
WS 187

**Introduction to
Women's
Studies**



**Women's Studies 187
Introduction to Women's Studies**

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**TA's will hand you their contact information
and office hours etc.
during discussion section on Friday**

*****IMPORTANT*****

- **Retain this syllabus throughout the semester**

It contains course requirements, deadlines, reading assignments, exam dates etc.

Refer to it periodically to make sure you are meeting all the deadlines

The syllabus is also online on the Women's Studies Webpage. THIS WILL BE UPDATED. KEEP UP!

www.umass.edu/wost/syllabi/fall04/187.htm

Teaching Assistants

- **Mitch Boucher**
- **Mirangela Buggs**
- **Shelly Perdomo**
- **Chizu Sato,**
- **Beverly Weber**

Course Structure

LECTURES

▶ **MONDAY**

▶ **WEDNESDAY**

Includes:

Lectures

Guest Lectures

Videos

DISCUSSION SECTION

▶ **FRIDAY**

FRIDAY DISCUSSION SECTION – TIMES AND LOCATION

TIME	LOCATION	TA
9.05	#1 Bartlett 127	Beverly Weber
9.05	#2 Bartlett 205	Chizu Sato
10.10	#3 SOM 35	Mirangela Buggs
10.10	#4 Tobin 307	Mitch Boucher
10.10	#5 SOM 126	Shelly Perdomo
10.10	#6 Tobin 204	Chizu Sato
10.10	BD01 109 HasLabAdd	Beverly Weber
11.15	#7 Bartlett 201	Shelly Perdomo
11.15	#8 Bartlett 206	Mirangela Buggs
11.15	#9 Bartlett 125	Mitch Boucher

Course Requirements

- You must be registered for both the lecture and discussion section. Attendance at BOTH is required and mandatory.
- Reading assignments must be completed by the class period for which they were assigned.
- This course fulfills a general education requirement (IU), and we will therefore pay particular attention to your writing. Let us know (early in the semester) if you have special learning or writing needs.
- Discussion sections will provide the opportunity to talk critically and analyze issues and topics. You will be expected to have completed and thought about all of the readings for each class. *Sections begin this Friday, Sept 10*

We will follow all university policies on issues of Academic Honesty, Grading, Attendance, Examinations, and Absences due to Religious Observance.

Written Assignments and Exams

- **Two MIDTERM EXAM** is scheduled to be in section, on Friday, Oct 8 and Fri, Oct 29.
- One analytic paper (4-5 page paper) due Nov 19, 2003. Guidelines will be given out. Papers must always be typewritten and double spaced. Handwritten papers will not be accepted. Papers must be handed in on the due date. Late papers will be graded down.
- A FINAL EXAM scheduled during finals week. *Do not make plane reservations or plans to leave before you check the final exam schedule.* Note: Final exam is not cumulative, and will include material from the midterm on.
- Five (very short) written assignments in discussion sections during the semester. Assignments are based on the materials assigned (as stated in the syllabus) for that week. These are due in section on the day noted in the syllabus. No late work.

Grading: Final Grades will be computed as follows

- **Discussion group** **20%**
 - attendance,
 - class participation and
 - & other assignments)
- **Mid-term exams (Oct 8 and Oct 29)** **30%**
- **Analytic Paper** **20%**
 - (4-5 pages due April 18)
- **Written Assignments** **10%**
 - as stated in the syllabus
- **Final Exam** **20%**

(Do not make plans before Exam Schedules are released)

Ground Rules

- **300 people in one room is a difficult situation on many levels. One major concern is NOISE. Talking, even whispering is disruptive to both the instructor and other students. Please be courteous to everyone.**
- **This class is 50 minutes and we expect you to remain for the entire period.**
- **Make up exams will only be given to students who have an exam conflict, a medical or unavoidable excuse. Ignorance of this rule will not constitute a valid excuse.**

Required Books

Gwyn Kirk, and Margo Okazawa-Rey:
Women's Lives: Multicultural Perspectives. 3rd ed., 2004

- Howard Zinn,
A People's History of the United States 1492-Present.

Also: Web Sources

E-Reserves

Available at:

Food for Thought Book-shop, North Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Study Tips

1. **Attend Lectures – review notes.**
2. **Guest Lectures and Videos – You are responsible for the material.**
3. **Read Assigned materials before class.**
4. **Attend/participate in discussion sections (20% of grade)**
5. **Read assigned materials for the week before discussion.**
6. **Use discussion sections to clarify material, as well as discuss topics you are interested in.**
7. **Questions/Themes**
 - periodically in class.
 - on website every week.
7. **Exam Preparation**
 - Assigned Reading
 - Lectures
 - Guest Lectures
 - Videos

What is Women's Studies

INTERDISCIPLINARY

What is a discipline?

Feminism /Women's Studies

FEMINISM(s) - Social/Political Movement

- refers to the belief that women have been historically subordinate to men, and a commitment to working for freedom for women in all aspects of social life.

WOMEN'S STUDIES - Academic Field

- disciplinary and interdisciplinary exploration of knowledge placing women/gender at the center of analysis. Seeks new ways of understanding the world – more comprehensive than traditional academic disciplines where women are marginal, stereotyped or absent.
- Includes description and analysis AND focus on the consequences and applications of knowledge

Myths of Feminism

- **Women's Studies is Ideological**
(Ideology – Ideas, attitudes, and values that represent the interests of a group of people.)
- **Women's Studies is a White Middle Class issue**
- **Women's Studies is narrowly concerned with women's issues**
- **Women's Studies is not rigorous, it is easy**
- **Women's Studies is not about men**
- **There is one "feminism"**
- **There is one feminism, one analysis; no debates**

Feminism(s)

- **First Wave (late 1800's – early 1900's)**
 - Suffragists (19th Century – 1840-1920)
 - Liberal Feminism (60's and 70's)
- **Second Wave (late 1960's and 80's – Equality)**
 - Radical Feminism
 - Socialist Feminism
- **Third Wave (1990's - Diversity/Intersectionality)**
 - Postmodern
 - Post Colonial
 - Ecofeminism
 - Psychoanalytic

Women's Studies/Gender Studies



• **INSTITUTIONAL**

- Programs
- Departments
- Major/Minor
- Master's/Ph D
- National societies (NWSA, NCROW)
- National Meetings

INTELLECTUAL

- disciplinary
- inter/trans/multi-disciplinary
- theories
- methods
- analysis

❖ **Feminism/Women's Daily Lives – Women's Centers**
(e.g. EveryWoman's Center, UMass)

Why Women's Studies?

- **Origins**
 - **Recover the contributions of Women**
 - **Analyze contributions – what do they tell us?**
 - **Document their lives - Systematic Discrimination/Marginalization/ Exclusion of Women from Academia and Knowledge**
 - **New academic area born – Develop new theories, methodologies, analyses and knowledge about the world**

THEMES FOR THE SEMESTER

- **What is Women's Studies? Who are the scholars? What is the scope of the field?**
- **Nature/Culture; Biology/Society; Sex/Gender System**
- **Social Construction of Gender, Race, Class, Sexuality, Diversity/Difference**
- **Intersectionality – Gender/Race/Class/Ethnicity/Sexuality/Nationality**
- **Who knows? Politics of Knowledge**
- **History of Women in the United States – Abolition and Women's Rights, |Suffrage, Civil Rights, First, Second and Third Waves of Feminism**
- **Women and Globalization**
- **Institutions that Shape Women's lives**
 - Law - Violence - Healthcare - Media
 - Media - Body Image - Work – Opportunities and Equity
 - - Public Policy - Economic
- **Resistance, Organizing, Alliances and Coalition Building**

**THERE WILL BE
DISCUSSION SECTION
THIS FRIDAY, SEPT 10**