

## WOMEN'S CHANGING ROLES

Winter Session 2010-2011

WS 110-80

3 Credits

---

### COURSE SYLLABUS

December 26, 2009 – January 15, 2010

**COURSE NUMBER:** WS110-80  
**PROFESSOR:** Atola Gerri Budd, Ph.D.  
**E-MAIL:** budda@wpunj.edu  
**PHONE:** (973) 464-6142

---

**REQUIRED TEXT:** Kesselman, Amy; McNair, Lily, and Schniedewind, Nancy.  
*Women: Images and Realities: A Multicultural Anthology. 4<sup>th</sup> Edition.*  
New York: McGraw-Hill, 2006.

#### TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

Students must have access to a Pentium class personal computer running Windows 95 or above (or the Power Macintosh equivalent) with 32 MB of RAM (64MB recommended), and a 33.3 modem or higher for Internet access. You can use your own Internet Service Provider (ISP) or William Paterson for Internet access. You should understand how to operate a computer using a Windows 95-like interface (with keyboard and mouse), navigate the Internet, and know how to use e-mail, send attachments, and work with a word processor like Microsoft Word.

**COURSE PREREQUISITES:** none.

---

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

A history and analysis of origins, philosophies, issues and activities of the women's movement. This course deals with gender roles in a changing society and role conflicts resulting from this transition. It will also explore the impact of sexism, racism, heterosexism, classism, ableism, ageism, and other oppressions on women's lives.

#### COURSE OBJECTIVES:

This course will demonstrate how women's history has been kept hidden, probe the ideology of patriarchy and the history of its development; explore feminisms; analyze sexism in major institutions and the interaction of gender with race, class, sexuality and other structures in our society; explore numerous issues which impact female lives, including sexual terrorism, ableism, lesbianism, homophobia, racism, economics, health care, AIDS, body image, motherhood, and children's rights; critique the position of women in contemporary society; and critique images of women in various media.

#### STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Through online discussion, journal entries and essays, students will show familiarity and knowledge of multiple definitions of feminism/womanism, its history (herstory) and issues; critique the ideology of patriarchy and the history of its development; relate women's position in contemporary society; examine the exploitation of women by commercial media; and work cooperatively with each other in a distance learning format.

---

---

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:****Journals – 20%**

Students will keep journals of their academic responses to the readings and any other assigned work. The journal is not a personal diary, but an extension of the course work. Journals must be submitted weekly. A journal entry should include a very brief summary of each reading assignment. You may write an informal reader response log/journal in which you can move between the text and your ideas, feelings, life experiences and observations. You must submit your journal on time to receive credit.

**Discussion Board – 20%**

Students will participate in graded online discussions of the texts and interpretive questions provided by the teacher. Your grade for class participation depends on two things. First, you will be graded on the content of your commentary, which should show a thoughtful grasp of the discussion topic as well as reflection on other students' responses. You should post with respect when it comes to differences of personal experience, and differences of opinion on sensitive issues such as reproductive choice, sexual orientation, health issues, violence and the criminal justice system, and other questions. Second, you must post at least once to each of the forums in the week they are active.

**Essays – 20% each**

Students will write two essays, based on a combination of research and critique of women's images in movies, literary works, music, and other media. One of the required essays will rely upon a personal interview that the student will conduct.

Writing assignments must emphasize sound principles of English. Assignments are due by midnight of the due date. **Without exception**, late essays will be downgraded 10 points for each late day.

---

**ACADEMIC HONESTY:**

Students caught or suspected of dishonest academic conduct such as cheating on a test or plagiarism (copying) on the research paper will receive a grade of 0 for that assignment. In the event of a second offense, the student will fail the course and the matter will be brought to the attention of the Department Chair.

---

**GRADING:**

There is no grade curve or "extra credit."

The final grade will be calculated as follows:

|                                     |      |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Essays..... (2 papers, 30% each)    | 60%  |
| Discussion board participation..... | 20%  |
| Journal.....                        | 20%  |
|                                     | 100% |

---

**COURSE OUTLINE:**

December 27, 2010 – January 16, 2011

**Week 1 – December 27-31, 2010: Introductions, syllabus review, definitions, Parts I and II**

**Part I: What is Women's Studies? Part II: Becoming a Woman in Our Society – Dominant Ideas About Women, Learning Sexism**

Readings: pp 8-113

Journal Entry 1 due: December 31, 2010

***Essay 1 Due: Sunday, January 2***

***Go to Assignments and click on the Essay 1 link for the essay assignment.***

**Week 2 – January 2 – January 7: Part III: Gender and Women's Bodies; Female Beauty, Sexuality and Relationships**

Readings: pp 116- 167

Journal Entry 2 due: January 7

***Essay 2 Due: Sunday, January 9***

***Go to Assignments and click on the Essay 2 link for the essay assignment.***

**Week 3 – January 9 – 14: Part IV: Institutions that Shape Women's Lives; Women and Work, Women and the Family**

Readings: pp. 170 – 212; pp 243 - 275

Journal Entry 3 due: January 14

**Course summation: January 15-16: Comments, Questions, and Opinions**

**There is no final exam in this course. A final discussion question will be posted.**