

# Women's Studies 1020E: Introduction to Women's Studies 2014-2015

Professor: Prof. Jen Chisholm  
Office Hours: Tues. 2:30-4:30  
or by Appointment

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\*Email is the best way to contact me. Please allow at least 48 hours for me to respond; be sure to put the course number in the subject line and to use your UWO email to contact me. Emails not identified correctly may be screened as spam.

\*Information for TAs will be posted on OWL.  
Please note WS 1020E includes a weekly tutorial.

## **Course Description**

This course is an introductory and interdisciplinary survey of the status of women and the diverse and changing roles of gender around the globe. One of the primary objectives of this course is to introduce you to many of the central ideas of feminism(s) and to challenge some of the preconceptions you may have about feminism and its history and ongoing impact it has on people of both genders. Our goal in this course is to examine the historical, sociological, economic, and political processes that shape women's lives all over the world.

Through a feminist lens, we will consider a multitude of topics, including: gender stratification; femininity, sexuality, and the female body (especially as these issues are connected to sexual identity, reproduction, eating disorders, and perceptions of beauty); men in feminism; nationalism; violence; intersexuality and transgender; women and work in historical and cross-cultural contexts; (dis)ability with our gendered experience in the world; religion; activism; and law. We will also explore how gender, race, class, and sexuality intersect with one another while shaping our views and positions on the above mentioned topics, as well as many others. Finally, we will strive to make connections between our own lives, changing global dynamics, and the existences of international feminist movements.

## **Learning Objectives**

The course will help students to:

- develop a perspective on women's and feminist history, paying particular attention to the issues facing women today, both locally and globally;
- understand how women are represented in disciplines such as philosophy, literature, science, as well as in popular culture and media;
- consider how gender operates as a site of social and political control for men and women;

- identify key theoretical debates, differences and similarities in feminist thought; and understand how gender is socially constructed.

In addition, it will facilitate development of the student's

- critical and analytical thinking skills;
- oral and written communication skills; and
- research skills.

### **Texts**

Reading Women's Lives. (Available at the bookstore. Please note: this text was specifically designed for this course. You must have the 2014-2015 version.)

Custom Course Packet. (Available at the bookstore.)

### **Course Requirements and Grading**

Tutorial Attendance and Participation*	10%
Online Discussion (5 x 3%)	15%
Midterm Exam	15%
Annotated Bibliography and Paper Proposal	10%
Research Essay (6-7 pages)	20%
Final Exam	30%

### **Assignments/Assignment Format**

All essays are to be typed, double-spaced, and stapled, using a standard font (Times New Roman, Arial, 10-12 point). You are expected to use either MLA or APA standards for documentation (to be reviewed in tutorial). All assignments must have your name, the course name, the professor's name, your TA's name, and the due date on the first page, preferably in the upper left hand corner.

### **Attendance & participation**

In my opinion, the most successful college classrooms have students and instructors equally engaged in a discussion about the readings. You are expected to complete readings prior to coming to class each week. You may be asked to engage in class discussion, and you will be required to contribute to tutorial discussions in some way. Please be aware that some of the material we are reading is of a sensitive nature. Some readings may be upsetting or disturbing. I ask that we all use respectful language and be sensitive of one another during our discussions.

### **Online Discussion**

Students will be asked to post to our class discussion forum (OWL Sakai) in which they will post questions and responses relating to the readings and course themes.

Posts will be due throughout the year, and you will receive a lengthy description of the assignment.

Additionally, there is forum module entitled “General Discussion”; please feel free to use this forum to post any questions you may have about assignments, readings, lectures, or tutorials.

### **Annotated Bibliography and Paper Proposal (Due February 12, 2014)**

You will receive a lengthy description of the assignment following the midterm exam.

### **Research Essay (Due March 19, 2014)**

You will receive a lengthy description of the assignment following the midterm exam.

### **Midterm and Final Exams**

You will complete a mid-term and a final exam throughout the course. We will review together during class, and you will know what to expect. The Midterm will be held during the December Exam Period; as soon as the university sets the date, you will be notified. The Final Exam will be held during the April exam period and will be three hours; as soon as the university sets the date, you will be notified.

### **Course Policies**

#### **Late & Missed Assignments**

It is the expectation that students enrolled Women’s Studies classes will submit assignments by, and sit tests and/or examinations on, the assigned dates. I will deduct the standard penalty of 2% per day for work submitted late, unless you have made arrangements with your TA in writing before an assignment is due. Thus, if you submit a paper 5 days late you will receive a 10% deduction off the final grade. Should you need an extension for any reason, please contact your TA by email in advance to discuss an extension

Both electronic and hard copies of written assignments must be submitted; submissions are registered as the date/time the assignments are submitted to Turnitin.com (see below). Hard copies must also be handed in the day assignments are due; any assignments not submitted in class or tutorial must be deposited in the WS essay drop box, located across from the Main Office doors, Lawson Hall 3260. The date receipt of the assignment is determined by the time listed on Turnitin.com.

*Missed tests or exams:* an absence during a text or an exam will earn a “0” on the assignment, unless you have **medical or compassionate grounds** for accommodation. **In such circumstances, you need to see the Academic**

### **Counselor in the Dean's office of the Faculty in which you are registered.**

Please note that I am not permitted to receive medical/doctors' notes or other confidential documentation; again, such documentation must be submitted directly by students to the Dean's office. Please see the University's Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness at: [HYPERLINK "https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm"](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm)  
<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>.

### **Turnitin.com**

"All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under licence to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement currently between the University and Turnitin.com ( [HYPERLINK "http://www,turnitin" http://www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)." ( [HYPERLINK "http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/crsout.pdf"](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/crsout.pdf)  
<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/crsout.pdf>)

### **Scholastic Offences**

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:  
<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>."(see [HYPERLINK "http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/crsout.pdf"](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/crsout.pdf)  
<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/crsout.pdf>)

### **Plagiarism**

Plagiarism constitutes an automatic failure of this course and goes on a student's permanent record of conduct. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please contact me.

The following is a statement on plagiarism, which has been mandated by the UWO Senate: "Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offense Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). Plagiarism checking: The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Students may be required to submit their work in electronic form for plagiarism checking."

**You cannot submit assignments in WS 1020E completed for other courses, including other Women's Studies courses.**

### **Electronic Devices**

You may use a computer in class to take notes. Do not use class for anything other than academic purposes. You may not use a cell phone or similar electronic device in class at any time. Should you, for any reason, need to receive a phone call during class time, I ask that you keep your phone on vibrate and step out of the classroom to receive the call. **No electronic devices are permitted during tests and exams.**

### **Owl Sakai**

Use of Owl/Sakai is necessary for successful completion of this course. This including accessing readings as stipulated in the course outline, downloading instructions and guidelines for assignments, and submitting assignments to Turnitin.com. All course information, including assignments, will be posted on the course website. Go to owl.uwo.ca.

### **Medical Illness Policy**

"Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counseling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness see: [HYPERLINK](#)

["http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf"](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf)

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Students who miss work due to a medical illness will need to provide me with documentation regarding their illness; we will then devise a new schedule for assignments that we both agree upon.

**\*Please note:** if you require an extension due to a medical illness, you must notify me that you are seeking an extension through the Academic Counseling Office and to work out a revised due date with me. You simply need to email me to tell me you have requested an extension and we will select a new due date together.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: [HYPERLINK](#)

["http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/"](http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/)<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.