DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN’S STUDIES AND FEMINIST RESEARCH
WESTERN UNIVERSITY

WS 1020E: INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN’S STUDIES 2013-14

CLASS MEETS: Mondays 1:30-3:30 pm, in Talbot College 141 plus one tutorial hour
PROFESSOR: Dr. K. J. Verwaayen kjverwaa@uwo.ca 661-2111 x 84684 LH 3236
OFFICE HOURS: Term 1: Mon. 3:30-5 pm & Wed. 2:30-3 pm; or by appointment
Term 2: Mon. 3:30-4 pm & Tues. 1:30-3 pm; or by appointment

This course is an introductory and interdisciplinary survey of the status of women and the diverse and changing roles of gender around the globe. Together we will examine how gender differences are established through various institutional practices, and will strive to make connections between our own lives, changing global dynamics, and the existences of international feminist movements. One of our primary objectives 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.

In 2013-14 we will explore, among other issues, the following: gender stratification; femininity, sexuality, and the female body (particularly in relation to sexual identity and “coming out,” reproduction, eating disorders, and perceptions of beauty); masculinities; men in feminism; intersexuality and transgender; women and work in historical and cross-cultural contexts; intersections of race, class, sexual orientation, and (dis)ability with our gendered experience in the world; global feminism; and activism for gender equality/equity/freedom across classes, nations, and ethnicities.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Tutorial Attendance and Participation 10%
Short Paper/Reading Response (3-4 pages; due October 21) 15%
Mid-Term Test (held on SATURDAY, November 18 or 25 TBA; 2 hours; short answer with links & essay format) 15%
Annotated Bibliography & Thesis Statement (3 sources; due February 10) 10%
Research Essay (6-8 pages, due March 17 or 24) 20%
Final Exam (3 hours, in April exam period, date TBA; short answer with links & essay format) 30%

TEXTS:

You will need to purchase two texts: Reading Women’s Lives (2013-14) and a custom course anthology (2013); both texts are available at/through the University Bookstore. Some readings will also be posted on Owl, as indicated in the syllabus.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

This course will enable students to:

 gain a perspective on women's and feminist history, and the issues facing women today, both locally and globally;
understand how women are represented in disciplines such as philosophy, literature, science, and in popular culture and media;

consider how gender operates as a site of social control for men and women;

identify key theoretical debates, differences and similarities in feminist thought;

recognize how the social construction of gender is related to sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, (dis)ability and age;

understand how gender is socially produced;

improve their aptitude for analytical/critical thinking; oral and written communication skills; research.

ENJOY THE COURSE!

COURSE POLICIES

Assignments/Assignment Format
All essays are to be typed, double-spaced, and stapled, using a standard font (Times New Roman 11-12 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
You will be required to read for each class. Plan to read critically rather than just for content. You are expected to have read all assigned materials prior to each class period and to be prepared to participate in discussions. Participation grades are based on mandatory tutorials. This includes attending regularly, reading each week’s assignment, asking insightful questions, contributing to discussion in a positive way, and being a respectful listener (together worth 10% of your year). We reserve the right to give reading quizzes as part of your participation grade if it seems necessary (i.e., if class members do not keep up with the reading). No single portion (attendance, discussion, questions, etc.) determines your overall tutorial participation grade. 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.

Short Paper
Students will be asked to write a short paper (3-4 pages) during the first semester. There will be information on the assignment posted on Owl.

Annotated Bibliography with Thesis Proposal & Research Essay
You will receive descriptions of these assignments on Owl following the midterm exam.

Midterm and Final Exams
You will complete a mid-term and a final exam throughout the course. We will review the form together during class, and you will know what to expect.
**Late & Missed Assignments**

It is the expectation that students enrolled in Women’s Studies classes will submit assignments by, and sit tests and/or examinations on, the assigned dates. We 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.

Both electronic and hard copies of written assignments must be submitted; submissions are registered as the date/time the assignments are submitted to the Turnitin.com link on Owl (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 indicated on Turnitin.com.

*Missed tests or exams:* an absence during a test 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 neither TAs nor instructors are 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: [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 ([http://www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com)).”

(see [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](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf).”

(see [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 your TA and/or instructor.

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”

-- U.W.O. Senate statement on plagiarism

**You cannot submit assignments in WS 1020E completed for other 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 includes 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: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf)." Students who miss work due to a medical illness will need to provide documentation indicating grounds for accommodation from the academic counselor in the Dean’s office regarding their illness; we will then devise a new schedule for assignments that we both agree upon.

Contact Info:
My office hours are posted on page 1 of this syllabus; the TAs’ info will be posted on Owl. Please do not wait until the week before assignments are due to ask us for help, as our time may be limited/booked. Written messages can be left for us at the Department of Women’s Studies main office, LWH 3260. You are welcome to email, but should always **put the course number into the subject line, and use your UWO email addresses;** emails not so identified may automatically be screened out as spam. It may take us up to 48 hours or more for me to respond. If you are unable to email, you can leave a message for me at 519-661-2111 ext. 84684.

**LET’S HAVE A FABULOUS YEAR!**