

The University of Western Ontario  
London Canada  
Women's Studies and Feminist Research

Fall 2017-18

**WS3350F Feminism across Borders**

Time and location: Wednesdays 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. AHB 3B04

Instructor: Professor Tracy Isaacs (e-mail: [tisaacs@uwo.ca](mailto:tisaacs@uwo.ca))

Office hours: Mondays 1-2 p.m. and Fridays 11 a.m.-noon. in IGAB 1N20 (Arts and Humanities Academic Counselling Office), and by appointment. Please check in with the Counselling Assistant when you arrive to see me.

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**Course Description:**

Is an inclusive feminism possible? Is a feminism that transcends borders and embraces a broader, more global spectrum of feminist voices than ever before feasible? Reading feminist authors from a diversity of backgrounds, we examine the attractions and challenges of a global feminism.

**Evaluation (see details on "Evaluation Details," pp. 4-5 of this outline):**

1. On-line discussion. [10%] **Due: ongoing; see "Evaluation Details, #1"**
2. Reading analysis: group presentation [10%] and 1000 word analysis/reflection [10%] Groups assigned and dates selected on first day of class. **Written portion is due one week after the presentation.**
3. Critical reflection [1000-1250 words; 15%] **Due: October 18, 2017**
4. Term Paper Proposal [750-1000 words; 20%]: topic overview, research question, thesis statement, annotated bibliography **Due: November 15, 2017**
5. Term Paper [2000 words; 35%] **Due: December 6, 2017**

**Required Readings:**

Required readings to be announced. A course bibliography, information about how to obtain readings, and a full schedule of readings and assignments will be posted in OWL prior to the first day of class and reviewed on the first day of class.

**Objectives:**

If you attend class regularly and complete the readings and assignments on time will, by the end of the course, you'll be able to:

- Engage critically, both orally and in writing, with feminist works across a range of "border" issues and from a variety of disciplinary/interdisciplinary perspectives
- Reflect upon key concepts, theories, and approaches in feminist research in a global context, challenging our default assumptions about "borders."
- Articulate the complexities of intersectionality and inclusivity from a feminist perspective

In addition, you'll develop our written, oral, and critical skills in these ways:

- By engaging in on-line discussion you will engage critically with the readings through formulating your own discussion questions and responding to those of your class mates.
- By participating in in-class discussions (in both large and small groups), you will become stronger and more confident speakers.
- Through assignments designed to promote the synthesizing and consolidating of course material, you will sharpen your critical writing and critical thinking skills.
- Through the development of a paper proposal with a central research question, you will refine your ability to identify and investigate important theoretical questions.

### **Course Website:**

All course information, including assignments, will be posted on the course OWL website.

### **Policies:**

**E-mail Policy:** My preference is always to meet with students face to face, during office hours or by appointment. If you have a minor matter that requires a brief response, or you would like to arrange an appointment to see me outside of office hours, feel free to e-mail me ([tisaacs@uwo.ca](mailto:tisaacs@uwo.ca)). I'll do my best to get back to you within two to three days.

**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." Prerequisites for WS 3350F: WS 2220E or permission of the Department.

**Attendance:** All students registered in this course are expected to attend class each week, arrive on time, stay for the duration, and take an active role in class discussion.

### **Audit:**

Students wishing to audit the course should consult with the instructor prior to or during the first week of classes.

**Late paper policy:** Late papers and assignments will be penalized 3 points per day (out of 100). In accordance with UWO guidelines, no papers will be accepted after the last day of classes, December 6, 2017, without an incomplete form from your Dean's Office. All papers should be submitted by the end of the day on the due date to OWL Assignments **as Word documents**.

### **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 Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at [http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

**Support Services:**

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519.661.3030 (during class hours) or 519.433.2023 after class hours and on weekends.

**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 licencing agreement currently between the University and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com> ." (<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 <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/crsout.pdf>)

## WS 3350F Globalizing Feminism and Feminist Theory (Instructor: T. Isaacs)

### Evaluation Details:

**1. On-line discussion [10%]** Throughout the term, each of you will (1) post a total of five discussion questions, each in a different week, under the relevant discussion area on our OWL site and (2) respond to a total of five discussion questions posted by other students, each in a different week (and on a different reading / topic from what you posted your own discussion question on or did your group presentation on, though it may be in the same week as one of these). Your question should focus on some aspect of the week's readings (it could be based on one reading or a common theme in more than one reading, but should not be on the reading that your group is presenting about) that you believe is significant and interesting enough to warrant further discussion. Your responses to others' questions should engage with the question asked in a way that advances discussion on the issue(s) the question raises. Questions should be posted no later than noon on the Tuesday before the Wednesday class for which the relevant readings are assigned. The discussion will remain open for responses to posted questions until the following Monday at noon, at which time it will be closed. Though there is no strict word count for the question or response, aim for a 150-300 word paragraph.

### **2. Reading Analysis: Group Presentation and Individual Report (20%)**

**Part I The Presentation [10%]:** In small groups of two to three, you will present the main themes/arguments from one assigned reading for the day (specific reading will be assigned on the first day), provide the class with **three or four** discussion questions, and lead a discussion on these questions. Presentations, including discussion, will be approximately 30 minutes. The group will receive a grade for the presentation according to the following criteria:

- Accuracy of content: Did you represent the author(s) correctly? Did you pull out the main themes and arguments and give an accurate account of them to the class?
- The quality of the discussion questions: Did the questions hit upon key issues and engage the class in a discussion that deepens their understanding of the article?
- Presentation: Did all members of the group participate in the presentation? Did the discussion keep moving? Did the presentation stay focused and clear?

**Part II The Report [10%]:** As an individual, you will write a 1000-word reflection that provides:

- An overview of the main themes and arguments, as outlined in your group presentation;
- Two of the discussion questions your group presented along with YOUR answer to them; and
- A personal reflection on how the group work deepened (or hindered) your appreciation and understanding of the article in question.

The report is due one week after the presentation. **Please submit through the "Assignment" tool on our OWL website. Papers will automatically upload to turnitin.com from there.**

**3. Critical reflection [1000-1250 words; 15%] Due: October 18, 2017** This point of this assignment is to engage critically with one of the scholarly readings that we have discussed so far this term. You may choose any reading except one that you have presented with your

group. If you wish, you may choose to pursue one of the discussion questions you have posted for online discussion in a **previous** week. Your critical reflection essay should:

- Identify the issue the author is discussing
- Identify the author's main thesis and argument / reasons in support of that thesis
- Answer: In relation to our course material and themes, why is this article relevant and worth reading?
- Answer: what is the most important contribution the author makes in this article and why is it important?
- Answer: what is one possible way of challenging the author's thesis and how do you think the author would respond?

**4. Term Paper Proposal [750-1000 words; 20%]:** Topic overview, research question, thesis statement, annotated bibliography that includes at least six sources (of which **at least three** must not be from our reading list). **Due: November 15, 2017**

**5. Term Paper (2000-2500 words; 35%) Due on December 6, 2017 by 11:55 p.m.** All papers should be submitted to OWL **as Word documents**. You will write a 2000-2500 word term paper that engages with course materials, subject matter, and themes. The paper must deliver on the proposal that you presented and submitted. It will be evaluated according to

- how well it critically engages with relevant course material;
- how effectively it answers the research question it poses;
- clarity of expression;
- coherence of organization;
- attention to form and scholarship (e.g. adequate margins and spacing, page numbers, adequate citations, bibliography).

This is a scholarly paper that must include a complete bibliography. **Please submit through the "Assignment" tool on our OWL website. Papers will automatically upload to turnitin.com from there.** Papers will be returned to you through OWL Assignments, graded, with comments in the "track changes" function of Word. **Late paper policy:** In accordance with Western's academic policies, no papers will be accepted after the last day of classes, without an approved "incomplete," which you may have approved through your Dean's Office if you have appropriate documentation to support your request.