

**TITLE OF COURSE AND COURSE NUMBER:** Capstone Course in Women's Studies  
WS 410                      3 Credits

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This senior level focuses on theories of gender and issues relating to women's diversity. Students complete a major research project in order to become knowledgeable about feminist research.

**COURSE PREREQUISITES:**

WS 210, POL 272, and WS 310

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

This course will:

1. analyze patriarchal structures
2. probe classism as it plays out in the lives of people
3. explore power issues in the lives of women
4. identify diverse women writers in the global community
5. provide a bibliography of international women writers
6. introduce the collected essays of a significant feminist
7. teach more advanced feminist research skills including the use of data bases
8. review research paper writing skills
9. encourage oral presentations
10. mentor students into leadership roles

**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

Students will

1. read an international feminist novel addressing patriarchal issues and will write an analytical paper
2. read an autobiographical book focusing on the issue of class and will journal responses
3. exhibit an awareness of women's power issues by critiquing writings by "women of power"
4. show knowledge of women's experiences in a country other than the U.S. by writing a book report and presenting orally to the class
5. use critical thinking skills to explore and write about issues addressed by a feminist writer
6. exhibit knowledge of research skills by participating in a research workshop and developing a bibliography for a research paper
7. provide evidence of competent research paper writing skills by writing a lengthy research paper using databases and library resources
8. practice oral presentation skills by presenting their research to the class
9. exhibit their ability to lead a class by preparing classes and facilitating class discussions on a rotating basis

**TOPICAL OUTLINE FOR COURSE CONTENT:**

Week One:                      Course overview, introductions and personal statements

Week Two:	Feminist theory
Week Three:	Library research workshop
Week Four:	International novel
Week Five:	Focus on feminism in a country other than the U.S.
Week Six:	Intersection of classism, racism, and sexism
Week Seven:	Ethnic memoirs and research bibliography
Week Eight:	Oral presentations on selected international novels or autobiographies
Week Nine:	Sexuality theories and personal writings: lesbians, bisexuals, heterosexuals, asexuals, queers, and others
Week Ten:	Research paper draft workshop
Week Eleven:	Latinas, African Americans, Asian Americans, and Native Americans on gender theories
Week Twelve:	Global perspectives on violence against women
Week Thirteen:	Interdisciplinary Women's Studies reviews
Week Fourteen:	Women and economics: a global perspective
Week Fifteen:	Feminist activism
Week Sixteen:	Research presentations

### **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 canbe 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:**

Alexander, Meena. Fault Lines.

"The Laugh of the Medusa," Helene Cixous

Gomez, Alma, Cherrie Moraga, and Mariana Romo-Carmona. Cuentos: Stories by Latinas.

hooks, bell. Where We Stand: Class Matters.

Jordan, June.

Kahn Karen, ed. Frontline Feminism, 1975-1995: Essays from SOJOURNER'S First 20 Years.

Kramrae, Cheri and Dale Spender, eds. The Knowledge Explosion: Generations of Feminist Scholarship.

Maraini, Dacia. The Silent Duchess.

Menchu, Rigoberta. I, Rigoberta Menchu.

Mies, Patricia. Patriarchy and Accumulation on a World Scale: Women in the International Division of Labor.

Rosenwasser, Penny. Visionary Voices: Women on Power: Conversations With Shamans, Activists, Teachers, Artists and Healers.

Solomon, Rivka. That Takes Ovaries.

Smith, Barbara. The Truth That Never Hurts: Writings on Race, Gender, and Freedom.

Waylen, Georgina. Gender in Third World Politics.

**FILMS:**

After the Montreal Massacre

Armenian Genocide. Produced by Atlantis Productions, Inc. 1991.

The Best Time of My Life

Calling the Ghosts

Choice for a Chinese Woman: Enlightenment in a Buddhist Convent

Cut Sleeves: Lesbians and Gays of Asian/Pacific Ancestry

Faith Ringgold: The Last Story Quilt

Goddess Remembered

Helene Cixous. Films for the Humanities & Sciences, 1998.

Rigoberta Menchu: Broken Silence

A Room of One's Own

Salt of the Earth

Sewing Women

The Way Home

Tongues Untied

Warrior Marks

Who's Counting? Marilyn Waring on Sex, Lies and Global Economics

A Woman's Place: Short Stories

Women With Open Eyes

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

Attached

Boaz, J. Ed. (2006). Free speech. New York: GreenHaven Press. The authors debate where the line should be drawn between appropriate and inappropriate expression, and explore the ramifications that a post-September 11 world has for free speech.

Tasker, Yvonne. (1998). Working girls: Gender and sexuality in popular cinema. New York: Routledge. Investigates contemporary cinema's ambivalent and complex relationship with gender and sexualities in the wake of feminism.

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

**ORIGINAL DEPARTMENTAL APPROVAL DATE:** 1997

**REVISER'S NAME AND DATE:** Arlene Holpp Scala, July 2009.

**DEPARTMENTAL REVISION APPROVAL DATE:** September 2009.