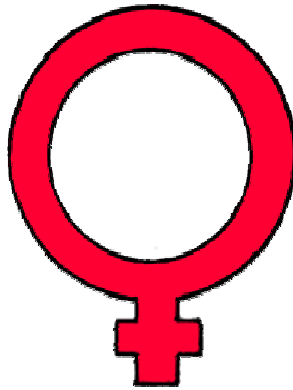


**WOMENST 187:
INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN'S STUDIES
Continuing Education
FALL 2006**

**Tuesday 6:00pm-9:00pm
302 Bartlett Hall**



INSTRUCTOR: Shelly Perdomo
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**Office: 7C Bartlett
Mailbox 208 Bartlett Hall**

Office Hours: Wed. 9-10:30am

Course Description:

Placing women's experiences at the center of interpretation, this class introduces basic concepts and perspectives in Women Studies. Focusing on historical and contemporary women's issues, we will examine women's lives with a particular emphasis on the ways in which gender interacts with race, class, sexual orientation, and ethnicity. The central aim is to foster critical reading and thinking about women's lives in the United States and the ways in which the interlocking systems of colonialism, racism, sexism, ethnocentrism, ageism, and heterosexism shape both women's and men's lives. How women have resisted these inequalities and worked to create new systems of change is an integral part of the class.

Throughout the course, we will integrate and employ:

- *Integrative analysis:* Throughout this course, the need to understand "women" and "gender" as multiple and diverse, embedded in a complex network of interlocking variables of race, class, sexuality, ethnicity and nationality will be emphasized.

- We will analyze the materials using an analysis that considers *micro*, *meso*, *macro*, and *global* levels.
- *Feminism(s)*: There is no unitary “feminism” but rather “feminisms.” We understand feminism(s) as a multiple, shifting and contested movement—historically and contemporary.
- *Knowledge construction*: Exploring feminists interventions in the politics of knowledge-disciplinary and interdisciplinary as well as popular discourse.
- *Feminist Theory*: Emphasizing a notion of feminist theorizing that includes *description* and *analysis* as well as thinking for *vision* and *change*.
- *Activisms*: Women’s resistance to oppression and inequities. Women’s work and alliances for progressive change.

This is a challenging course. It has the potential to be transformative. As such, understanding and having a command of the course materials is imperative, but your ability to apply the frameworks, theories and **concepts to analyzing current times, politics and your own lives will also be required.**

Course Requirements:

Attendance Policy:

- Regular and consistent attendance is mandatory due to the participatory requirements and discussions of course materials in class. Since we meet once a week, in class activities cannot be easily made up, therefore unexcused absences will affect your final grade.
- **FIVE (5) points** will be deducted from your final grade for every unexcused absence. If you miss three or more classes, you will be in danger of **FAILING**. Individuals who arrive late to class will lose **two (2) points** from their grade. Please inform me in advance if you expect to miss a session, be late or leave early.
- Guidelines for excused absences must be followed as outlined by the Undergraduate Rights and Responsibility Handbook at http://www.umass.edu/dean_students/code_conduct/
- **Make-Up Assignments-** For those of you who foresee an absence due to sickness, a valid family emergency, or religious observance, etc. You will be required to complete a make-up project that will help you synthesize what you missed involving themes of the lectures, discussions, and the readings for the week of your absence. Satisfactory completion of this make-up assignment will result in you earning back the points deducted for your absence. **If you have an excused absence, you are responsible for contacting me for the assignment and for completing the project within a week of your absence.**

Student Responsibilities:

- You are expected to complete your reading assignments. Preparation and participation are essential for maximizing learning and critical analysis.
- Submit your assignments on time.
- **No Assignments will be accepted by EMAIL without permission.** Assignments must be submitted to be personally or placed in my mailbox.
- Papers submitted_late without prior permission will be penalized by half a grade for every day that it is late, until submitted.

- **ALWAYS PROVIDE in text citation and a work cited page following MLA or APA documentation styles.**
- Plagiarism will be treated as a serious offense. Read and familiarize yourself with the Undergraduate Rights and Responsibilities code http://www.umass.edu/dean_students/rights/acad_honest.htm
- Practice respect and consideration for your peers. Throughout the quarter, you may be presented with material unfamiliar to you. During lecture and discussion, you may hear very diverse opinions from the instructor and other students. You are not expected to agree, but before commenting on a practice or belief foreign to you, please reflect on how to present your opinion in a respectful and open manner.
- As competent students, I expect you to take full advantage of my office hours. Please feel free to email me or speak with me for further clarification of assignments. If you have questions about the materials, or if you have personal concerns that will affect your academic performance, do not hesitate to contact me.
- If any student has a condition, such as a physical or sensory disability, which will make it difficult to carry out the work outlined, please inform me at once in order to make appropriate arrangements.

TURN OFF all CELLULAR PHONES during the duration of this class.

Required Readings

*To purchase: Gwyn Kirk and Margo Okazawa-Rey, Women's Lives: Multicultural Perspectives. 4th edition. McGraw Hill, 2006. **Available at Food For Thought Book Store, 106 North Pleasant Street, Amherst***

Handouts: Available from instructor. Check Syllabus for particular assignments.

E-Reserves: Articles available online through e-reserves.

Web-Readings: As assigned on Syllabus

Recommended Resources

Howard Zinn, *A People's History of the United States: 1492 to present*

Teresa Amott and Julie Matthaei, (1986). *Race, Gender, and Work: A Multicultural Economic History of Women in the United States.*

Grading Criteria:

1. **Participation/Attendance 20%:** Attendance is Mandatory. Your physical presences along with your active participation make up a sizable portion of your grade in this course. You are expected to complete assigned readings before the session in which it is scheduled and come to class prepared to discuss the main points and ask/answer relevant questions.
2. **My Social Identities Paper 15%:**
3. **Midterm 20%:** One exam will be given, focusing mainly on the material from the text, handouts, lectures and class discussions.

4. **In Class reflection/Critical writing and Quizzes 15%**
5. **Final Exam Research Project 30%:** Students will be responsible for leading a 10 minute presentation on the topic indicated by the ** and submit a 6 page research paper on a research question related to the same topic discussed. Projects must begin with research and end with written documentation. As such you will also be required to research your topic employing a number of academic databases. Further guidelines will be provided for this assignment.

Grading Formula

Participation/Attendance	20%
Social Identities Paper	15%
Midterm	20%
In Class Reflection/Critical Writing/Quizzes	15%
Final Exam Research Paper	30%

Grading Scale

A	94-100%
A-	93-90%
B+	89-87%
B	86-83%
B-	82-80%
C+	79-77%
C	76-73%
C-	72-70%
D+	69-67%
D	66-60%
F	59-0%

Course Calendar

I. COURSE INTRODUCTION: Theory, Theorizing, Frameworks and Paradigms

Tuesday, September 12th

Introductions, Syllabus, Course Requirements, Expectations, Guidelines—
Introduction to Women Studies as a Discipline and Video Screening of the
“F” Word.

Tuesday, September 19th

[Text] Introduction and Chapter 1 pp, 1-22

[Text] Johnson, pp. 28-37
[HT]/[ER] Bunch “Not by Degrees”
[Ht/ER] Young, “Five Faces of Oppression”

II. Identities, Standpoints, Social Location and Intersectionality

Tuesday, September 26th

[Text] “Identities and Social Locations” pp. 61-71
[Text] Lorber, pp. 24-27
[Text] Pratt, 44-46
[Text] Allison, pp. 81-88
[Text] Waters, pp. 113-119

III. Historical Perspectives: Intersections of History, Power and Coloniality

Tuesday, October 3rd

DUE: SOCIAL IDENTITIES PAPER

[Ht/Er] Zinn, “Columbus, The Indians and Human Progress”
[Text] Federica Daly, pp. 72-81
[Ht/Er] Amott & Matthei, “Race, Class, Gender and Women’s Works”
[Ht/ER] Elsa Barkley Brown, “What has happened Here” pp.272-285

Tuesday, October 10th

[Ht/Er] Zinn, Chapter 6-“The Intimately Oppressed”
[Ht/Er] Davis, The Legacy of Slavery
{Web} Barbara Welter, “The Cult of True Womanhood 1820-1860”
<http://www.pinzler.com/ushistory/cultwo.html>
[HT/Er] “Coverture”
[HT/Er] Amott & Matthei, “Whatever your Fight, don’t be LadyLike: European American Women pp. 95-140.

****Tuesday, October 17th Abolition and First Wave Feminism**

{Web} Sally Roesch Wagner, “The Untold Story of Iroquois Influence on Early Radical Feminists”
http://www.awakenedwoman.com/irpquois_women.htm
{Web} The Seneca Falls Declarations of Sentiments and Resolutions”
http://www.pbs.org/stantonanthony/resources/index.html?body=dec_sentiments.html
[HT/Er] Davis, “Working Women, Black Women and the History of the Suffrage Movement”
[HT/Er] Wells-Barnett “Lynch Laws in America”

[Video Screening]- Ida B. Wells, *A Passion for Justice*

IV. Women's Bodies Sexuality and Health

Tuesday October 24th **MIDTERM EXAM**

[Video Screening] The Body Beautiful

[Text] Women's Bodies pp. 121-131

[Text] Cofer, "The Story of My Body" pp. 149-154

Distribute Final Exam Research Project

****Tuesday, October 31st**

[Text] Chapter 4 pp. 165-174

[Text] Chapter 5 pp. 203-217

[Text] Saxton, pp. 221-224

[HT] Davis- "Racism, Birth Control and Reproductive Rights"

[HT/Er] Fried-"Abortion in the United States-Legal but Inaccessible"

V. Relationships, Families and Households

****Tuesday, November 7th**

[Text] Chapter 7 pp. 291-304

[Web] *Let Them Eat Wedding Rings* <http://www.umarried.org/rings.pdf>

[HT] Howitz, pp. 348-350

VI. Violence Against Women

****Tuesday, November 14th**

[Text] Chapter 6, pp. 249-264

[Ht/Er] Martin and Hummer "Fraternities and Rape on Campus"

[Text] Foo pg. 273-279

{Web} Kaufman, "The Seven P's of Men's Violence"

<http://www.michaelkaufman.com/articles/pdf/7ps.pdf>

[Video Screening] "Tough Guise: Violence, Media and the Crisis in Masculinity"

VII. Women Work and the Global Economy

****Tuesday, November 21st**

[Text] Chapter 8, pp. 339-355

[Text] Amott & Matthaai pp. 333-347

[Text] Mink- pp. 350-359

[Text] Chapter 9 pp. 387-405

[Text] Fernandez-Kelly pp. 407-416

VIII. Resistance and Social Movements: Immigration and Working Women

****Tuesday, November 28th**

[Ht/Er] Evans “Women and Modernity”

[Text] Timetable pp. 69-70

[Ht/Er] Zinn, *The Socialist Challenge*

{Web} “Triangle Factory Fire”

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=1416870>

[Ht/Er] Louie, pp. 359-369

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

IX. Resistance and Social Movements: Civil Rights and the Second Wave of Feminisms

****Tuesday, December 5th**

[Ht/Er] Chafe “The Revival of Feminism”

[HT] Omolade, pp. 536-545

[HT] Thompson, pp. 545-556

[Text] Combahee River Collective, pp. 38-43

[Ht/Er] Jagose, “Lesbian Feminism”

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

X. Contemporary Feminisms and Activism

****Tuesday, December 12th**

[HT/Er] Rehman and Hernandez, Introduction to *Colonize This!*

[HT/Er] Heywood and Drake, *Third Wave Agenda*

{Web} Hernandez & Leong “Feminism’s Future: Young Feminists of Color take the Mic”

http://www.inthesetimes.com/comments.php?id=703_0_1_0_C

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

FINAL EXAM PAPER DUE- **December 19th by 3:00pm** in Women Studies Office, Box 208.