

WMST 201 L20
Introduction to Women's Studies
Spring 2013
MWF: 10:00-11:50

Instructor: Dr. Katherine Zelinsky
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Office Hours: Fridays, 12:00-1:00 (Please make an appointment)

Course Description

In this course, we will focus on readings from the anthology *Women's Voices, Feminist Visions*, 5th Edition (Eds. Shaw and Lee). Discussions will cover the "birth" of Women's Studies as an academic discipline and the reasons why women are at the center of this field of inquiry. We will also explore gender as a marker of sexual and social difference; and examine how gender intersects with other identity categories such as race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, physical ability, health, and socioeconomic status. From its origins as a discipline in the 1960s and 1970s, Women's Studies has undergone numerous (re)visions, challenges, self-questionings, ideological backlashes, and triumphs; and it continues (despite ongoing onslaughts from both within and outside of academia) to evolve in its commitments to personal and social transformation.

Objectives of the Course

To recognize the effects of women's oppression, struggles and accomplishments throughout history.

To remember the women whose courage helped to bring about the empowering social changes that some of us experience today.

To appreciate the theoretical and practical implications of feminist analysis in everyday life.

To consider the interconnections between gender, ethnicity, race, physical ability, sexual orientation, and social class.

To develop critical thinking and writing skills.

Textbooks and Readings:

Shaw, Susan M. and Janet Lee, Eds. *Women's Voices, Feminist Visions: Classic and Contemporary Readings*. 5th ed., New York: McGraw Hill, 2012.

Assignments and Evaluation; Due Dates

Quiz	15%	Monday, June 3
Creative/Outrageous Assignment	25%	Monday, June 17
Group Presentation	20%	(Scheduled during the last two weeks of class)
Final Examination	30%	(Registrar-Scheduled)
Class Participation	10%	Ongoing

Descriptions of Assignments:

1. This “outrageous act” assignment will ask you to write a **5-7 double-spaced, stapled** paper in which you discuss an “outrageous” act that you will perform/engage in **sometime within this semester outside of class**. The act/activity must be connected to issues and discussion raised in this class, and **it must also have challenged your comfort zone**. “Outrageous” in the context of this paper does not necessarily mean outlandish, extreme, shocking or bizarre. Rather, I want you to engage in an activity **this Spring semester**, that is clearly connected to this course---perhaps to a problem, issue or theme that we’ve been examining--- and that pushed you in new directions, that challenged you to behave or to think outside of your usual behavioural or conceptual “box.” Some examples might be: attending a women’s studies conference; speaking out against sexism to a peer or family member; helping out at a women’s shelter; attending an event in the city that raised awareness around gender diversity, homophobia, ableism, ageism, or racism. These are just a few examples of what might qualify, in your lived experience, as “outrageous acts.” The paper will be threefold in purpose: 1. You will describe the activity in some detail. 2. You will explain how it is connected to women’s studies. 3. You will, most importantly, describe and explain what you learned from the act and the insights that you gleaned from performing the assignment.

You will not be graded on the act itself and how outrageous it is. Instead, you will be assessed in terms of the clarity, organization, thoroughness, critical thinking, and overall readability of your paper. You are, of course, expected to use the first-person narrator “I” throughout the paper. You will also be required to make connections between the course readings, class discussions and your chosen action, all of which you will need to integrate into an organized paper. Use a minimum of two course readings and a minimum of two citations from class discussions. These materials should provide your paper with a theoretical context for your act.

2. This will be a **15-minute** closely-argued, focused presentation that will involve analyzing a current event (within the past 2 years) in the media, politics, the arts, a website, or a Youtube video around which feminist debate/discussion has occurred. (Some examples might be: the Russian all-girl punk rock band, the Pussy Riots; Mitt Romney's "binders full of women"; a website that presents rape as a joke; sexist depictions of Hillary Clinton.) You will also be asked to connect the event that you discuss in relation to one essay from the course anthology (you are encouraged to choose but are not restricted to the essays discussed in class). You will be asked to focus on what you see as a central feminist argument in your chosen essay and draw connections between the essay and the current event. There are various approaches that you can take. You may analyze the event as an example of the essay's argument in action/realized; or as evidence that feminist progress hasn't been gained since the essay was written; or perhaps as a testimonial to the need for feminists to revive the ideas expressed in the essay. Ensure that the event that you choose is narrow and specific enough to be able to be discussed in some detail. Topics such as women and body image, women and abortion, and women and violence are too broad for such a project, but you can look at a particular aspect of such a topic. You are free to use visual materials and other forms of media in your presentation, but remember that your objective is to provide analysis of the current event and connect your argument meaningfully back to one of the essays from the course readings.

3. The quiz will consist of multiple choice questions based on the material discussed in class up to that point.

4. The final exam will comprise two sections. One section will likely require you to define terms discussed in class or answer multiple choice questions, and the other section will likely require a short essay. Further details to be discussed and finalized in class.

5. Class participation entails speaking in class, including responding to class-directed questions and commentary about the course readings, contributing your ideas to small group discussions, attending regularly, arriving to class on time and not leaving early.

Students must complete all course requirements in order to qualify for a passing grade.

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

Note: Please hand in your essays directly to your instructor. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS102. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the current day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: YES

Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments submitted after the due dates may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late. Students who experience extenuating circumstances must provide documented evidence.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, **students should identify themselves on all written work by using their ID number and name. Also you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam.**

For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.

Grading System

	Grading Scale
A+	96-100
A	90-95.99
A -	85-89.99
B+	80-84.99
B	75-79.99
B-	70-74.99
C+	65-69.99
C	60-64.99
C-	55-59.99
D+	53-54.99
D	50-52.99
F	0-49

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

The course schedule will be posted on Blackboard before the first day of class. **You are asked to print a copy of the schedule and bring it to class.**

Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where

they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Classroom Conduct

Please turn off cell phones!! Laptops are allowed in class as long as they are being used to take notes or to assist you in the planning of class presentations. Students who use their laptops for other purposes, especially if such activities distract other students or the instructor, will be asked to remove them from the classroom. Students are expected to attend each class and to have read and reflected on the materials assigned for each day. The classroom will be a safe place in which students and Instructor can engage in respectful discussion, debate and exchange. That means a safe space for everyone! Please familiarize yourself with the University's policy on classroom etiquette and academic misconduct.

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link;
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Additional Information

N. B. Please exercise decorum and discretion when you email me. That means using correct grammar and appropriate salutations (for example, Dear Professor Zelinsky or Dear Katherine). Although I expect that you will ask most of your questions (and they will be answered in class, or on Blackboard), you may feel the need to email me occasionally. I will do my best to respond within 48 hours. I will not, however, respond to emails after 6:00 p. m or on weekends.

Students are welcome to appeal a grade if they feel that an error has been made in the grading. If this is the case, they must write out a statement of one or more paragraphs in which they explain what they believe to be the error(s) in grading and why their piece of work deserves reconsideration. They can submit this statement, along with the piece of work, to the instructor, who will return the reappraised work to the students within two weeks. Having appealed work reviewed can result in having the grade raised, lowered or unchanged.

Academic Accommodation Policy

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre (220-8237) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course. For further information, please see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/node/46>

Emergency Evacuation and Assembly points

Please note the evacuation points for this particular classroom. All classrooms on campus exit to specific places in case of emergency. The emergency assembly points differ depending upon where your classroom is located. For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

"SAFEWALK" Program

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 403-220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

Student Representation

There are now four Arts reps because of the amalgamation, with the email addresses being arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, and arts4@su.ucalgary.ca. Please contact if you have questions related to Students Union matters, events, or concerns.

For your student ombudsman, please see

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

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 SS102, 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 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.