**Course Syllabus**

Intro to Women Studies | Spring 2017

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

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**Office Hours:**
MWF 7:00am - 8:30am & 11:30am - 12:30pm,
and always by appt on these days
T, Th 7:00am - 9:00am and 10:30am - 11:30am
and always by appt on these days

Spring Semester 2017 Jan 9 - April 30, 2017

**Course Description**

This course provides an introduction to critical texts and research on women and gender issues from the primary perspectives of the humanities and social sciences. We ask: what is Women's and Gender Studies? What constitutes feminism as we know it today and as it has appeared historically? What are the diverse kinds of feminism? What exactly are "woman," "man," and "gender"? How do a culture's belief systems, unexamined assumptions, and social institutions justify the oppression--and by contrast, the elevation--of one gender over another? How do assumptions about race,  social class, nationality, ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, and physical ability intersect in our lives today? How might we be unconsciously complicit in the very institutions that benefit only some lives at the expense of others? How do global and multicultural perspectives affect our understanding of these and related questions?
WS 1500 considers in detail the various interpersonal relationships, socioeconomic status, power, and authority as individuals experience these relationships. The Introductory course to Women, furthermore, explores the realities and the myths about the differences between the genders, and among individuals of different races, classes, ethnicities, sexual orientations, ages, and physical abilities in the United States.

**Textbook
Women: Images & Realities, A Multicultural Anthology 4th edition by Kesselman, Amy, McNair, Lily D, Schniedewind, Nancy (2006) Paperback
ISBN13: 9780073127644
ISBN10: 0073127647
Cover type: Paperback
Edition/Copyright: 4th edition
Publisher: McGraw-Hill Publishing Company
Published: 2006**

You may purchase this book at the [WSU Bookstore](http://bookstore.weber.edu/) or online.
**Please note:** In some cases, depending on the films you choose to work with in the individual sections, **you may need to purchase or rent films, in addition to purchasing this course's core and only textbook:**
***Women: Images and Realities: A Multicultural Anthology***, 4th Edition, Amy Kesselman, Lily D. McNair, and Nancy Schneidewind (2008).

Re: the YouTube videos and clips of films: for the content you choose to work with that is not representing an entire film, ***you will need to locate the full version of the film online and watch the entire performance.***

 **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**WSU Women & Gender Studies Goals**

1. to build on the existing body of scholarship as the program develops an interdisciplinary curriculum about women gender issues
2. to encourage variety in pedagogical methods for teaching
3. to transform traditional disciplines through continuing consideration of new data, methods, theories, and analytical frameworks generated by Women & Gender Studies scholarship, helping to correct long-standing oversight of the study of women's contributions to societies throughout the world

**WGS 1500 Course Goals**

Students will: a) consider feminist critiques of science as the model of knowledge in Western traditions; b) evaluate various methods of knowing and gathering information; c) estimate and judge the impact of feminism and gender studies on various disciplines, and d) analyze films for connections to women's studies issues and research.

The course, as designed around its Learning Outcomes, is also designed to hone critical thinking skills in several ways by:

1. identifying and challenging the assumptions that underlie the ideas, beliefs, values, and actions taken for granted in dominant research design and implementation;
2. demonstrating the importance of context in shaping our habitual perceptions, understandings, and interpretations of the world. This course will also promote critical consciousness of the practices, structures, and actions that organize the manner in which dominant research is practiced;
3. uncovering ways of imagining and exploring alternatives to prevailing ways of conducting research, and more broadly, science;
4. developing a reflective skepticism about claims made by science and research.

**GRADES**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| A | 100% | to 94% |
| A- | < 94% | to 90% |
| B+ | < 90% | to 87% |
| B | < 87% | to 84% |
| B- | < 84% | to 80% |
| C+ | < 80% | to 77% |
| C | < 77% | to 74% |
| C- | < 74% | to 70% |
| D+ | < 70% | to 67% |
| D | < 67% | to 64% |
| D- | < 64% | to 61% |
| F | < 61% | to 0% |

Assignments

Film Discussions (5 @ 50 points) = 250
Final Paper (1 @ 100 points) = 100

**Total Points Possible = 350**

**COURSE POLICIES**

ADA STATEMENT
Any student requiring accommodations or services due to a disability must contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). For contact information, vist their webpage at <http://www.weber.edu/ssd>. SSD can also arrange to provide course materials (including this syllabus) in alternative formats upon request.

STATEMENT OF CORE BELIEFS
This course includes a "Statement of Core Beliefs," which -- as highly relevant to WS 1500 and to The Women's Studies Program -- requests that faculty members whose courses include potentially controversial material may wish to include a statement in the syllabus referring to this policy, or to deal with this issue in early class discussion, or both. Because, as Instructor of Record for this WS 1500 course, I, Professor Eva Ludwiga Szalay, deem this matter to be applicable to our class and our working from a common understanding, the following Core Beliefs Statement is included here:

Core Beliefs: According to PPM 6-22 IV, students are to “[d]etermine, before the last day to drop courses without penalty, when course requirements conflict with a student's core beliefs. If there is such a conflict, the student should consider dropping the class. A student who finds this solution impracticable may request a resolution from the instructor. This policy does not oblige the instructor to grant the request, except in those cases when a denial would be arbitrary and capricious or illegal. This request must be made to the instructor in writing and the student must deliver a copy of the request to the office of the department head. The student's request must articulate the burden the requirement would place on the student's beliefs.”

WSU ACADEMIC STANDARDS
All courses in the Women's Studies Program adhere to the Weber State University Policy on Academic Standards. In cases of alleged violations, the procedures outlined in the policy will be followed. A complete description of the WSU Policy on Academic Standards is available in the WSU Student Code, Section IV, titled "Student Responsibilities."

CLASS COMPORTMENT (Expectations and Guidelines):
For this course, it is expected that all participants participate at all times in professional and respectful manner throughout the duration of this course, from start to finish. Any behavior that is disruptive to the learning environment may constitute a cause for disciplinary action under the -- and as per the -- WSU Student Code of Conduct.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:
As specified in PPM 6-22 IV D, cheating and plagiarism violate the Student Code. Plagiarism is “the unacknowledged (un-cited) use of any other person’s or group’s ideas or work.” Students found guilty of cheating or plagiarism are subject to failure of a specific assignment, or, in more serious cases, failure of the entire course.

WSU subscribes to Turnitin.com, an electronic service that verifies the originality of student work. Enrollment in this course may require that some or all of your assignments be submitted to Turnitin this semester. Documents submitted to Turnitin are retained, anonymously, in the company’s databases.

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