**WOMS 2310**

**Intro to Women’s and Gender Studies**

**Fall 2013**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Instructor: Dr. S. Watson**

**TA: Ms. Elizabeth Barbee**

**Office Number:** Hammond Hall 322

**Email Address:** **swatson1@uta.edu**

**Faculty Profile:** <https://www.uta.edu/mentis/profile/?2009>

**Office hours**: M 1-2; W 12-1 and by appointment

**Section: 2310**

**Class:** MWF 10-11; COBA 251

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**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. We will examine critical or theoretical conceptions of women’s experience and gender identity from a variety of disciplines, including history, philosophy, political science, sociology, anthropology, and science. We will also pay particular attention to the intersection of gender and race in the role of women’s studies. Above all, the course emphasizes how a feminist critical approach sheds light on the complex role of gender in modern society.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

* 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.
* Explain and apply women’s and gender studies criticism to cultural analysis
* Develop and present an original analytical argument about the role of gender in modern society

**Required Text:**

Kolmar, Wendy K. & Frances Batkowski. *Feminist Theory: A Reader*.

**Supplemental Readings** are to be accessed from the Blackboard course page and are designated (BB) on the syllabus.

You are required to bring the textbook and/or BB reading to every class period.

**GRADING**

**Participation/Attendance 15%**

**Group Project 20%**

**Response Papers (3) 25%**

**Tests 40%**

**Expectations for Out-of-Class Study:** Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional **9** hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

**Participation/Attendance**

Despite its size, WOMS 2310 is a discussion course. Your attendance and participation are essential to your success in it. Participation is not simply talking; it involves contributing to the discussion in **relevant** and meaningful ways. Effective participation stems from thoughtful reading and preparation outside of class.

I will take attendance every day. During the semester you are permitted **three** absences. Doctor’s visits, surgeries, meetings with advisors, friends’ weddings, etc. will be taken from your absence total.

I will only excuse university related absences (sports trips if you are on the team and military duty). These are the only absences that will be excused, provided they are fully documented. Other absences do not require documentation. **Each absence after the third one will result in a 2 point penalty per absence off your final grade.** If you miss more than five class periods, you will have effectively missed two and a half weeks of class. This is unacceptable and will adversely affect your grade.

If you are absent from class you are responsible for getting notes from a classmate, completing the work you have missed, and for being on schedule when you return. I will not provide my lecture notes to you if you miss class.

**Group project**

Each student will complete a group project on a topic relating to Women’s and Gender Studies.

**Drop Policy:**

The University has adopted a single drop date for all undergraduate students. **For Fall 2013, the last drop date is Wednesday Oct. 30** which occurs at the end of the tenth week of classes.

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. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (http://wweb.uta.edu/ses/fao).

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):**

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](http://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.

**Academic Integrity:**

All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence. I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I*

*will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

Instructors may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents’ Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

**\*The submission for credit of work attributable to a computer program, such as electronic or Internet translators is also academic dishonesty.**

**Student Support Services Available:**

UT 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. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**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 Feedback Survey:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by

state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit http://www.uta.edu/sfs.

**Final Review Week:** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**Emergency Exit Procedures:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

**Course Schedule**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **August** | **Readings** |
| **23**  | Introduction to Course |
|  | **WHAT IS FEMINISM?** |
| **M 26**  | pp. 7-10 (“Feminism”); pp.12-14 (“Not by Degrees”) |
|  |  |
| **W 28** | pp. 24-32 (“What is Feminism?”) |
|  |  |
| **F 31**  | pp. 37-42 (“Theory as Liberatory Practice”); pp.42-50 “Contesting Cultures” |
| **September** |  |
| **M 2**  | *Labor Day* |
|  |  |
| **W 4**  | Film: *Is Feminism Dead?* |
|  |  |
| **F 6**  | Debate #1=Is Feminism Dead? |
|  | **1792-1920 Seneca Falls**  |
| **M 9**  | pp. 76-80 (“A Vindication of the Rights”); pp.81-83 (“Letters on the Equality”); pp.83-85 (“Declarations of Sentiment”) |
|  |  |
| **W 11**  | pp.91 (“Ain’t I a Woman”); pp. 109-112 (“The Status”); pp. 98-102 (“Speech after Arrest”) |
|  |  |
| **F 13**  | pp. 123-26 (“Lynch Law in America”); Film: *Ida B. Wells: A Passion for Justice* |
|  | **Social Construction Theory** |
| **M 16**  |  “Learning Gender” (**BB**); “Social Construction of Gender” (**BB**); “Unraveling Hardwiring” (**BB**) |
|  |  |
| **W 18** | Padawar, “What’s so bad about a boy who wears a dress”? (**BB**); Conlin, “Choosing a Pronoun” (**BB**) |
|  |  |
| **F 20**  | **Response Paper #1 due**Film: *Is it a Boy or a Girl?* |
|  |  |
| **M 23**  | pp. 157-161 (“Sex and Temperament”); pp. 161-68 (*The Second Sex*) |
|  |  |
| **W 25**  | Debate #2 : Social Construction of Gender |
|  | **The Roe v. Wade Era** |
| **F 27**   | pp. 172-77 (“The Problem that has no Name”); pp. 185-87 (“Statement of Purpose”) |
|  | **Pride Week hosted by LGPTQA program Sept. 30-Oct.4** |
| **M 30**  | pp. 193-95 (“An Argument for Black”); pp. 200-207 (“The Liberation of Black Women”); pp. 268-73 (“A Black Feminist Statement”) |
| **October** |  |
| **W 2**  | pp. 259-61 (“Chicana Feminism”); *Woman Schooled in Latin* (**BB)** |
|  |  |
| **F 4**  | No class |
|  |  |
| **M 7** | pp. 207-11 (“The Woman-Identified Woman”); pp. 220-224 (“Not for Lesbians”); pp. 289-93 (“Age, Race, Class, and Sex”) |
|  |  |
| **W 9**   | pp. 207-11 (“The Woman-Identified Woman”); pp. 220-224 (“Not for Lesbians”); pp. 289-93 (“Age, Race, Class, and Sex”). Review |
|  | **THURSDAY October 10 LUNAFEST 7:00p.m.** **LONESTAR AUDITORIUM** |
| **F 11** | Lunafest (Thursday night) |
|  |  |
| **M 14**  | **Test (Part 1)** |
|  |  |
| **W 16**  | **Test (Part 2)** |
|  | **Patriarchy** |
| **F 18**  | “Patriarchy, the System” (**BB**); pp. 307-315 (“The Unhappy Marriage”) |
|  |  |
| **M 21**  | pp. 370-76 (“La Conciencia de la Mestiza: Towards a New Consciousness”) |
|  |  |
| **W 23** | “Women’s Work Inside and Outside of Home” (**BB**); “The Politics of Housework” (**BB**) |
|  |  |
| **F 25**  | Slaughter, “Why Women Still Can’t Have it All” (Online) <http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2012/07/why-women-still-cant-have-it-all/309020/> |
|  |  |
| **M 28** | Debate #3 Women’s Work |
|  | **Sexuality, the Body, and Beauty** |
| **W 30**  | Film: *Miss Representation*  |
| **November** |  |
| **F 1**  | **Response Paper #2 due;** Discussion of *Miss Representation* |
|  |  |
| **M 4**  | “Resisting Violence Against Women” (**BB**); “All American Rape” (**BB**) |
|  |  |
| **W 6**  | Film: *No: The Rape Documentary* |
|  |  |
| **F 8**  | Debate #3 Sexuality |
|  | **Gender Norms** |
| **M 11**  | pp. 436-44 (“Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity”); pp. 494-498 (“An Introduction to Female Masculinity”) |
|  |  |
| **W 13** | pp. 507-514 (“Should there be only two Sexes?) |
|  |  |
| **F 15**  | Recap; Review |
|  |  |
| **M 18** | **Test 2 (Part 1)** |
|  |  |
| **W 20**  | **Test 2 (Part 2)** |
| **F 22**  | **Group Presentations** |
|  |  |
| **M 25**  | **Group Presentations** |
|  |  |
| **W 27** | TBA |
|  |  |
| **M 2** | **Group Presentations** |
|  |  |
| **W 4**  | **Group Presentations; Response Paper #3 due** |
|  |  |

**Span 3312**

**Watson**

**Please return this page to Dr.Watson:**

**I have read the syllabus for WOMS 2310 and I understand all of the information contained in it. If I have questions later on in the semester about the syllabus, it is my responsibility to discuss it with my instructor. I also understand the absenteeism policy.** (***Each absence after the third one will result in a 2 point penalty per absence off your final grade.)***

PRINT YOUR NAME:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

DATE:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

UTA EMAIL\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(THIS IS THE EMAIL ACCOUNT THAT I WILL USE TO CONTACT YOU.)