Western University
Department of Women’s Studies and Feminist Research

WS 3322G Advanced Topics in Feminist Theory and Practice
In the Social Sciences (January – April 2019)

Instructor: Erica S. Lawson 661-2111 ext. 86941 LWH 3234 elawso3@uwo.ca
Office hours: Mondays 2 – 3 pm Wednesdays 11:30 am - 12:30 pm
Class times: Wednesdays 1:30 - 4:30pm Location: Visual Arts Room 100

Description:
How does a feminist examination of the social sciences facilitate a deeper understanding of knowledge production? This question frames the focus of the course in its investigation of feminist contributions to, for example, sociology, anthropology, political science, economics, criminology and work. Organized thematically, the course will examine feminist theoretical and methodological approaches to issues such as climate change, political economy, neoliberalism, gender, race, militarization and violence. We will discuss and analyze these issues through readings, lectures, presentations, and documentaries. From time to time, students may be asked to work in small groups to address questions related to an article and to share their responses with the class. All readings for this course are available in OWL.

Course Objectives:
By the end of the course students should be able to:

- explain feminist approaches to knowledge production.
- recognize the diversity of feminist approaches within social science research.
- confidently discuss how feminist theories are used (and useful) in everyday life.
- understand feminist perspectives across the disciplines.

In addition, the course will facilitate development of the student’s:

- critical and analytical thinking skills
- oral and written communication skills
- independent and collaborative research skills
- presentation skills

Women’s Studies Grading Criteria (see WSFR Handbook for details):
- A+ (90 to 100) – Excellent work
- A (80 and up) - Superior work
- B (70 to 79) Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
- C (60 and up) – Competent work, meeting requirements
- D (50 to 59) – Fair work, minimally acceptable
- F (49 and down) – Assignment does not apply to course; basic requirements are unmet; plagiarism)
**Evaluation and Instructions:** (Use a different article for each assignment)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presentation &amp; written summary</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Sign up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1-2 pages</td>
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<tr>
<td>Position Paper 1</td>
<td>10%: 5-6 pages</td>
<td>February 6th; sign up</td>
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<tr>
<td>Position Paper 2</td>
<td>10%: 5-6 pages</td>
<td>March 6th; sign up</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Essay</td>
<td>25%: 8-10 pages</td>
<td>March 27th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>TBA</td>
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**Presentation & Written summary:** (15 minutes; sign up for the presentation): be clear about what you want the audience to know in this short time. In groups of two or three (depending on the number of students), you are required to choose an article for your presentation. Use the article to address these questions: 1. What is the author’s theoretical framework or central argument? And, 2. How can I (we) use the framework/argument to analyze a contemporary issue? Therefore, you must be strategic about the article that you pick to ensure that it will help you to address these questions. This is an opportunity for you to be both critical and creative with how you approach the assignment. Pose two questions to encourage audience participation (and please send your questions and summary to me the day before the class). Marking criteria include: a) very brief overview of article b) clarity, organization of thought, and clear arguments c) good use of time d) good choice of a relevant theory/argument, and clearly explained, and e) applied to a relevant contemporary issue in a clear way.

**Participation:** You are required to both attend and make informed contributions to class discussions.

**Position paper:** I will post instructions for this assignment in OWL Sakai. Please review it carefully and let me know if you have any questions. You cannot write on an article that has already been discussed in class; sign up for the article you want to write on; submit the paper at the beginning of class.

**Research Essay:** This assignment requires you to choose a topical issue or a social problem, conduct research, and write an 8-10-page essay informed by feminist thought. You must make substantive use of at least one course reading as well as an additional (minimum) six sources. These must include at least two refereed journal articles and two book chapters; you may include a newspaper or news magazine article from a reputation source. I encourage you to discuss your idea with me as your starting point. Use APA (American Psychological Association) citation style for this paper. [http://www.bibme.org/citation-guide/apa/](http://www.bibme.org/citation-guide/apa/)
Exam review: We will conduct an in-class review of the course content in preparation for the final exam (45 minutes to 1 hour). You will be given an exam format in advance.

Weekly Readings:

January 9: Welcome, overview of expectations; sign-up for assignments.

Gendering Knowledge Production

January 16


January 23


Political Economy and What Counts as Work

January 30


**February 6**


**Reproductive Rights, Reproductive Justice**

**February 13**


**Spring Break – February 18th -22nd**

**Violence and Militarism**

**February 27**


**March 6**


“The Behaviour has to Stop: Top Soldier on Sexual Assault.”

**Gender, Peace and Security**

**March 13**


**Discipline and Resistance**

**March 20**


**March 27**


Neoliberalism

April 3


Exam Review: (45 minutes – to an hour)

Course Policies

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). Prerequisites: WS 2220E, WS 2273E, or permission from the Department Chair or Undergraduate Chair.

Support Services:
“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.”

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/courseoutlines.pdf. Remember that there is a lot of help/support here at Western, and the TAs and I can help direct you to the resources if you’re not sure from the above.

Submitting Assignments: Please hand in hard copies of all written assignments in WS 3322G; you are also required to submit electronic copies of all written assignments (excluding tests/exams) to Turnitin.com through the course Owl Sakai links. Here’s the statement on use of Turnitin from the University:

“All required papers may 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 (http://www.turnitin.com)”

(http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/courseoutlines.pdf)
**Deadlines** are registered as the date/time these assignments are due to Turnitin, and late penalties are assessed based on the submission time to the turnitin site – so please don’t forget to load your paper to Turnitin on time! Again, we need hard copies to mark, so assignments not handed in during class must be deposited in the WS essay drop box, located outside the WSFR Main Office doors, Lawson Hall 3260.

**Essays not submitted to Turnitin will receive grades converted to 0. You cannot submit assignments in WS 3322G prepared for other courses.**

**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/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf

**Note for Students with Disabilities:** Please contact poliscie@uwo.ca if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.

**Late & Missed Assignments:**
Regarding the University’s medical policy, UWO Senate requires that “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. For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness see: http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2011/pg117.html and (https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm).”

Requests for accommodation must be made as soon as possible and, according to A&H requirements, no later than within 28 days from the missed assignment.

**Please note that where medical/compassionate accommodation does not apply, we will deduct the standard penalty of 2% per day for work submitted late, unless you have made arrangements with your instructor in person prior to the deadline.**

**Attendance in classes:** UWO Senate stipulates that “Students whose absences from classes and/or tutorials are deemed excessive by the instructor can be debarred from writing the final exam in the course, according to the procedures established under “Examinations/Attendance” in the 2009 Western Academic Calendar (http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/operations/proofing/academiccalendar2011.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 website: http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2009/pg113.html.”

Plagiarism: “Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage 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 the ‘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 written work in electronic form for plagiarism checking.”
--- U.W.O. Senate statement on plagiarism

Electronic devices in tests and exams: You may use your computer to take notes in class. Please avoid doing any social media-related activities in class (don’t shop online, use facebook or twitter, etc. during class time). No electronic devices are permitted during tests and exams.

Owl: Use of Owl is necessary for successful completion of this course. This includes accessing readings as required in the course outline, downloading instructions and guidelines for assignments, receiving course announcements and submitting assignments to Turnitin.com.

Contact Info: My office hours are posted on page one of this syllabus. Please do not wait until the week before assignments are due to ask for help. Written messages can be left for me in my mailbox in 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 address; emails not so identified may automatically be screened out as spam. I will respond within forty-eight hours. If you are unable to email, you can leave a message for me at 519-661-2111 ext. 86941.