

WS 200-001

Introduction to Women's Studies 102 Manly Hall Spring 2004, MW 9:30-10:45

Instructor Information:

Lana Estess
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Office Hours: MW 12:15 –1:15 or by appointment

Prerequisites: None

Required Texts:

Shaw, Susan M. and Janet Lee. Women's Voices, Feminist Visions. 2nd Ed. Boston: McGraw Hill, 2003.

Selected reserved readings on on-line reserve catalog, www.lib.ua.edu

Course Description:

An interdisciplinary course concerning the roles of women in patriarchal society. Emphasis is placed on examining how various factors, including race, class, gender, and sexuality, contribute to the oppression of women and how these factors can be challenged through feminist critical practices.

Course Philosophy:

This course is based on feminist pedagogy and a respect for cultural difference. Consequently, it is a discussion course, which means that students are required to do their reading assignments so they can play an active part in class conversations. This class also requires respect for all people and their ideas, even if we do not like those ideas or agree with them. This class assumes that students will have a level of maturity that will allow them to talk about diverse issues with both a serious engagement and an open mind.

Course Goals:

- Examine the contributions that women make in society and culture.
- Allow students the opportunity to examine gender roles, expectations, and imagery in an attempt to raise the level of consciousness and awareness of how these factors contribute to women's oppression.
- Encourage students to engage actively in classroom discussions so they may gain knowledge about the field of Women's Studies, the women's movement, and feminisms.
- Create an environment of respect where meaningful intellectual exchange, involving critical thinking and historical and social analysis, can take place.
- Develop students' knowledge and understanding of racial, sexual, class and cultural diversity among women toward the goal of ending interconnected oppressions.

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the “herstory” of Women’s Studies, the women’s movement, and feminisms.
- Understand basic concepts in Women’s Studies, including the roles that race, class, gender, sexuality, age, ability, and other axes of difference, play in culture and society.
- Have a base of knowledge and understanding to serve as a foundation for future study in Women’s Studies.
- Recognize the importance and impact that societal expectations have on shaping individual and cultural constructions of gender.
- Be able to recognize unequal power relations and oppressive factors in lived experiences and in culture and society.
- Be able to understand how feminist social and political action will benefit all people.

Grade Distribution:

Attendance (10 pts) and Participation (10 pts) = 20%

Students must be in class and be ready to discuss the reading materials for that day. Students will receive credit for participating in class discussion, however comments and responses that do not reflect critical engagement and understanding of the material will not receive full credit for participation. Because attendance is necessary in order to engage in class discussion, more than two absences will negatively affect the grade by losing one point for attendance and one point for participation for each day missed.

Journals (3 pts each) – 18%

Journals are the starting point for students to express their views and feelings regarding the material covered throughout the class. Journals are to incorporate both personal experiences and analysis of the class discussions and readings. Journals are to be written on the assigned readings for *each* class meeting and should be typed, double-spaced, and one to two pages in length. Journals will be turned in during class at six designated times in the semester (see calendar). If journals are late, they may only be turned in the day after journals are due for a one-point deduction. No journals will be accepted after that day.

Outline and Questions (6 pts) and Abstract (6 pts) – 12%

Once during the semester, each student will be responsible for facilitating discussion in a given class period. On this day, the student will be required to create an outline that covers major points and overarching theories and concepts offered within the assigned readings. Included in the outline should be critical questions that can be used to initiate class discussion for that day. In addition to the outline, the student is required to find and provide an abstract of one journal article, news story, etc. that supplements the assigned reading material for that class period. Please bring enough copies of your outline/abstract for the entire class. Let me know if you can’t make enough copies – you can always email it to the night before class and I can make copies.

Exams (10 pts each) – 30%

Students will be required to take three exams during the semester, the details of which will be explained throughout the semester. If a student misses an exam with a medical excuse, the exam may be taken at another time designated by the instructor.

Final Project or Paper (20 pts) – 20%

Students will create a project that will be graded on quality of research, content, and presentation. This project can be completed in the form of a paper, a 'zine, a film or other media production, a performance, or in any other way a student sees fit, as long as it is approved by the instructor.

This final project should be grounded in feminist theory and it should be centered on one particular issue that the student finds interesting or important throughout the semester. Students will give a short presentation in class on their work.

Point Summary

<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>Total</i>
Attendance	10	10
Participation	10	10
Journals	3	18
Outline/Abstract	6/6	12
Project	20	20
Exams	10	30

100 pts

Grading Policy:

97-100 = A+, 93-96 = A, 90-92 = A-, 87-89 = B+, 83-86 = B, 80-82 = B-, 77-79 = C+, 73-76 = C
70-72 = C-, 67-69 = D+, 63-66 = D, 60-62 = D-, 59-Below = F

Code of Academic Conduct and Academic Misconduct Disciplinary Policy:

All Students in attendance at the University of Alabama are expected to be honorable and to observe standards of conduct appropriate to a community of scholars. The University expects from its students a higher standard of conduct than the minimum required to avoid discipline. Academic misconduct includes all acts of dishonesty in any academically related matter and any knowing or intentional help or attempt to help, or conspiracy to help, another student. The Academic Misconduct Disciplinary Policy will be followed in the event of academic misconduct.

Disability Accommodations:

Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with the Office of Disability services, 348-4285. Thereafter, you are invited to schedule appointments to see your instructor during office hours to discuss accommodations and other special needs.

Date	Topic	Assignment
January 7	Introduction to course	
12	Ch. 1 – Introduction to Women’s Studies	Chapter 1
14	Ch. 1 – Introduction to Women’s Studies Journal #1 due	Baumgardner and Richards (n); Baxandall and Gordon (n); hooks (n); Johnson
19	MLK Day	
21	Ch. 2 – Systems of Privilege and Inequality	Collins; Richardson (o); McIntosh; *Waters
26	Ch. 3 – Learning Gender	Chapter 3
29	Ch. 3 – Learning Gender Journal #2 due	Gould; Lorber; Nelson; *Fausto-Sterling
February 2	Ch. 5 – Inscribing Gender on the Body	Chapter 5
4	Ch. 5 – Inscribing Gender on the Body	Steinem; Richards; Chambers; McGhan (n)
9	Ch. 4 – Sex, Power and Intimacy Journal #3 due	Chapter 4
11	Ch. 4 – Sex, Power and Intimacy	Schwartz and Rutter ;Hooks (n), Ochs (o), TBA
16	Transgender issues	*Boswell
18	Transgender issues Journal #4 due	
23	EXAM #1	
25	Ch. 10 – Violence Against Women	Chapter 10
March 1	Ch. 10 – Violence Against Women	Women in Action; Steinem; Boswell and Spade; Lee
3	Ch. 6 – Women and Health Journal #5 due	Chapter 6
8	Ch 6 – Women and Health	Cool; Sanger; TBA
10	Ch. 7 – Women and Family	Chapter 7
15	Ch. 7 – Women and Family Journal #6 due	Kimmel; *Hochschild; *Hunter
17	Ch. 8 – Women and Work	Chapter 8
22	Women in the Global Economy	*Living in a Global Economy; *Fernandez-Kelly
24	EXAM #2	
29	Ch. 11 – State, Law, and Social Policy	Chapter 11

31	Ch. 11 – State, Law, and Social Policy	*Women and the Military; *Albelda and Tilly; Berry
April 5	SPRING BREAK	
7	SPRING BREAK	
12	Ch. 9 – Women Confronting and Creating Culture	Chapter 9; *Smith
14	Chapter 12 – Religion and Spirituality and Women and the Environment	Chapter 12; *women and the environment
19	Project Presentations	
21	Project Presentations	
26	Chapter 13 – Activism, Change, and Feminist Futures	Hogeland; Kimmel; Baumgardner and Richards (n)
28	EXAM # 3 All projects due	

Reserved Readings

(n) = new edition

(o) = old edition

* = outside reading

No star = both editions