WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES 112
WOMEN IN SOCIETY

BULLETIN INFORMATION
WGST 112 – Women in Society (3 credit hrs)
Course Description:
A social science perspective of women in psychological, sociological, historical, anthropological, economic, and political contexts; the changing roles, images, and institutions.

SAMPLE COURSE OVERVIEW
This course is an introduction to women’s and gender studies through the disciplines of social sciences, offering an understanding of gender in psychological, sociological, historical, anthropological, economic, and political contexts.
Feminism and gender studies will provide the fundamental framework for understanding personal and social values, ethical decision-making, and social responsibility. The course will be grounded in feminist analysis as both a conceptual framework and as an interdisciplinary methodology.
The course will question individual and societal values and concepts of social responsibility by examining the changing roles, images, and institutions that define and reinforce our understandings of gender both nationally and globally. It will also examine the intersection of gender with race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, and other markers of social identity and difference.
The course will ask you to analyze how an interdisciplinary feminist approach conceptualizes the roles of women and men in society, as those roles are manifested in communities as well as individual lives.

ITEMIZED LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon successful completion of WGST 112, students will be able to:
1. Describe key events in the history of the feminist movement in the United States.
2. Describe feminist methodology as a social science and social justice methodology.
3. Identify ways in which diversity (the intersections of gender, race, ethnicity, class, and sexuality and other markers of social identity and difference) function in societies, particularly in relation to systems of oppression and privilege.
4. Recognize and apply the values, norms and ideals that guide feminist interpretations of social, ethical and moral issues (such as work, body image, or sexuality).
5. Demonstrate critical thinking skills applied to global and local issues such as universal suffrage, gender equity and racial equality, and reproductive rights.
6. Demonstrate how feminist social practices related to responsibility, accountability, and justice are oriented toward the development of ethical decision making and practice in their lives and the lives of others.
7. Develop feminist strategies for creating a more just and equitable society on both a national and global level.
SAMPLE REQUIRED TEXTS/SUGGESTED READINGS/MATERIALS
3. Reader, available at Universal Copies

SAMPLE ASSIGNMENTS AND/OR EXAMS
1. **Exams:** There will be two exams and a final exam. The final exam is not cumulative.
2. **Analysis Papers:** There will be three short analysis papers.
   Paper questions:
   a. Inscribing Gender on the Body – due Day 20
      How does the dominant ideology of our culture define beauty?
      How are these definitions enforced?
      How do these definitions threaten women in their bodies?
      How can women resist the beauty ideal?
   b. Women’s Work Inside/Outside the Home – due Day 22
      How does women’s unpaid labor in the home maintain systems of oppression?
      Why has legislation requiring equal pay and prohibiting discrimination failed to bring about equality for women in the workforce?
   c. Activism, Change, and Feminist Futures – due Day 25
      In your experience, are young women “afraid of feminism”? Why or why not?
      What do you think is the appropriate role for men in feminism? Why?
      What two elements of the “Day Without Feminism” (article in Reader) do you think are the most important to achieve? Why? What are some steps that could be taken to achieve them? (Answer all 3 questions)
3. **Worksheets:** For some of the readings and films, there will also be worksheets that will require you both to describe specific material and/or to connect that material to our class discussions.

SAMPLE COURSE OUTLINE WITH TIMELINE OF TOPICS, READINGS/ ASSIGNMENTS, EXAMS/PROJECTS

| Day 1 | Introduction to course |
| Day 2 | Introduction to feminist methodology: social science and social justice |
|       | Readings on methodology: “Strong Objectivity and Socially Situated Knowledge” (1991), Sandra Harding; and “Women’s Perspective as a Radical Critique of Sociology” (1974/2004), Dorothy Smith [both in course reader] |

**Segment One: History of the Feminist Movement in America**

| Day 3 | Women and Men before the First Wave; The First Wave: Enlightenment Liberal Feminism; The Suffrage Movement |
|       | Readings: WVFV Chapter One, pages 6-22 and Article 2 (page 25), Article 85 (page 570) |
| Day 4 | The First Wave: Enlightenment Liberal Feminism (continued) |
Readings: “Solitude of Self,” Elizabeth Cady Stanton [reader] and “Declaration of Sentiments” [reader]
In-Class Film: Seneca Reflections [reader worksheet]

Day 5
The First Wave: Women’s Religious Oppression; Challenges from Excluded Women’s Rights
In-Class Film: Votes for Women

Day 6
In Between the Waves: The Early Birth Control Movement in America
Readings: WVFV Activist Profile: Margaret Sanger (p. 295), Article 46 (p. 310); “Family Limitation,” Margaret Sanger (1917) [reader]

Day 7
The Second Wave of Feminist Movement in America
Readings: WVFV Chapter One, pages 1-6, Historical Moment: The Feminine Mystique (p. 367), WVFV: Articles 1,2 (pp. 23-27); The Feminine Mystique, Betty Friedan excerpt [reader]

Day 8
The Second Wave of Feminist Movement in America (continued)
In-Class Film: The Pill [reader worksheet]

Day 9
The Third Wave of Feminist Movement in America
Readings: WVFV, p. 12, Article 106 (pp. 673-674)

Day 10
Patriarchy and Inequalities (and review of methodology)
Readings: “Stone by Stone,” Carol Lee Flinders [reader]
Exam Review

Day 11
Exam #1

Segment Two: Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality – A Conceptual Framework

Day 12
A Framework for Understanding Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality (intersectional analysis)
Reading: WVFV Chapter 2, pages 42-59 and Articles 9, 17 (Disability), 90 (Rethinking Women and the Afghan Conflict)

Day 13
Race
Readings: WVFV Articles 13, 14. 40
In-Class Film: Race: The Power of Illusion

Day 14
Sexuality
Readings: WVFV Chapter 4, pages 163-180 and articles 29, 31, 34
In-Class Film: The Life and Times of Harvey Milk (part 1)

Day 15
Sexuality (continued)
In-Class Film: The Life and Times of Harvey Milk (part 2)

Day 16  Class  
Readings: WVFV Article 15; “Last Shame in America” [reader]  
In-Class Film: Corridor of Shame

Day 17  Gender  
Readings: WVFV Chapter 3, pages 105-120, Articles 19, 20

Day 18  Global and Local  
Readings: WVFV articles 18 (Report from the Bahamas), 44 (China), 49 (A Global Health Imperative)  
Exam Review

Day 19  Exam #2

Segment Three: Thinking Key Issues, Working to Create a Just Society—Feminism in the World

Day 20  Inscribing Gender on the Body  
Readings: WVFV Chapter 5, pages 213-233, Articles 36, 37, 41  
In-Class Film: Killing Us Softly III (Jean Kilbourne)  
Analysis Paper #1 DUE

Day 21  Resisting Violence Against Women  
Readings: WVFV Chapter 10, ALL (intro and articles)

Day 22  Creating and Confronting Culture  
Readings: WVFV Chapter 9, ALL (intro and articles)  
In-Class Film: bell hooks  
Analysis Paper #2 DUE

Day 23  Women’s Work Inside and Outside the Home  
Readings: WVFV Chapter 8  
In-Class Film: The Motherhood Manifesto

Day 24  Women’s Work (continued)  
Film discussion and in-class activity

Day 25  Activism, Change, and Feminist Futures  
Readings: WVFV Chapter 13 ALL (intro and articles)  
Analysis Paper #3 DUE

Day 26  Discussion of Barbara Ehrenreich’s Nickel and Dimed

Day 27  Barbara Ehrenreich (continued)
Day 28  Exam Review

Final exam: according to University exam schedule