

**Western University**  
**Department of Women's Studies and Feminist Research**  
**Fall 2014**

**Advanced Topics in Feminist Theory and Practice: Arts and Humanities**  
**WS 3321F**

Tuesdays 1:30-4:30, Physics and Astronomy Building 106

Instructor: Helen Fielding

Office hours: Tuesday 4:30-5:30 and Wed. 1:30-2:30

Phone: x84548

E-mail: [hfieldin@uwo.ca](mailto:hfieldin@uwo.ca)

**Course Description:**

We will explore the ways in which perception—seeing, hearing and touching—is shaped, even framed by culture, technology and a material reality, as well as our relations with other people. Drawing upon a range of feminist theoretical approaches such as phenomenology, psychoanalysis, postcolonialism and queer studies, we will consider a diverse array of artistic practices including visual arts, film and literature. Questions to be posed include: What do we mean by material reality? How does changing the ways we perceive also change what we do? How does trauma affect perception? How does space create disability? What is the relation between the shaping of perception and racialization? The course will further specify an introductory background in feminist theories in the disciplines of The Faculty of Arts and Humanities.

**Course Objectives:**

To gain an understanding of some key conceptual tools and frameworks available to feminist researchers in the arts and humanities

To learn how to read feminist theories

To learn how to critically evaluate and apply feminist theories

To consolidate practices of writing about and discussing theoretical approaches.

**Required Texts:**

Readings will be available through Weldon library or Owl

**Evaluation:**

Participation	20%
Reading analysis (4-5 pages)	20%
Essay (10-12 pages, due Dec. 2)	30%
Final Exam	30%

**Participation Grade:** each week 5 students will be assigned to post a discussion question based on the week's readings on the forum on the Monday evening before the Tuesday class. Each student will post 2 questions over eleven weeks of class, and will lead a small group discussion of this question and then present back to the group. Each question including presentation is worth 5%. Students will be graded on the question and their leadership in the discussion. Participation in this discussion is worth 10% over the semester; keeping up with the readings is central to this grade.

**Reading Analysis:** students will provide a reading analysis according to specific guidelines.

**Essay:** Students will submit an essay at the end of the semester. The purpose of the essay is to develop reading, argumentation, and analysis skills through the application of theory to a

text, including for example, visual texts, art works, music, video, literature, film. An essay proposal will be due on Nov. 15, and the proposal will be presented within groups on Nov. 25. The essay is due Dec. 2.

**Final exam:** held during the examination period.

Class attendance is mandatory.

**Course Website:**

All course information, including assignments, will be posted on the course website. Go to <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>

**Policies:**

There will be a 2% per day deduction on late assignments. Late assignments can be handed into the drop box. Whichever date is earlier, the turnitin date or the stamped date, will be the one assessed. However, there can be no more than a two-day gap between the handing in of the essay digitally and in hard copy.

The instructor will respond to emails within two days.

Prerequisite(s): Women's Studies 2220E, or Women's Studies 2256E, or Women's Studies 2257E, or permission of the Department.

**NOTE: PLEASE CONTACT THE INSTRUCTOR OR THE UNDERGRADUATE CHAIR TO DISCUSS WAIVING THE PREREQUISITES**

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites. (<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/courseoutlines.pdf>).

**Turnitin:**

All required papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license 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. Turnitin can be accessed through OWL.

**Academic 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/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

**Academic Accomodation** must be requested within 28 days of the missed assignment date.

Please see the **Academic Policy on Accomodation for Medical illness:**

<https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>

No electronic devices are allowed during the exam.