

FACULTY OF ARTS

WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM

WMST201.02 Winter 2014

TITLE: Introduction to Women's Studies
Instructor: Rebecca Sullivan
Office: SS1142
Phone: 403-220-3397
E-mail: rsulliva@ucalgary.ca
Office hours: T 9:30-10:30; W 10:30-11:30

Course description:

An introduction to academic feminism that critically deconstructs cultural notions of sex, gender, race, class and other social stratifiers; discusses contemporary and classical feminist perspectives; and examines feminist work and activism.

Student conduct:

Some of the materials and topics in this class may include explicit content (violence, sexuality, profane language, objectionable or illegal conduct). If these materials make you uncomfortable, you are encouraged to speak with the professor. You will not be exempt from any assigned work but we will work together to accommodate your concerns. This class respects difference and diversity while welcoming thoughtful, critical debate and discussion.

Responsibility for attending and fulfilling the requirements for all aspects of the course resides with the student. The professor will not give out lecture notes, repeat information, nor provide replacement copies of material that was provided during regular class hours. The course includes a combination of individual assignments, group work, lectures, screenings, and readings. Students are expected to arrive in class on time and prepared to work.

Use of recording technologies by students in class is prohibited.

A Blackboard portal has been set up for this course which allows for group correspondence, course announcements, assignment submissions, and other forms of communication. Students are expected to check Blackboard before class time for any last minute changes or cancellations.

Students are welcome to bring portable word processing devices (tablets, laptops, airbooks, Acer, anything you got) to class. Just turn off the recording devices, and sound. Abuse of these devices (surfing inappropriate or offensive material, use of social network sites, texting, playing music, watching videos, etc.) is prohibited and may result in having your privileges to use your device in class revoked and/or being removed from the class.

Plagiarism, defined as using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it, is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement on plagiarism provided at the end of the syllabus.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

A teaching assistant and a peer mentor have been assigned to this class. Both will offer regular appointment hours if you wish to speak with them about matters pertaining to this course and/or your learning experience at the university. However, neither may make any special arrangements with students about course expectations or assignments. If you have a personal issue that affects your performance in the class, you need to speak with the professor.

Texts and readings:

Margaret Hobbs and Carla Rice, eds. *Gender and Women's Studies in Canada: Critical Terrain*. Toronto: The Women's Press, 2013.

In-class screening are considered as a required part of the lectures and part of any examination or assignment parameters.

Additional recommended readings may be included in Blackboard.

Assignments and Evaluation:

Self-Assessment	10%	8AM	Monday, January 13 th
Assessment of Your Self-Assessment	10%	8AM	Monday, April 14 th
Online Quiz	10%	8AM	Friday, January 24 th
Online Quiz	10%	8AM	Friday, February 14 th
Online Quiz	10%	8AM	Friday, March 14 th
Online Quiz	10%	8AM	Friday, April 11 th
Quiet Act of Rebellion	20%	8AM	Monday, February 24 th
Re-Writing Women Assignment	20%	8AM	Monday, March 28 th (approval by Friday, March 14 th)

Online Quizzes

Online quizzes will be made available through Blackboard on the assigned date, from 8AM until 10:30 AM. There will be no regular class on those days. Quizzes will be based on all material covered in the course since the last quiz. The quiz will be broken down into multiple portals so make sure you complete all of them. Each portal is automatically set for "force completion" the first time it is launched, and will have a set time limit of 60 minutes. So if you start the quiz at 8AM, you must finish by 9AM. The latest you can begin is 9:30 AM as the test will automatically end by 10:30 AM. Remember, it's a computer so it doesn't give you an extra minute or even an extra second. To ensure no technological problems, students must turn off all pop-ups, and open any windows they might want to refer to prior to commencing the quiz. Students are also expected to use a reliable computer and Internet connection. If you're not 100% positive that what you have is up to the task, go to the TFDL or a computer lab on campus. Be sure to SAVE and then SUBMIT each of your quiz modules.

You may refer to your notes or any other resources at your disposal, but remember that nothing replaces good old-fashioned studying, and scrambling about for the answer increases your chance of making a technological error or just wasting precious time. Students are expected to work independently. Sharing of answers will be considered plagiarism and you will receive a grade of F (0) and risk disciplinary measures.

Self-Assessment

Feminist/queer pedagogies demand more from students in terms of self-assessment and willingness to put their subjectivity on the line. As we challenge the social structures of gender and sexual identity, roles, and relationships, so too will our own sense of self be questioned. The purpose of this assignment is to clarify for yourself why you have chosen to take this course. What are your desired learning outcomes? What do you think will be the greatest challenge? What issues are of most interest to you? What skills and resources (intellectual, emotional, technical, professional) do you think you need to get the most out of this course? While this is a personal essay, it is primarily an essay about your intellectual development. Therefore, you are expected to refer to key scholars and texts that have informed your interest in Women's Studies. The assignment will be graded according to the Writing Assignment Assessment rubric, available on Course Documents, and original research is expected. Submit your assignment through Blackboard's Digital Dropbox, using either Word, Pages, or PDF format. Include a cover page with your name, the course number, the date, and an assignment title. Make sure to cite all materials properly using an appropriate scholarly style (APA, MLA, Chicago, etc.) and include a bibliography or reference list. Failure to properly cite and provide a reference list may result in a grade of D or lower.

Assessment of Your Self-Assessment

At the end of this course, you will have the opportunity to respond to your own self-assessment. Utilizing the tools provided to you in the course – the readings, lectures, screenings, group discussions, etc. – reflect on your expectations for yourself and how you directed your own progress. Did you meet your goals? Did your goals substantially change? Was there an “AH-HA” moment for you in the course? What were your greatest challenges and how did you overcome them? What were some of the key concepts, critical moments in history, or significant scholars that transformed your way of thinking? How can you bring what you learned in this class into other parts of your education? Once again, you are expected to refer to key scholars and texts that have informed your interest in Women’s Studies. The assignment will be graded according to the Writing Assignment Assessment rubric, available on Course Documents, and original research is expected. Submit your assignment through Blackboard’s Digital Dropbox, using either Word, Pages, or PDF format. Include a cover page with your name, the course number, the date, and an assignment title. Make sure to cite all materials properly using an appropriate scholarly style (APA, MLA, Chicago, etc.) and include a bibliography or reference list. Failure to properly cite and provide a reference list may result in a grade of D or lower.

Please note that neither the Self-Assessment nor Assessment of Your Self-Assessment is an opportunity to insult or ridicule anyone or anything, or to grumble about how others have failed you. The topic of both assignments is yourself: your commitment to your education, your willingness to have your ideas tested and your convictions shaken, your honest appraisal of your strengths and weaknesses as a university student. Complaints that not enough was done by others on your behalf indicate that you are either not willing or not able to fulfill the requirements of this assignment, and you will receive a grade of F (zero).

Quiet Act of Rebellion

While the bold act of protest against systems and structures of gender and sexual inequity may be more exciting, so much of the movement toward greater equity and diversity has been done by small changes to our societal thinking. That change happens one person at a time. How can we become more aware and sensitive to gender and sexual inequity and take small but decisive steps to change our behavior and maybe, by example, change others too? The purpose of this assignment is to put ideas into action and challenge ourselves to think harder and do better. By Monday, February 24th, you need to identify a recent experience that happened since the start of this course where you became aware of an inequity and took steps to transform the situation. It could be something as simple as correcting your wording, or calling attention to a problematic image. Maybe you engaged in a conversation that you think led to greater understanding and compassion for other’s position. The goal isn’t so much about correcting other people’s assumptions and behavior so much as being attentive to your own, and seeking ways to encourage honest dialogue and critical thinking.

Write up an account of your quiet act of rebellion and provide a critical analysis about the experience. Use the theoretical and methodological tools provided by this course to deepen your understanding of how feminist/queer praxis works. The assignment should be between 1200-1500 words and have a minimum of five references, at least two of which are scholarly peer-refereed and no more than two are from the assigned readings. Please note that not all the readings in the textbook meet the peer referee requirement, so check with your professor if you’re not sure. Failure to meet the minimum research requirements may result in a grade of D or lower. The assignment will be graded according to the Writing Assignment Assessment rubric, available on Course Documents. Submit your assignment through Blackboard’s Digital Dropbox, using either Word, Pages, or PDF format. Include a cover page with your name, the course number, the date, and an assignment title. Make sure to cite all materials properly and include a bibliography or reference list. Failure to properly cite and provide a reference list may result in a grade of D or lower.

Re-writing Women

How many times have we read an article, a piece of short fiction, a blog post, or something that leaves us questioning the gender biases inherent in it? Increasingly, feminists are calling attention to those biases and how they shape our everyday language. The goal of this assignment is to identify a piece of published writing, provide a brief critique of the problems within the text, and then to re-write it in a way that transforms the gender biases and promotes a greater sense of the everyday inequities around us. Examples will be posted to Blackboard to help you find a good original source and understand the parameters of the project. The critique should be between 800-1000 words, and then the both the original version and your re-write should be included. It is recommended that you select a piece of writing that is no longer than 1000 words. An excerpt may be accepted.

Your critique should have a minimum of five references, at least two of which are scholarly peer-refereed and no more than two are from the assigned readings. Please note that not all the readings in the textbook meet the peer referee requirement, so check with your professor if you're not sure. Failure to meet the minimum research requirements may result in a grade of D or lower. The assignment will be graded according to the Writing Assignment Assessment rubric, available on Course Documents. Submit your assignment through Blackboard's Digital Dropbox, using either Word, Pages, or PDF format. Include a cover page with your name, the course number, the date, and an assignment title. Make sure to cite all materials properly and include a bibliography or reference list. Failure to properly cite and provide a reference list may result in a grade of D or lower.

Policy for Late Assignments

Unless otherwise stated, no extensions will be granted on assignments except in cases of documented medical or personal distress. Failure to submit on time will result in a grade of F (zero).

Failure to complete all of the required exams and assignments may result in a grade of F (zero) in the course. If you complete all assignments but receive more than two Fs, the professor reserves the right to give you a final grade of F. For the purposes of these rules, the weekly quizzes count in total as one assignment.

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of all assignments in case of loss by any cause.

There will be no Registrar-scheduled final exam.

Grading system:

This course uses a combination of letter and number grades, according to the chart below. The university's Undergraduate Grading System is available here: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-2.html>. In most cases where the final letter grade for the course is less than 1% from the next higher grade, the professor will round-up.

Percentage	Letter	Usually Graded	Point
90 + %	A+	95	4.0
85 – 89 %	A	87	4.0
80 – 84 %	A–	82	3.7
77 – 79 %	B+	78	3.3
74 – 76 %	B	75	3.0
70 – 73 %	B–	72	2.7
67 – 69 %	C+	68	2.3
64 – 66 %	C	65	2.0
60 – 63 %	C–	62	1.7
55 – 59 %	D+	57	1.3
50 – 54 %	D	52	1.0
0 – 49 %	F	0	0

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Writing support:

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Academic regulations and schedules:

Consult the Calendar for course information, university and faculty regulations, dates, deadlines and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the University Calendar is

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.htm>

Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/it/help/articles/email/etiquette>

Academic Accommodation:

It is the students' responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodations and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact them at 403-220-6019. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodations. More information about academic accommodations can be found at www.ucalgary.ca/access.

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>;

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/>

“Safewalk” Program:

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night: call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Contact for Students Ombudsman's Office: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

The University of Calgary has a number of student clubs and other resources dedicated to issues of gender and sexual equity. Here are links to their Facebook sites (please note that the professor is a member of all these sites):

[Women's Studies and Feminism Club](#)

[Consent Awareness and Sexual Education Club](#)

[Women in Leadership Club](#)

[Queers on Campus](#)

[Q: The SU Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity](#)

[Women's Resource Centre](#)

PLAGIARISM

The University Calendar states:

1. Plagiarism - Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:

- (a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
- (b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
- (c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
- (d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, or when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. Citing your sources in a bibliography is not enough, because a bibliography does not establish which parts of a student's work are taken from other sources. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose. Advice on adequate documentation can be found at the following web sites:

<http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>