



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE –FALL 2017

WS3000 (A2): Introduction to Women’s Studies – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

INSTRUCTOR: Cheryl Bereziuk **PHONE:** 780 539 2739
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OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays and Thursdays 230 – 4 pm or by appointment

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: This course introduces the field of women’s studies, with emphasis on the theoretical foundations of feminist analysis and the diversity of debates within feminism. The primary focus surrounds issues of gender as a social, cultural and political construct and how this intersects with race, class and sexuality. The course is also an opportunity to explore the shared and diverse aspects of women’s experiences and show how women’s studies as an academic discipline challenges the methods, theories and knowledge of traditional disciplines.

PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE: None

REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS: Women Across Cultures (Third Edition) by Shawn Meghan Burn

DELIVERY MODE: The course work includes lectures, class discussions, in-class group and individual work.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Students will be taught concepts such as intersectionality, patriarchy, gender inequality, empowerment, contextualization and activism as they apply to the study of women’s lives. Other topics that will be explored from a global feminist perspective will be domestic and sexual violence, reproductive rights, women’s sexuality, women’s religious/spiritual experiences and feminist political activism. This course will also address how women are treated in Canada and internationally in terms of work and family lives as well as explore gendered exploitation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: As a result of taking this course students will be able to articulate the key concepts and theories in contemporary women’s studies and be able to apply those concepts and theories to understand their own and other women’s life experiences. Students will gain an appreciation of the similarities and differences between all women and will begin to understand the consequences of continued discrimination against women both personally and professionally.

TRANSFERABILITY: UA, UC, UL, AU, CUC, BU, GMU, KUC

***Warning:** Although we strive to make the transferability information in this document up-to-date and accurate, **the student has the final responsibility for ensuring the transferability of this course to Alberta Colleges and Universities.** Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferralberta.ca> or, if you do not want to navigate through few links, at <http://alis.alberta.ca/ps/tsp/ta/tbi/onlineSearch.html?SearchMode=S&step=2>

** Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. **Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

EVALUATIONS:

Exam #1 (Chapters 1, 2, 3)	25%
Exam #2 (Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7)	25%
Assignment	20%
Exam #3 (Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11)	30%
Total	100%

Any incomplete grades or grade contentions must be done BEFORE the last scheduled lecture (except for the final exam of course). After the last scheduled lecture all grades, as they appear on moodle, will stand. Any grade contentions for exams or assignments must be done in writing (word processed) and provide a detailed justification why the grade should be reconsidered with evidence (such as reference to specific page numbers and information in the text).

As per the GPRC Policy on Student Rights and Responsibilities It is the student’s responsibility to write tests at the times scheduled by the instructor. If a student has a valid and serious reason for being unable to attend an exam, the instructor must be advised **in person before** the exam is administered. Failure to notify the instructor of an absence and/or lack of a valid serious reason will result in a grade of 0 with no option to write a deferred exam or make up assignment. Permission to grant a deferred exam is at the discretion of the instructor and is contingent only for serious

emergency situations and presented to the instructor in person. Only the most extreme of situations will be granted a deferral if advance permission is not sought from the instructor. **Email requests will not be entertained.** Multiple requests for deferred exams or assignments are not granted irrespective of reason(s). Deferred exams must be completed and graded before the next scheduled exam or the grade will remain zero.

Exams can consist of multiple-choice, short and long answer questions. Exact details will be given to you later in the term regarding each specific exam structure. Students are not permitted to leave the exam room once the exam has started until the exam has been completed and turned in. All electronic devices are prohibited from use at any time during exams. All exam marks are final. This means you cannot rewrite an exam because of a poor grade and there are no extra assignments to make up for a poor exam grade. For the final exam students will have two hours from the start time to complete the exam.

The paper/assignment must be word-processed. It is important to save a copy of any written work handed in for credit or grading. Details on the assignment will be given to you on a separate handout at the beginning of the term.

Assignments are due on the date set by the instructor at the beginning of class in hardcopy-paper format. Do not print double-sided. The instructor does NOT accept emailed assignments.

Unauthorized late assignments will have a 5% per day late penalty applied to the assigned grade (including weekend days). If there is a valid reason for an extension, it must be requested in person prior to the due date although students should be advised that extensions are rarely granted in lieu of the late penalty.

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	90-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-89		C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

August 31	Class begins
October 3	Exam #1 (Chapters 1, 2, 3: Introduction to global women's studies; Women's low status and power, Reproductive health and reproductive rights)
November 7	Exam #2 (Chapters 4, 5, 6, 7: Women's sexuality and sexual rights, Women's work, Women, development and environmental sustainability, Women and globalization)
November 21	Assignment due
December 7	Last scheduled lecture
TBA (December 9 - 19)	Exam # (Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11: Women and religion, Women in politics, National and local women's movements, Transnational women's movements and networks)

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES: As per the GPRC Policy on Student Rights and Responsibilities It is the student's responsibility to arrive on time and remain for the duration of scheduled classes. Regular attendance is critical to success in this course. Should a student be unable to attend a class, it is the student's responsibility to acquire the missed material preferably from a fellow student and to complete the assigned readings. Missed classes will not be considered as a sufficient reason for missing an exam even if the date of the exam was changed during class time. The instructor does not lend out lecture notes.

Learning is an active process that will take effort on your part. Students are expected to read the chapters in advance of lectures, participate in activities and discussions in the classroom, and *communicate with the instructor when difficulties are encountered with the course material*. Students are responsible for learning all of the assigned chapters, even if all the material has not been covered in lecture, as well as any other topic or video covered during class time.

Students are expected to display a professional attitude and behavior in the classroom including academic honesty, respect for and cooperation with your colleagues and the instructor, attention to colleague's questions and the instructor's response, and a determination to meet deadlines. Students who are unable to meet these expectations will be required to leave the class in the interest of preserving the learning environment for the other students.

Because the issues we will be discussing are complex and controversial, there are bound to be many different opinions about them. An important ground rule for this course is a commitment from all students to help build a respectful learning environment where we are all comfortable expressing our views and learn from one another. You are encouraged to keep an open mind, allow for the exchange of views, and respect opposing viewpoints. Also keep in mind that some of the issues we will address will be highly personal so consider the types of responses you are willing to share with other people in this class. It will be expected that all individuals will maintain confidentiality of the class discussions but you do not have to share experiences you would rather not disclose. Don't be afraid, however, of carefully examining what you believe and why you believe it. Also be cognizant of the fact that women's studies is an academic discipline that although draws from women's personal experiences is not meant to be a substitute for personal counseling nor an entertaining or dramatic chat session more suited to daytime talk shows. One of the difficult aspects of this course is that we will examine how we have been systematically taught and internalized misinformation about ourselves and others. We will also be confronting how we participate in this process ourselves. The issues confronted in this course will affect some of us deeply and personally. Please be gentle with yourself should issues arise for you and feel free to talk to the instructor about such matters or for a referral for counseling should the need arise.

The instructor does not allow the use of electronic devices at any time during classes. If you believe you have a valid reason for using a computer or electronic device during class time this must be negotiated with the instructor in advance. All cell phones and electronic devices must be both turned off and put away in purses/briefcases for the duration of class time and you may not ever record any aspect of the lecture nor take photographs of overheads/notes. Any cell phone use or

ringing/buzzing during class time will mean you will forfeit your device to the instructor for the remainder of the class.

If you have a disability, please self-identify to the instructor if you require any specialized supports.

Please be sure to familiarize yourself with moodle as all communication with students outside of class and office hours will be done via email to your gprc email account. Be sure to check your college email often or forward messages to your regular email account. Please also be sure to specify exactly which course you are in when contacting the instructor.

STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Calendar at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies>

Instructors reserve the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services on written assignments.

Instructors also reserve the right to ban the use of any form of electronics (cell phones, Blackberries, iPods, tablets, scanning pens, electronic dictionaries, etc.) during class and during exams.

****Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.