TITLE OF COURSE AND COURSE NUMBER: Introduction to Women's Studies
WS 210 3 Credits

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
In intro to Women's Studies, we will use an interdisciplinary approach to study the origins, perspectives, subject matter and methods of the discipline of Women's Studies. Particular attention will be paid to the multiplicity of women's identities and experiences and how they have shaped the discipline.

COURSE PREREQUISITES:
None

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
This course will:
1. introduce students to the basic concepts and perspectives of Women's Studies
2. study the diversity of theories and methodologies of Women's Studies
3. develop analytical abilities to critically examine theories of gender, sex, sexuality, race, and class
4. provide a foundation for those interested in pursuing undergraduate work in Women's Studies.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:
Students will:
1. identify and summarize in writing and orally the social, political, activist, and academic forces that led to the development of women's studies courses and programs of study
2. explain in writing and orally the goals, purposes, and scope of women's studies as an academic discipline
3. explain the interdisciplinary nature of women's studies
4. explain and evaluate in writing and orally the contributions that individual disciplines make to the field of women's studies.
5. summarize and analyze in writing perspectives claiming that knowledge is gendered and reflects masculinist bias
6. explain what is meant by the term "production of knowledge
7. describe and analyze in writing and orally the gendered nature of language
8. evaluate in writing and orally claims that women's greater inclusion as subjects of study has increased human understanding
9. identify and describe in writing and orally overlapping characteristics among feminist perspectives
10. explain in writing and orally what characterizes a particular theory as feminist
11. identify and assess in writing recurrent themes in women's movement and organizing
12. describe and analyze in writing individual and collective action related to women's changing role and society
13. describe and analyze in writing and orally the role of women's organizations in enhancing and limiting women's individual and collective projects
14. describe and evaluate in writing and orally barriers to women's agency

TOPICAL OUTLINE FOR COURSE CONTENT:

SUGGESTED TEACHING METHODS AND STUDENT LEARNING ACTIVITIES:

& Lectures
& Small group discussions
& Plenary discussions
& Films
& Guest speakers
& Journals/logs
& Essays
& Research papers
& Book reports
& Oral presentations
& Current events
& Group projects
& Individual projects

GUIDELINES/SUGGESTIONS FOR METHODS OF STUDENT ASSESSMENT:

& Students can write journals or logs with references to readings, thoughts about research projects, comments on a growing awareness about what it means to be a feminist, as well as other thoughts are appropriate. This requirement could count for 25% of the grade.
& Each student can select a novel or autobiography by an international woman writer and write a five-page summary/reaction paper. This requirement could count for 20% of the grade.
& Students can write a scholarly feminist research paper. Papers can be 20-25 pages in length. Sources should include feminist journals, books, and Internet sources. This requirement could count for 55% of the grade.
& Students who miss more than 2-3 (instructor’s decision) 75-minute classes will receive a grade penalty.

SUGGESTED READINGS, TEXTS, OBJECTS OF STUDY:


**FILMS:**

**BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SUPPORTIVE TEXTS AND OTHER MATERIALS:**


PREPARER’S NAME AND DATE: Arlene Holpp Scala, August 2000

ORIGINAL DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL DATE: 1997

REVISER’S NAME AND DATE: Arlene Holpp Scala, December 1, 2004

DEPARTMENTAL REVISION APPROVAL DATE: December 2004