

WOMS 2310

Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies

Fall 2011

MWF 10-10:50

UH 104

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 11-12pm, or by appointment

Course webpage: <http://woms2310.wordpress.com>

All assignments, announcements, and updates to the course schedule will be posted on this site. Students should consult it frequently for the most up-to-date information on the course

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the fields of Women's and Gender Studies through the examination of history, culture, and current events as they shape and are shaped by women's and gender issues. Throughout the semester we will apply three central questions to contemporary American culture: How is gender represented or constructed? Are gender norms reinforced or challenged? And, what are the implications for individuals and society as a whole? We address these questions by exploring critical or theoretical conceptions of women's experience and gender identity from a variety of disciplines, including history, philosophy, political science, sociology, anthropology, and literary criticism. Above all, the course emphasizes how a feminist critical approach sheds light on the complex role of gender in modern society.

Required Books: Susan Shaw & Janet Lee, *Women's Voices, Feminist Visions* (McGraw Hill) 5th edition, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-07-351232-7

Please note that students must use this edition – earlier editions will not suffice.

Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- Define feminism and its key concepts.
- Explain the major debates within women's and gender studies.
- Present a feminist critique of texts, culture, and current events.
- Locate, explicate, and apply women's and gender studies criticism to cultural analysis.
- Utilize research materials to develop and present an original analytical argument.

COURSE POLICIES

Grading Policy/Requirements:

Participation 10%
Test 1 10%
Test 2 15%
Test 3 20%
Response Papers 10%
Group Project 15%
Final Project 20%

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations with due dates:

The major assignments are in the form of three tests and a final project that includes a group research assignment and oral presentation, and an individually composed essay (5-7 pages). Due Dates are provided below on the Assignment Schedule. All page requirements and due dates are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is mandatory and late arrival is not acceptable. Students are granted 3 unexcused absences during the semester. Any additional absences will result in a loss of points as detailed below. *Points will be deducted from the student's final grade.* In order to claim an excused absence, you must submit written confirmation (copy of doctor's note, written excuse, etc.) that clearly states your name and the date(s) you were absent. Only a limited number of excused absences will be granted.

# of Unexcused Absences	Points Deducted
0-3	0
4	2
5	4

Excessive absences (6 or more) will result in an automatic F in the course.

Participation: Class participation is a very important part of this class. Good participation can significantly improve your course grade. This includes: participating in class discussion, asking questions, responding to questions, attending office hours, being polite and respectful to classmates, and generally being alert and interested.

Late Policy: All assignments are deducted 5 points every class day they are late, with 10 points per weekend. No missed quizzes, homework, in-class assignments, or response papers can be made up. Missed exams can only be made up with evidence of family or medical emergency. *Assignments will not be accepted over email unless specified by the professor. Assignments submitted over email are not considered turned in until a hard copy has been submitted.*

Electronics Policy: TURN CELL PHONES OFF BEFORE CLASS. No electronic items of any kind, including laptops, tape recorders, iPods, iPads, cell phones, etc. should be

used during class without instructor permission. Violating this rule can effect your Participation grade and may result in an Academic Dishonesty investigation.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic Dishonesty: It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University. "Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2, Subdivision 3.22).

Americans With Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 92-112 - The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of federal legislation entitled *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*, pursuant to section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens. As a faculty member, I am required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty of their need for accommodation and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels. Information regarding specific diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability. Also, you may visit the Office for Students with Disabilities in room 102 of University Hall or call them at (817) 272-3364.

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. Contact the Financial Aid Office for more information.

Electronic Communication Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University "MavMail" address as the sole official means of communication with students. MavMail is used to remind students of important

deadlines, advertise events and activities, and permit the University to conduct official transactions exclusively by electronic means. For example, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation are now sent to students through the MavMail system. All students are assigned a MavMail account. *Students are responsible for checking their MavMail regularly.* Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/email/>. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active even after they graduate from UT Arlington.

Student Support Services Available: The University of Texas at Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. These resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals to resources for any reason, students may contact the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107 or visit www.uta.edu/resources for more information.

WOMS 2310 Reading and Assignment Schedule

WV = *Women's Voices, Feminist Visions* (5th edition)

MS = MavSpace. Students are expected to bring copies of the MavSpace materials to class on the days they are assigned. Instructions for accessing these materials will be given in class.

Online = Available online. These reading assignments will have internet links provided; students should cut & paste the links into their browsers to access the materials.

I. Theories, Terms, & Concepts

Week 0

8/26 Introduction

Week One

8/29 What is feminism?

WV: Chapter 1 (p. 1-22); #4, #5, #7

8/31 Key Concept 1: Social Construction Theory

WV: Chapter 3 (p. 105-120), #20, #21

9/2 Key Concept 2: Patriarchy is Bad for Everyone

WV: #34, #103

Johnson, "Patriarchy, the System" (MS)

Week Two

9/5 Labor Day Holiday

9/7 Key Concept 3: No Hierarchy of Oppression

WV: Chapter 2 (p. 42-59), #9, #11, #13

9/9 Key Concept 4: The History of American Feminism(s)

Response Paper #1 due

Kesselman, "First and Second Waves of Feminism"; Seneca Falls Convention; Truth's Defense of the Rights of Women [all one file] (MS)

WV: #105, review timeline p.19-22

II. Bodies

Week Three: Sex and Gender

9/12 Sex(es) & Gender(s)

WV: #19, #26

Gould, "X: A Fabulous Child's Story" (MS)

Online: Watch video: "'Genderless' Baby Raises Storm of Controversy"

<http://www.parentdish.com/2011/05/26/genderless-baby/>

9/14 Sexualities

WV: Chapter 4 (p. 163-180), #28, #29

9/16 Test #1

Week Four: Sex and Sexuality

9/19 Thinking about Sex

WV: #35, #75

Catherine Mackinnon, "Sexuality" (MS)

9/21 Sex Positive Feminism

WV: #66

Lorde, "Uses of the Erotic" & Cisneros, "Guadalupe the Sex Goddess" [one file] (MS)

Online: Listen to newscast: "'Slutwalk' Goes Global To Protest Sexual Assault"

<http://www.npr.org/2011/06/09/137080514/slutwalk-goes-global-to-protest-sexual-assault>

9/23 Group work

Week Five: Reproductive Politics

9/26 Abortion Then

WV: Chapter 6 (p. 279-309); #46, #47

9/28 Abortion Now

WV: #50, #51

Online: "States Enact Record Number of Abortion Restrictions in First Half of 2011"

<http://www.guttmacher.org/media/inthenews/2011/07/13/index.html>

9/30 Feminist & Pro-Life?

Response Paper #2 due

Wolf, "Our Bodies, Our Souls" (MS)

Week Six: Beauty Myths

10/3 Beauty and the Body

WV: Chapter 5 (p. 213-233), #39, #43, #45

10/5 Beauty and Race

WV: #40

Patton, "Hey Girl, Am I More Than My Hair?" (MS)

10/7 Guest speaker: Charity Stutzman, Relationship Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention

Week Seven: Beauty Revisited

10/10 Commodifying Feminist Beauty

Taylor & Johnston, "Feminist Consumerism and Fat Activists" (MS)

Online: "Body-Positive Blogs: Helpful Or Hurtful?"
<http://www.refinery29.com/body-positive-blogs-helpful-or-hurtful>

Online: Watch these commercials:
Dove Evolution: Campaign for Real Beauty
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iYhCn0jf46U>

Summer's Eve Hail to the V
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MxW_ZCd64tg

10/12 Discussion & Review

10/14 Test #2

III. Institutions

Week Eight: Marriage

10/17 Marriage Myths

WV #27, #53

Morrison, "Bridal Wave" (MS)

10/19 Against Marriage

Chambers, "Feminism, Liberalism, and Marriage" (only pp. 1-10) (MS)

Card, "Against Marriage" (MS)

10/21 Same-Sex Marriage

Gardiner, "Same Sex Marriage" (MS)

Additional reading TBA

Week Nine: Families

10/24 Motherhood

Warner, "Mommy Madness" (MS)

Online: Chau, "Why Chinese Mothers are Superior"

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704111504576059713528698754.html>

Online: Waldman, "In Defense of the Guilty, Ambivalent, Preoccupied Western Mom"

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703333504576080422577800488.html?KEYWORDS=AMY+CHUA>

10/26 Fatherhood

Cullen, "Fatherhood 2.0" (MS)

Miller, "Fatherhood and Culture" (MS)

10/28 Lesbian and Gay Parenting

WV: #56

Additional reading TBA

Week Ten: Work

10/31 Working Women

WV: Chapter 8 (p. 391-413), #61

11/2 Domestic Labor

WV: #60, #62

Hochschild, "Second Shift" (MS)

11/4 Violence Against Women

WV: Chapter 10 (p. 503-524)

Anderson, "All American Rape" (MS)

November 4 Last Day to Drop

Week Eleven: Gender & Violence

11/7 Violence Against Women (cont.)

WV: #79, #81, #84

11/9 Violence Against GLBTQ Teens

All reading ONLINE

Review these two websites: Unfinished Lives <http://unfinishedlivesblog.com/>
"It Gets Better" <http://www.itgetsbetter.org/>

Watch these two videos: Joel Burns, Ft. Worth City Council

<http://www.itgetsbetter.org/#ax96cghOnY4>

The first "It Gets Better" video: Dan and Terry

<http://www.itgetsbetter.org/#7IcVyvg2Qlo>

11/11 Can Pop Culture Subvert Patriarchy?

WV: Chapter 9 (p. 450-472)

Mulvey, "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema" (MS)

IV. Popular Culture

Week Twelve

11/14 Library Research information session

11/16 Film discussion

11/18 Test #3

Week Thirteen

11/21 Group work

11/23 Group work
11/25 Thanksgiving Holiday

V. Girls, Boys, Toys, and Games

Week Fourteen

11/28 Group Presentations, reading TBA
11/30 Group Presentations, reading TBA
12/2 Group Presentations, reading TBA

Week Fifteen

12/5 Group Presentations, reading TBA
12/7 Group Presentations, reading TBA

12/9 Why Women's and Gender Studies?
Response paper #3 due

Final Projects Due: Monday Dec. 12 by 4pm