TITLE OF COURSE AND COURSE NUMBER: Women's Changing Roles  
WS 110  3 Credits

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:  
A history and analysis of the origins, philosophies, issues and activities of the women's movement. Deals with gender roles in changing society and role conflicts for both women and men resulting from this transition. Explores the impact of sexism, racism, heterosexism, classism, ableism, ageism, and other oppressions on women's lives.

COURSE PREREQUISITIES: None

COURSE OBJECTIVES:  
The course will:
1. demonstrate how women’s history (herstory) has been kept hidden.
2. probe the ideology of patriarchy and the history of its development.
3. explore feminisms.
4. analyze sexism in major institutions and the interaction of gender with race, class, sexuality and other structures in our society.
5. explore numerous issues which impact female lives including sexual terrorism, ableism, ageism, lesbianism, homophobia, racism, economics, health care, AIDS, body image, motherhood, children’s rights, etc.
6. critique the position of women in contemporary society.
7. critique images of women in various media.
8. require written and oral presentations which demonstrate critical thinking.
9. encourage cooperative work in small and large groups.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:  
Students will:
1. show knowledge of women’s history (herstory) in an exam or paper.
2. critique the ideology of patriarchy and the history of its development in an exam or paper.
3. discuss multiple definitions of feminism and formulate their own definition in classroom discussions.
4. demonstrate understanding of the intersections of oppression in an exam or paper.
5. discuss issues including sexual terrorism, ableism, ageism, lesbianism, homophobia, racism, economics, health care, AIDS, body image, motherhood, children’s rights, etc. in individual or group project presentations.
6. relate women’s position in contemporary society in current event presentations or other classroom presentations.
7. show the exploitation of women by commercial media during an individual or group project presentation.
8. critically write about and discuss the issues addressed in this course in a paper or exam.
9. work cooperatively with others in small class discussion groups and on a collaborative project.
TOPICAL OUTLINE OF THE COURSE CONTENT

Week one: Course overview, introductions, definitions of systems of oppression. What is women’s studies?

Week two: Patriarchy and the social construction of gender.

Week three: Women’s history (herstory).

Week four: Sexism. What does it mean to be a woman?

Week five: Female body image.

Week six: Sexuality: lesbianism, heterosexuality, bisexuality, asexuality, questioning sexuality.

Week seven: Race/racism, ethnicity/ethnocentrism

Week eight: Work, class, and economics.

Week nine: Women and legal issues.

Week ten: Health and age issues.

Week eleven: Sexual terrorism issues.

Week twelve: Reproductive rights.

Week thirteen: Religion.

Week fourteen: Women organizing for social change

Week fifteen: Transnational feminism and global issues

Week sixteen: Student presentations, course summation

GUIDELINES/SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHING METHODS AND STUDENT LEARNING ACTIVITIES:

- Lectures
- Small group discussions
- Plenary discussions
- Experiential activities such as role plays
- Films
- Guest speakers
- Reading logs
- Journals
- Essays
- Research papers
- Exams
- Quizzes
- Group projects
- Individual projects
- Service learning

GUIDELINES/SUGGESTIONS FOR METHODS OF STUDENT ASSESSMENT

Exams, graded journals, presentation of projects--oral and/or written, student led discussions, class participation.

SUGGESTED READINGS, TEXTS, OBJECTS OF STUDY

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SUPPORTIVE TEXTS AND OTHER MATERIALS:

PREPARER'S NAME AND DATE: Dr. Arlene Holpp Scala

ORIGINAL DEPARTMENT APPROVAL DATE: 1979