

Gender in the Everyday World: WMS 105

Associate Professor Janet Hagen
Office Hours: Tuesday 2:00-3:30
Thursday 12:30-2:00

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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 cannot be made up.

QUIZZES/EXAMS (25%): During the semester there will be pop quizzes and exams (which you will be notified of in advance). Exams and quizzes may not be made up unless you have written documentation of a serious illness, etc.

ASSIGNMENTS (30%): See syllabus and separate assignment sheets for details and guidelines.

SERVICE LEARNING (30%):

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.

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: Any student with a hidden or visible disability that may require classroom modifications should see me about her/his disability within the first week or two of class. I will ask you to see one of the learning disabilities counselors on campus so we can work together to implement an appropriate plan to meet your needs. For more information see http://www.trcc.commnet.edu/Ed_Resources/Learn_Dis.htm

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 your phone goes off or 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, so make sure your email address is current and in your personal records. School cancellations due to bad weather will be posted on the TRCC homepage and also recorded on the school's main phone number: 860-886-0177. You also have the option to sign up to receive text messages announcing all cancellations or emergencies. 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.*

Fall 2012

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

AUGUST

Week One

28 Introduction to course

30 **1.** Read "Introduction" 1-6; Read **What Is Women's Studies?** 8-15 and type out an outline or bulleted list that explains what Women's Studies is. (Be specific and focus on the **entire** article typing out ALL of the main points and supporting evidence/definitions). **2.** Next do a search on the Internet for "Women's Studies." Find three sites. You will need to bring in copies of those sites (printed out). **3.** After completing one and two, type at least three questions or comments these sites led you to ask or think about. **4.** Read "Claiming an Education" 19-21.

SEPTEMBER

Week Two

4 **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.** "Gender Inequity in School: Not a Thing of the Past" 77-80. (Be prepared to explain connections between "Claiming an Education" and this article.)

6 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, either typed or written legibly.

Week Three

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

13 Finish video. Go to rockthevote.com to register to vote! (<http://www.rockthevote.com>)

Week Four

18 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.

20 "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

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

OCTOBER

Week Six

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

Week Seven

- 9 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.
- 11 *Miss Representation* (video)

Week Eight

- 16 Finish video. Service learning workshop.
- 18 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

- 23 Video
- 25 Video

Week Ten

- 30 Assignment on video due. Read Institutions That Shape Women's Lives 166-74; "An Overview of Women and Work" 177-81; "Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy" 193-97, "Sexual Harassment" 201-203, "In Case of Sexual Harassment: A Guide for Women Students" 206-207

NOVEMBER

- 1 "The New Antipoverty Regime: Same Single-Mother Poverty Problems" 234-240. Type out an outline of the main points of this article.

Week Eleven

- 6 Violence Against Women 493-96; "Understanding Intimate Partner Violence" 497-500, "With No Immediate Cause" 512

7 * VOTE!!!**

- 8 No class – meet as a group in the classroom to delegate service learning tasks

Week Twelve

- 13 "Naming and Studying Acquaintance Rape" 530-36, "Stronger Than You Know" 537-38, "Protecting Male Abusers and Punishing the Women Who Confront Them" 538-43
- 15 Discuss service learning project

Week Thirteen – Thanksgiving Holiday. No class ~ enjoy!

Week Fourteen

- 27 Read all of *Sold*
29 Exam on sex trafficking and *Sold*

DECEMBER

Week Fifteen

- 4 Service Learning Project
6 Service Learning Project

Week Sixteen

- 11 Health and Reproductive Justice 313-20; "What is Reproductive Justice?" 350-51; "Lost Woman Song" 358-59. Type a response that identifies what you believe reproductive justice is after reading these two articles and the poem.
13 Final Presentations

- *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 28

