): During the semester there will be pop quizzes which may not be made up unless you have written documentation of a serious illness, etc. (These quizzes will focus on the assigned readings.)

EXAMS (30%): The Waves of Feminism and What Is Women's Studies (10%); Final exam (20%)

ASSIGNMENTS (25%): See syllabus and separate assignment sheets for details and guidelines.

SERVICE LEARNING (20%):

Service-learning . . . integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.

National Service-Learning Clearing House

In this course, as we identify the many ways inequality operates in our society, we will also be exploring what can be done to effect change to promote the well being and empowerment of individuals whose lives are affected by issues related to gender, race/ethnicity, class, ability, sexual orientation, etc. Creating awareness and changes will come about through your involvement in a service learning project within our own learning community at TRCC. See assignment sheet for specific guidelines.

CLASS POLICIES

Deadlines: All work is due at the beginning of class (as assigned). For each day an assignment is late, your grade will be docked one full letter grade. Allowances will be made for documented emergencies and other absences that cannot be avoided. (Email submissions will not be accepted.)

Attendance: The success of this course requires your attendance. If you must miss class, please remember that you will still be held accountable for any missed quizzes, material covered in class, group work, and all assignments that are due that day.

Late Arrivals: Please be in class on time. Perpetual lateness will affect your final grade. (I lock the door.)

Breaks: Unless it is an emergency, *refrain from leaving the class at all times. Doing so is disruptive and will affect your grade negatively* (and – the door will be locked).

Written Requirements: Paper assignments are to be word-processed and double-spaced, with margins of 1 inch and a font size equivalent to Times New Roman size 12. MLA documentation will be the proper format for this class. This is college, so correct grammar and spelling count and will be taken into account on your grade.

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is essential to a useful education. Failure to act with academic integrity severely limits a person's ability to succeed in the classroom and beyond. Furthermore, academic dishonesty erodes the legitimacy of every degree awarded by the College. In this class and in the course of your academic career, present only your own best work; clearly document **all** sources of any material you use from others; and act at all times with honor. Plagiarism of any sort will result in a failing grade. (See contract.)

Tutoring: Three Rivers has an excellent tutoring center located next to the library, where trained tutors are available to assist you with your academic needs.

Students with disabilities: *See below

Electronic devices: School regulations require that **all** electronic devices be turned off in learning environments. If it is imperative for you to be available by cell phone, please speak to me before class. (**No text messaging during class.**) (If you are caught text messaging, there will be a consequence!)

Class cancellations: If class is cancelled, a notice will be posted outside the door. I will also try to send out an email to your TRCC school email account. (Please make sure you have one and that you are signed up for My COMMNET ALERT.) School cancellations due to bad weather will also be posted on the TRCC homepage and recorded on the school's main phone number: 860-886-0177. The most reliable source will be COMMNET ALERT. To sign up, open your Commnet account and follow directions under Early Warning Alert:

My COMMNET ALERT

Please join our **new notification system that delivers critical information in the event of an emergency, including weather-related class cancelations.** The system delivers emergency messages through **text messaging** over cellular phones. Enrollment in myCommNet Alert is **free, voluntary, quick & easy.**

To **Create** your account on myCommNet Alert, select "**Create Account**" on the log in page

To **update** or **change** your myCommNet Alert profile, **log in** myCommNet Alert **FAQs**

*Text message costs will follow your calling plan's terms for text messages.

***Disability Information**

*If you have a disability that may affect your progress in this course, please meet with a Disability Service Provider (DSP) as soon as possible. Please note that accommodations cannot be provided until you provide written authorization from a DSP.

TRCC Disabilities Service Providers Counseling & Advising Office Room A-119	
Matt Liscum (860) 383-5240	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical Disabilities• Sensory Disabilities• Medical Disabilities• Mental Health Disabilities
Chris Scarborough (860) 892-5751	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learning Disabilities• ADD/ADHD• Autism Spectrum

Fall 2013

Please bring your book to class every day. All reading assignments are from Women: Images and Realities unless otherwise noted.

AUGUST

Week One

29 Introduction to course

SEPTEMBER

Week Two

3 **1.** Read "Introduction" 1-6. **2.** For **What is Women's Studies?** 8-15 and "Women's Studies as Women's History" 38-43, read and type up outlines of the main information and supporting evidence for each one. (To identify the relevant information, look at each paragraph and identify what it is about in a line or two. [The first sentence of each paragraph often identifies its focus. You can cite it directly.] Then sort and pull out main points when typing up your outline. **Your grade will be based on how comprehensive your outlines are and whether or not they cover the main points/issues.* **3.** Write a brief personal response to the readings (your choice) and two-three questions to contribute to class discussion.

5 **1.** Before class, ask five people to define **feminism** and record their responses, taking into account their facial expressions and body language. (Handwritten is fine.) **2.** Do a search on the Internet for the word "feminism." Link to a minimum of three sites and print your findings (and bring them to class). **3.** Write down three questions that you have after interviewing individuals and doing research about feminism that will encourage class discussion. **4.** Read "The First and Second Waves of Feminism in the U.S." 555-561. Type a list of the most important events and ideas these articles highlight about feminism as a social movement and the waves of feminism. Bring your list to class.

Week Three

10 Exam on "What Is Women's Studies" and "The First and Second Waves of Feminism in the U.S." Watch video *Iron Jawed Angels*

12 Finish video.

Week Four

17 Due: assignment on *Iron Jawed Angels*. Read **Becoming a Woman in Our Society** 45-48_ and type out an outline that explains what it means to become a woman based on the authors' introduction.(Be specific and focus on the **entire** article typing out ALL of the main points and supporting evidence/definitions). "The Problem That Has No Name" 50-53.

19 "A Work of Artifice" 53, "not a pretty girl" 65, "The Gift" 71. Also read "Night to His Day: The Social Construction of Gender" 68-70 and do a mapping that breaks down how and why gender is constructed. Read "Masculine, Feminine, or Human" 70. Hand out reality show assignment.

Week Five

- 24 "klaus Barbie, and other dolls I'd like to see" 71-75; "On Language: You Guys" 75-77
 "Gender in the Media" 92-96.
- 26 *Reality show assignment due. Discuss service learning project and hand out assignment on music videos.

OCTOBER

Week Six

- 1 Video *Dreamworlds 3*. "No Respect: Gender Politics and Hip-Hop" 102-104; "If Women Ran Hip Hop" 105-106
- 3 Music video assignment due. Read "X: A Fabulous Child's Story" 106-112

Week Seven

- 8 **Gender and Women's Bodies** 114-117, "Female Beauty" 118. Poems: 124-128, including the reading in the box "Our Crown, Our Glory, Our Roots." "The Body Politic" 128-133, "Breaking the Model" 134-136, "Revenge Against the Scale" 135. Write a one-two page response on these assigned articles (your choice)—not a summary.
- 10 *Miss Representation* (video)

Week Eight

- 15 Finish video. Service learning workshop.
- 17 Read Sexuality and Relationships 139, "The Cult of Virginity" 140-143 – for this article write a 1-2 page explanation of what you think the author's main point is and if you agree or disagree with her and why or why not. (Be very specific.) Read "Loving Another Woman" 153-158, "Courage from Necessity" 112-113

Week Nine

- 22 Video
- 24 Video

Week Ten

- 29 Assignment on video due. Read **Institutions That Shape Women's Lives** 166-74; "An Overview of Women and Work" 177-81, "Sexual Harassment" 201-203, "In Case of Sexual Harassment: A Guide for Women Students" 206-207
- 31 "The New Antipoverty Regime: Same Single-Mother Poverty Problems" 234-240. ; "Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy" 193-97. Type out an outline of the main points in these articles.

NOVEMBER

Week Eleven

- 5 **Violence Against Women** 493-96; "Understanding Intimate Partner Violence" 497-500 "With No Immediate Cause" 512; "Selective Storytelling: A Critique of U.S. Media Coverage Regarding Violence Against Indian Women" 506-509; "Bringing Women's Studies to a Battered Women's Shelter" 509. Write a one-two page response (your choice)—not a summary.
- 7 "Whose Body Is It, Anyway?", "Stronger Than You Know" 537-38, "Catcalls, Groping, and Stalking in Public Places" 526

Week Twelve

- 12 **Matrices of Privilege and Oppression** 381
- 14 No class. Discuss service learning project

Week Fourteen

- 19 Sex Trafficking – the growing problem. Read all of *Sold*
- 21 Continue discussion

**No Class~ Thanksgiving Break* (Nov. 25-29)*

DECEMBER

Week Fifteen

- 3 Service Learning Project
- 5 Service Learning Project

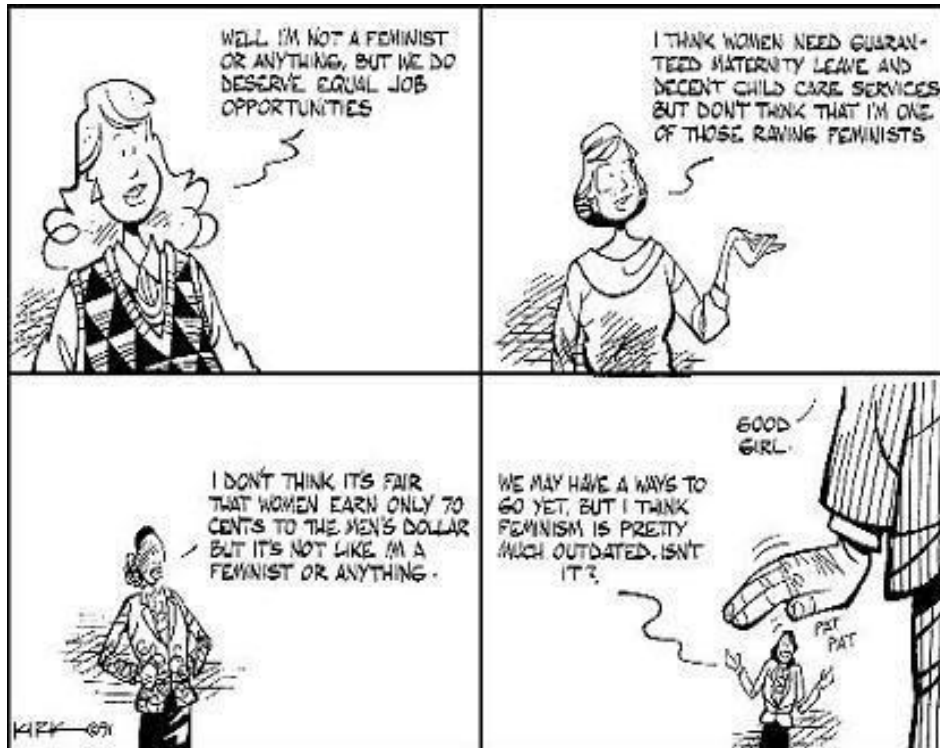
Week Sixteen

- 10 Health and Reproductive Justice 313-20; "What is Reproductive Justice?" 350-51; "Lost Woman Song" 358-59. Research the current status of women's reproductive rights, including the debates happening (and laws being put into place) across the country regarding abortions and type up the findings.
- 12 Presentations on service learning project

Final Week

- 17 Exam

- *You are responsible for all work covered in class and all changes on the syllabus, whether you are in class or not.*
- *FINAL GRADES WILL BE AVAILABLE DECEMBER 31.*



Student Contract

Please read and sign acknowledging that you understand what academic integrity is and what the consequences are for violating it. (*Read this contract carefully, as it is a formal and binding contract.*)

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is essential to a useful education. Failure to act with academic integrity severely limits a person's ability to succeed in the classroom and beyond. Furthermore, academic dishonesty erodes the legitimacy of every degree awarded by the College. In this class and in the course of your academic career, present only your own best work; clearly document the sources of the material you use from others; and act at all times with honor.

General Definition (Student Discipline Policy, section 2:10, Board of Trustees of Connecticut Community Colleges)

Academic Dishonesty shall in general mean conduct which has as its intent or effect the false representation of a student's academic performance, including but not limited to

- (a) cheating on an examination,
- (b) collaborating with others in work to be presented, contrary to the stated rules of the course,
- (c) plagiarizing, including the submission of others' ideas or papers (whether purchased, borrowed, or otherwise obtained) as one's own. In other words, **ALL** submitted written work must be your own; if you consult other sources, such as class readings, articles or books from the library, *material on internet databases or web sites, etc., these sources **MUST** be properly documented or you will be charged with plagiarism and will receive a zero on the assignment and possibly an F in the course as well.
- (d) stealing or having unauthorized access to examination or course materials,
- (e) falsifying records of laboratory or other data,
- (f) submitting, if contrary to the rules of a course, work previously presented in another course, and
- (g) knowingly and intentionally assisting another student in any of the above, including assistance in an arrangement whereby any work, classroom performance, examination or other activity is submitted or performed by a person other than the *student under whose name the work is submitted or performed.*

**Deliberately looking up information on a work of literature on a website and using that information in your critique constitutes plagiarism.*

By reading and signing this contract, I am acknowledging that I understand what the general definitions are that constitute Academic Integrity and that if I partake in any of these activities I will receive a zero. I also understand that repeatedly plagiarizing will result in failing the course (more than one time). Further, I understand that the Academic Dean will be notified of all incidents of plagiarizing and they will become a part of my permanent file.

NAME _____ DATE _____