

Western University
Department of Women's Studies and Feminist Research
Fall 2018

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

Wednesdays 1:30-4:30

Location: TBA

Instructor: Prof. Victoria Miceli

Office: Lawson Hall 3249

Office hours: Wednesday 10:30 – 12:30 or by appointment

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The Department of Women's Studies and Feminist Research recognizes the First Nations territory on which the University stands. As the University acknowledges, Western is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lenape and Attawandaron peoples who have longstanding relationships to the region of southwestern Ontario and the City of London. In close proximity to Western, there are 3 local First Nations communities: the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee Delaware Nation. In the region of southwestern Ontario, there are 9 First Nations and a growing Indigenous urban population. Western recognizes the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original peoples of Turtle Island (North America) to the development of Canada.

Course Description:

We will explore the intersection of identity formation and frames of perception. Taking up different art forms such as film, literature and visual art, we will explore the ways that perception is shaped, cultivated, shifted and created in relation to the ways we understand ourselves as subjects intertwined with the others and the world. Drawing upon a range of feminist theoretical approaches such as phenomenology, decolonization, material feminisms, and poststructuralism, we will consider the ways that theory intersects with, comes out of, and helps us to understand diverse artistic practices. 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 language shape 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

To learn how to communicate ideas effectively

Required Texts:

Readings will be available through Weldon library or Owl

Evaluation:

Participation	20%
Reading analysis (4-5 pages [1500-2000 words], due Oct. 17)	20%
Essay Proposal (due Nov. 14)	5%
Essay (9-11 pages [2500-3000 words], due Nov. 28)	25%
Final Exam	30%

Participation Grade: each week 7 or 8 students will be assigned to post a discussion question based on the week's readings on the forum on the Tuesday evening before the Wednesday class. Each student will post 2 questions over the semester, and will lead a small group discussion around this question prompted by the instructor. Each question is worth 5%. Participation in this discussion is worth 10% over the semester—attendance and 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. 14, and the proposal will be presented within groups on Nov. 29. The essay is due Nov. 28.

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>

Policies

- The instructor will respond to emails within two days.
- Late papers will be penalized two (2) percentage points per day late *including weekends*.
- **Academic Accommodation** must be requested within 28 days of the missed assignment date.
- No electronic devices are allowed during the exam.

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

3.0 hours, 0.5 course

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.

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

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.