

**Western University**  
**Department of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies**  
 WS 3322G Advanced Topics in Feminist Theory and Practice  
 In the Social Sciences (January – April 2021)

**Instructor:** Erica S. Lawson 661-2111 ext. 86941      LWH 3234 [elawso3@uwo.ca](mailto:elawso3@uwo.ca)  
**Class times:** Wednesdays 1:30 - 4:30pm; online/synchronous  
**Office hours:** Thursdays 10 am – 11 am (or by appoint)

**Description:** How do feminist perspectives facilitate a deeper understanding of knowledge production in the social sciences? This question frames the focus of the course in its examination of diverse feminist perspectives. We will examine feminist readings in sociology, political science, history - to name a few - to understand how they address issues such as reproductive justice, social reproductive labour, feminist political economy, leadership, violence, public space, media, and the prison industrial complex. We will discuss and analyze these topics/issues through readings, lectures, media sources and online talks. 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.
- confidently discuss how feminist theories are used (and useful) in everyday life.

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

- analytical thinking skills
- oral and written communication skills
- independent research skills

**Women's Studies Grading Criteria** (see GSWS 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** (assignment instructions available in OWL)

Assignment	Points	Deadline
Article Summary & Presentation	20% - 3-4 double-spaced pages and presentation of summary (max. 10 minutes)	Readings will be assigned alphabetically starting Jan.13
Research Essay	30 % - 8-10-page essay with substantial use of at least one course reading.	March 17 <sup>th</sup>
Final Exam	35% (long and short answers)	TBA
Attendance and Participation	15% - informed contributions to class discussion based on close reading of articles	Weekly

## Weekly Readings:

**January 6:** Welcome to GSWS3322! overview of expectations; a quick look at some good online feminist magazines: <https://issuu.com/sirenmag>; <https://www.bitchmedia.org/>; <https://wearyourvoicemag.com/>; <https://msmagazine.com/>

**January 13:** Collins, P.H. (2015). "No Guarantees: Symposium on Black Feminist Thought." *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 38:13, 2349-2354.

Harding, S. (2009). "Standpoint Theories: Productively Controversial." *Hypatia*, 24(4): 192-200.

Steiner, L. (2018). Solving Journalism's Post-Truth Crisis with Feminist Standpoint Epistemology." *Journalism Studies*, 19(13): 1854-1865.

**January 20:** Esquivel, V. (2016). "Power and the Sustainable Development Goals: A Feminist Analysis." *Gender & Development*, 24(1): 9-23.

Klinsky, S. (2018). "Climate Equity and Justice Scholarship Needs Feminism." *Feminist Review*, 118: 103-111

**January 27:** LeBaron, G., and Roberts, A. (2010). "Toward a Feminist Political Economy of Capitalism and Carcerality." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, 36(1):19-44.

Repo, J. (2020). "Feminist Commodity Activism: The New Political Economy of Feminist Protest." *International Political Sociology*, 14:215-232.

Kay, J.B. (2020). "Stay the Fuck at Home!" Feminism, Family and the Private Home in the Time of Coronavirus." *Feminist Media Studies*, 20(6): 883-888.

**February 3:** Hall, R. (2016). "Caring Labours as Decolonizing Resistance." *Studies in Social Justice*, 10(2): 220-237.

Stoeckle, A. (2018). "Rethinking Reproductive Labor through Surrogates' Invisible Bodily Care Work." *Critical Sociology*, 44(7-8): 1103-1116.

Schiller, J, and McMahon J. (2019) "Alexa, Alert me When the Revolution Comes: Gender, Affect and Labor in the Age of Home-based Artificial Intelligence." *New Political Science*, 41(2): 173-191.

**February 10:** Geva, D. (2020). A double-headed hydra: Marine Le Pen's charisma, between political masculinity and political femininity. *NORMA International Journal for Masculinity Studies*, 15:1, 26-42.

Nash, M. and Moore, R. (2019). 'I was completely oblivious to gender': an exploration of how women in STEM navigate leadership in a neoliberal, postfeminist context." *Journal of Gender Studies*, 28(4): 449-461.

Ostaszewska, A. (2018). "Black Protests: A Struggle for Women's Subjectivity." *Polish Journal of Educational Studies*, 1(LXXI): 92-102.

**Recommended:** Black Women did That (Podcast with Don Lemon)

<https://www.cnn.com/audio/podcasts/don-lemon-silence-is-not-an-option>

### Spring Break - Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021

**February 24:** Mama, A. (2020). ‘We will not be pacified’: From freedom fighters to feminists.” *European Journal of Women’s Studies*, 27(4) 362–380.

Biagini, E. (2017). “The Egyptian Muslim Sisterhood between Violence, Activism and Leadership.” *Mediterranean Politics*, 22:1, 35-53.

Wilson-Raybould, J. (2019). “Introduction.” *From Where I Stand: Rebuilding Indigenous Nations for a Stronger Canada*. Purich Book.

**March 3:** Jarman, M. (2015). “Relations of Abortion: Crip Approaches to Reproductive Justice.” *Feminist Formations*, 27(1): 46-66.

Bailey, M., and Mobley, I.A. (2019). “Work in the Intersections: A Black Feminist Disability Framework.” *Gender & Society*, 33(1): 19-40.

Stacey, J. “Queer Reproductive Justice.” *Reproductive Biomedicine and Society* online (2018):7, 4-7.

**March 10:** Ringrose, J., and Regher, K. (2020). “Feminist Counterpublics and Public Feminisms: Advancing a Critique of Racialized Sexualization in London’s Public Advertising.” *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, 46(1): 229-257.

Keller, J. (2017). “A Politics of Snap: Teen Vogue’s Public Feminism.” *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*,” 45(4): 817-843.

**March 17:** Xiao Han (2018) Searching for an online space for feminism? The Chinese feminist group Gender Watch Women’s Voice and its changing approaches to online misogyny, *Feminist Media Studies*, 18:4, 734-749.

Listerborn, C. (2016). “Feminist struggle over urban safety and the politics of space.” *European Journal of Women’s Studies*, 23(3): 251-264.

Forrest, C. (2018). “What’s in a name? A feminist reflection on street name changes in Durban.” *Agenda*, 32(2): 53-61.

**March 24:** Shakur, A. and Chesimard, J. (1978). “Women in Prison: How We Are.” *The Black Scholar*, 9(7): 8-15.

Dillon, S. (2012). “Possessed by Death: The Neoliberal Carceral State, Black Feminism and the Afterlife of Slavery.” *Radical History Review*, 112, pp. 113-125.

Palacios, L. (2016). “Challenging Convictions: Indigenous and Black Race-Radical Feminists Theorizing the Carceral State and Abolitionist Praxis in the United States and Canada.” *Meridians*, 1(15): 137-165.

**March 31:** Tyler, I. (2013). “Naked Protests: The Maternal Politics of Citizenship and Revolt.” *Citizenship Studies*, 17,2: 211-226.

Haynes, T., and Deshong, H.A.F. (2017). “Queering Feminist Approaches to Gender-based Violence in the Anglophone Caribbean.” *Social and Economic Studies* 66: 1 & 2 (2017): 105—131.

**Exam Review** (in final class): This is a final opportunity to clarify arguments/ideas/theories over the course of the semester that remain unclear to you. As such, this is a student-driven review. Exam will be based in readings from February 24<sup>th</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup>.

## 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: GSWS 2220E: WS 2273E, or permission from the Department Chair or Undergraduate Chair.**

## 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 MentalHealth@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 we can help direct you to the resources if you’re not sure from the above.

**Accessibility Statement:** Please contact [ws-ugrad@uwo.ca](mailto:ws-ugrad@uwo.ca) if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material accessible to you. You can also contact Accessible Education (AE) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation or review the policy on Accommodation for Students with Disabilities at [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation\\_disabilities.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf)

**Submitting Assignments:** Please submit electronic copies of all written assignments to Turnitin.com through the course Owl “Assignments” tab. 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 licencing 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!

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

### **Absence from Course Commitments Policy / Academic Consideration for Student Absences:**

Please see [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_illness.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf)

“In the interest of the health and safety of students and health care providers, you are no longer required to seek a medical note for absences this term. If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness you should use the Illness Reporting Tool. This tool ([https://www.uwo.ca/sci/counselling/procedures/academic\\_consideration\\_for\\_absences/index.html](https://www.uwo.ca/sci/counselling/procedures/academic_consideration_for_absences/index.html)) takes the place of the need to submit a medical note and the Self-Reported Absence System formally used by undergraduate students. You are required to self report every day that you are ill and unable to complete course commitments. Details about when you should submit missed work, the format of the missed work can be found in the Section 7. Evaluation above. Students should communicate promptly with their instructor and use this tool with integrity.”

**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 *well in advance* of the deadline.**

### **Accommodation for Religious Holidays:**

Please see Accommodation for Religious Holidays policy at:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_religious.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_religious.pdf)

**(Remote) 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 2013 Western Academic Calendar:

<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg130.html> for UWO policy and <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2016/pg117.html> for the case of medical illness).”

**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

### **All 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>.

### **Special Examinations:**

“A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents. To provide an opportunity for students to recover from the circumstances resulting in a Special Examination, the University has implemented Special Examinations dates.” –

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/exam/definitions.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/definitions.pdf) See this link for dates and other relevant info.

**Contact Info:** You may contact your professor in GSWS 3322G by email (see page 1). However, please note that I often receive an overwhelming volume of email daily (!). I will make every effort to respond to you within twenty-four hours. Please use your UWO email account (rather than hotmail or others), with “GSWS 3322G” in the subject header. If you have substantive questions or requests, please visit me electronically in office hours.

**LET'S HAVE A FABULOUS YEAR**

*(even in these trying circumstances)!*

