

Women's Studies 307-01 Contemporary Issues in Feminism September 3 through 7, 2013, 9:00 to 5:00, ICT114

Instructor: Joe Kadi

Email address: jkadi@ucalgary.ca

Office hours: I will be available for 30 minutes before class and 15 minutes after class. Given the size of our group, and the limited time we have together, it will be important for students to prepare their questions ahead of time so that we can make the most of our office hours. If a student wishes to speak to me for a longer period of time than 5 minutes, please email me so that we can figure out together how to make that work. Please note that I am NOT available during the lunch hour.

Course description:

We will spend a day on each of the following five topics: History, Social Change, Local Food Movements, Sexual Violence, and Holistic Sexual Health. Each topic will be examined in terms of its connection to feminism, its importance in today's world, and its relevance in our lives.

Objectives of the Course

- Understand the broad range of issues feminists are concerned about.
- Understand the connections between these issues.
- Consider the relevance of feminism in today's complex world.
- Appreciate the practical implications of feminist theory and action – and social change generally – in everyday life.
- Deepen our critical/holistic thinking skills.
- Work to establish a vibrant learning community based on respect and support.

An Important Note about this Block Week Class:

Given that our class time is happening over a five-day period, it is important that students prepare ahead of time for this experience. One way to prepare is to read all the documents posted on Blackboard, so that you are familiar with the assignments and expectations of the course. Another way to prepare is to complete the readings before the class begins, so that you only need to REVIEW the daily reading before our class begins, as opposed to reading and comprehending the daily reading the night before. This will be especially important for the first reading, by Mary Wollstonecraft. This book was written more than 200 years ago, and its writing style is markedly different than today's writing style. It will take time for students to become tuned in to the rhythm, style, and cadence of this writing; it is unlikely you will be able to do this if you begin the book the night before we discuss it in class. I strongly, strongly encourage all students to do the readings before our Block Week class begins. This will be helpful for you as an individual student, and it will be helpful in terms of creating the vibrant learning community that we want to establish.

Student Agreement and Other Important Matters:

Students are expected to carefully read the Student Agreement (posted on our BB site), print the document, and sign it, before our first class. The Student Agreement explains important issues having to do with creating a respectful environment, ensuring confidentiality, setting up a distraction-free classroom, and so forth. If a student has concerns about the Student Agreement and needs to speak to me in order to negotiate a modified agreement, you need to come to class early on the first day in order to discuss this with me. Otherwise, I expect that all students will have read and signed the document, and will hand it in on the first day of class.

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.

Use of recording technologies 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 the course for any last minute changes or cancellations.

While students will not be allowed to use word processing devices during regular class time (unless they are necessary for accessibility purposes), it is necessary that students bring them to class. There will be one or two assignments that will require access to the internet.

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and prepared to work. The class begins promptly at 9:00 AM every morning.

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>

Texts and readings:

Thoughts on the Education of Daughters, written by Mary Wollstonecraft.

Silent Spring, written by Rachel Carson.

Yes Means Yes: Visions of Female Sexual Power and a World Without Rape, edited by Jaclyn Friedman and Jessica Valenti.

Sistah Vegan: Black Female Vegans Speak, edited by A. Breeze Harper.

These four books are available from the UC bookstore. If the bookstore runs out, these can be purchased at local bookstores, or purchased online. The website www.goodbooks.com is a good place to check for secondhand books (make sure you take note of where the books are being sent from, as books being mailed from the US or England may not get here on time for our class).

Important note: In addition to the books listed above, there are two articles that are required reading; both of these will be posted on our BB site.

It is the student's responsibility to independently source and retrieve all readings.

Students are strongly encouraged to read as much in advance of the course as possible, and to take summary notes for reference. The days in the course will be long and intense, with daily quizzes.

The reading schedule is available from our Blackboard site.

Assignments and Evaluation:

Participatory Classroom, part I. 10%

Participatory Classroom, part II. 10%

Quizzes, one on four different days, 12.5% each, total 50%.

Final take-home exam, 30%.

Refer to the essay grading rubric, available on Blackboard in the Course Documents section, to understand expectation for all writing assignments.

Participatory Classroom, a two-part assignment, each part worth 10% of the grade.

In this assignment, students will write one short paper at the beginning of Block Week, outlining goals and intentions regarding attendance and participation, and a second short paper at the end of Block Week, assessing whether these goals and intentions have been met. A detailed explanation of this assignment is posted on our BB site. Read it carefully. You will be writing the first part of this assignment during the first day of class; the essay will be hand-written (unless a computer is needed for accessibility purposes). The second part of the assignment is due at 9 a.m., on 7 September, which is our final day of class.

Quizzes (4 X 12.5% for 50% of the grade).

Tuesday through Saturday, we will have a quiz on the material covered the previous day. There will be one hour allotted for each quiz. It will take place during the morning. This will provide you with the opportunity to show you understand the major concepts and issues raised in the readings, the lectures, the discussions, and the films that were covered the previous day.

There will be no make-up tests. If you miss the test you will receive a grade of 0.

Final Take-home Exam (30%)

On the final day of class, you will receive this exam, which will consist of several essay questions. Students will have until Tuesday, 1 October to complete this exam. A hard copy of the exam will be brought to my office between 2:30 and 3 p.m. on that day (the location of my office will be announced during Block Week). Students will draw on readings, lectures, discussions, films, and small group work in order to illustrate your detailed comprehension of our course material, and will use proper citations throughout the exam. More details and requirements will be circulated when the exam is handed out.

Policy for Late Assignments

Unless otherwise noted, late assignments will not be accepted and will receive a grade of zero.

If you miss more than one quiz, you may fail the course.

Grading system:

Letter	Grading Scale		
	Range	Usually Graded As	Point
A+	96-100	98	4
A	90-95.99	93	4
A -	85-89.99	87	3.7
B+	80-84.99	83	3.3
B	75-79.99	77	3
B-	70-74.99	72	2.7
C+	65-69.99	67	2.3
C	60-64.99	62	2
C-	55-59.99	57	1.7
D+	53-54.99	54	1.3
D	50-52.99	52	1
F	0-49	0	0

Note on Grading

Due to the intense time frame of this course, students should not expect to receive grading or comments on all of their assignments during the week of classes.

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>

Grade appeals:

Consult the following University Calendar link and request advice from the interdisciplinary programs office, on the main floor of the Social Sciences building. Note that “mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision.”

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

Deferral of term work and final examinations:

Should you require an extension of for completion of term papers or assignments beyond the deadline of five days after the end of lectures, an Application of Deferment of Term Work form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. See Calendar: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>.

Academic accommodation:

It is a student’s responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation and if you have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Your academic accommodation letters should be provided to your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the commencement of this course. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/>

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 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 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>

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated 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/>

STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

According to the University Calendar, (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j.html>)

“The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, ..., to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community”. The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a “positive and productive learning and working environment.” This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that “seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of

students and/or university staff'. Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.