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WST 220 Introduction to Women's Studies

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LEHMAN COLLEGE OF THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
Women's Studies Program and Freshman Year Initiative



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WST 220-Introduction to Women's Studies

Fall 2018

M/W 11:00-12:15 pm

Carman Hall-Room 222

e-mail: bertrade@lehman.cuny.edu

Prof. Bertrade NN Banoum

Office Hrs: M 3:30-4:30 pm

And by Appt: Room 221CA

Tel. 718-960-8669/960-1160

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is an examination of the forces that shape women's lives from the perspective of various disciplines such as psychology, sociology, masculinity theory, and history. It also explores ways in which gender intersects with ethnicity, race, and socio-economic class to form social constructs. We will use theoretical, historical and cross-cultural frameworks to explore cultural representations of women, various aspects of women's experiences, both with public institutions and personal relationships, as well as ways in which their lives have been shaped by structures of gender inequality. Special attention will be placed on feminism and women as agents of local and global social change.

LEARNING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This interdisciplinary and cross-cultural course will foster students' understanding of women's studies as an academic discipline in light of concepts and theories proposed by feminist, gender and women's studies scholars. We will examine their applicability across cultures within the US and among selected societies in Africa, Asia, Australia, the Caribbean, Europe and Latin America. The course is also designed to empower young women and men and allow them to become agents of positive social change.

The course is writing intensive and satisfies the following skills: critical thinking, oral expression, writing skills, library/data base/information literacy.

In this course, you are expected to:

- Learn what the interdisciplinary field of Women's Studies is.
- Identify key concepts, contexts, events, figures, institutions, movements, processes, organizations, themes, theories and practices in Women's Studies.
- Compare and contrast experiences of women across cultures in the US and beyond.
- Identify intersections of gender with race, ethnicity, class, nationality, religion, ability, age, sexuality and other identities.
- Learn the historical development of the feminist movement and key topics of feminism.
- Develop critical thinking skills and improve written communication skills, writing to learn.

- Develop an ability to participate actively in class discussions, making informed arguments and treating peers' contributions both critically and respectfully.

COURSE FORMAT

Lectures, readings, screenings, on-line databases/Blackboard, and class discussions -- drawing on literary/oral traditions, historical, anthropological, philosophical, psychological, sociological, and autobiographical sources -- will be used to elicit new concepts and gain a better understanding of the discipline of Women's Studies.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Regular class attendance is mandatory. More than four unexcused absences will adversely affect your grade. You are expected to come to class prepared, i.e. having done all assigned readings in advance, to participate in class discussions on the issues raised.

ASSESSMENT

- This is a **Writing Intensive Class** that entails **Sustained Reading/Viewing Responses to Texts/Films**, as well as **Blog Writing** following every course unit.
- **Midterm Examination** and **Final Examination**: each covers program materials and topics, and consists of fill-in-the-blank and essay questions.
- **Research Project** to be defined the first couple of weeks into the semester, in collaboration with my FYI Block colleagues.

A "ZERO TEXTBOOK COST" COURSE

No textbook is required for this class. All course materials are Open Educational Resources (OER) and will be posted on Blackboard for your perusal.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

bell hooks. *Feminism Is for Everybody: Passionate Politics*. South End Press, 2000.
Judy Norsigian. *Our Bodies Ourselves*. Boston Women's Health Book Collective, 2011.
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. *We Should All Be Feminists*. New York: Anchor Books, 2015.
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. *Dear Ijeawele, or A Feminist Manifesto in Fifteen Suggestions*, A. Knopf, 2017.
Peggy Orenstein. *Girls & Sex: Navigating The Complicated New Landscape*. Harper, 2016.
Cordelia Fine. *Delusions of Gender: How Our Minds, Society, and Neurosexism Create Difference*, 2010
Margaret Atwood. *The Handmaid's Tale*. Random House, 1986. Many useful feminist websites/databases on Bb.

GRADING RUBRIC

The following is a general guide to determining your final grade:

Attendance & Participation Evaluation _____	20%
Feminist Project/ Journal/Response Papers _____	20%

Midterm Examination _____	30%
Final Examination _____	30%

A = 92+	A- = 90-91	B+ = 86-89	B = 82-85	B- = 80-81	C+ = 76-79
C = 72-75	C- = 70-71	D+ = 66-69	D = 62-65	D- = 60-61	F = 0-59

COURSE OUTLINE – I reserve the right to adjust the course outline if the need arises.

- Aug. 27/29** **General Introduction to the Course: Syllabus/Texts/Assignments/Assessment. What Is Women’s Studies?**
Readings on Origins, Evolution, Critical Terms, Core Concepts, and Theoretical Frameworks.
Screening: Makers: Beverly Guy-Sheftall on Women’s Studies.
- Sep. 03** **LABOR DAY. NO CLASSES. COLLEGE CLOSED.**
- Sep. 05&12** **Social Construction of Gender: Women, Men, Femininities, Masculinities & LGBTQ. Institutions That Shape Our Lives: Family, Work, Education, Media, Law, Religion, etc**
Readings: *Night to His Day*, Judith Lorber; *Delusions of Gender*, Cordelia Fine
The Medical Construction of Gender, Suzanne Kessler
X: A Fabulous Child’s Story, Lois Gould; *Baby X Animated Short Film*; *Paula Stone Williams*
Screening: *Complexities of Gender*; *Gender Performativity*, *I Am Jazz*; *El Canto del Colibri*
- Sep. 10** **ROSH HASHANAH. NO CLASSES. COLLEGE CLOSED.**
- Sep. 19** **NO CLASSES SCHEDULED.**
- Sep. 17-26** **Genealogies, Trajectories, and Defining Documents/Statements of Feminism**
Readings: *The Seneca Falls Women’s Rights Convention*, 1848; *The Declaration of Sentiments*
The Problem That Has No Name, Betty Friedan; *National Organization for Women (NOW)*
Feminist Politics, bell hooks; *Blame It on Feminism*, Susan Faludi; *A Day Without Feminism*
Screening: *Makers: Women Who Make America (part 1)*. *Ms. Magazine*
_____ *We Should All Be Feminists*, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie; *HeForShe*, Emma Watson
Women Who Make America/Ms. Magazine Covers Response Assigned on September 26.
- Oct. 01-03** **Women of Color, Queer and Trans Feminisms: Origins and Evolutions**
Readings: Combahee River Collective, *A Black Feminist Statement*
Womanism, Alice Walker; *Toward a New Vision*, Patricia Hill Collins;
The Master’s Tools Will Never Dismantle The Master’s House, Audre Lorde
Compulsory Heterosexuality, Adrienne Rich
Chicana Feminism, Cherrie Moraga; *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*, Gloria Anzaldua
Written Response Assignment Is Due on October 1st.
- Oct. 08** **COLUMBUS DAY. NO CLASSES. COLLEGE CLOSED.**
- Oct.10-17** **Intersectionality: Power, Privilege and Difference (Intersecting Identities and Oppressions)**
Sexism, Racism, Colorism, Classism, Colonialism, Ageism, Ableism, Globalism, Heterosexism,
Imperialism, Ethno-Nationalism, Nativism and other isms, Homophobia, and Transphobia.
Readings: *White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack*, Peggy McIntosh

Age, Race, Class, & Sex: Women Redefining Difference; No Hierarchy of Oppression, Audre Lorde;
#Intersectionality: The Fourth Wave Feminist Twitter Community, Tegan Zimmerman
Screening: *Intersectional Feminism, The Urgency of Intersectionality*, Kimberlé Crenshaw
Matrix of Domination, Patricia Hill Collins

Oct. 22-24 **MIDTERM EXAMINATION**

Oct. 29-31 **Gender, Women's Body, Beauty and Sexuality: Body Image, Beauty Standards**

Readings: *The Beauty Myth*, Naomi Wolf; *The Cult of Virginity*, Jessica Valenti
If Men Could Menstruate, Gloria Steinem; *Breast Buds and the Training Bra*;
Ethnicity and Body Consciousness; *The Black Beauty Myth*;
Screening: *Miss Representation. Still Killing Us Softly 4. How Advertising...*, Kilbourne
Women Make Movies Clips: *Sexy Inc. Girl Power. The Fat Body (In)Visible*;
Strength to Resist; Arresting Ana. Ana Death. Dark Girls, Light Girls

Nov. 05-14 **Health and Reproductive Justice: Healthcare Systems and Reproductive Rights**

Readings: The Boston Women's Health Book Collective: *Our Bodies Ourselves*;
(International) Planned Parenthood; the Feminization of HIV/AIDS.
Screening: *Makers: Women Who Make America II; Roe v. Wade*
Clips of *The Fragile Promise of Choice: Abortion in the US Today*.

Nov. 19-28 **Gender-Based Violence: Violence Against Women (VAW)**

Readings: What Is Title IX? CUNY Sexual Misconduct Policy
Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School, AAUW Report.
Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color,
Kimberlé Crenshaw; Hashtag Activism: #MeToo, #TimeIsUp; TIME Silence Breakers
Screening: *Violence Against Women – It's a Men's Issue*, Jackson Katz.
A Call to Men, Tony Porter, Russell Wilson, Men vs. Violence Against Women.

Dec. 03-10 **Women Organizing: Local, Global and Transnational Feminisms**

Readings: *Bringing the Global Home*, Charlotte Bunch; *Manifesta*, Baumgarten and Richards
Screening: *Gender Equality*, Meghan Markle; *The Girl Who Demanded School*, Kakenya Ntaiya, *A Saudi Woman Who Dared to Drive*, Manal al Sharif
He Named Me Malala, Malala Yousaifza

Girls, Women and the United Nations: UN Women's Agenda

Reading: *The Beijing Platform for Action, CEDAW*

Screening: Makers: Once And For All.

Dec.12 Review. **Last Day of Fall Classes. Term Project Due.**

Dec. 19 **Final Examination**

GROUND RULES

Accommodating Disabilities: Lehman College is committed to providing access to all programs and curricula to all students. Students with disabilities who may need classroom accommodations are encouraged to register with the Office of Student Disability Services. **For more information, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services, Shuster Hall, Room 238, phone number, 718-960-8441.**

The Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) and the Science Learning Center (SLC) are two of the tutoring centers on campus. The ACE provides appointment-based and drop-in tutoring in the humanities, social sciences, and writing, as well as general writing and academic skills workshops. The SLC provides drop-in tutoring for natural science courses. For more information, **please visit their websites or call 718-960-8175 (ACE) or 718-960-7707 (SLC).**

The Counseling Center (Old Gym Bldg, Rm 114) creates inclusive spaces and fosters open dialogue with students, faculty and staff by providing Counseling, Consultation, Confidential Therapy, Coaching, and Psycho-Educational services. All students are treated with respect and are seen as individuals with unique strength.

Academic Integrity and Plagiarism Policy: Academic honesty and integrity are fundamental to the mission of Lehman College and are binding upon all its members. Students are responsible for the honest completion and representation of their work, for the appropriate citation of sources and for respect of others' academic endeavors. Included among the most rigorous sanctions for student academic misconduct is a lowered overall course grade, a failing grade in the course, disciplinary probation, and/or expulsion from the College. **For more information on the academic integrity policy, please refer to the relevant College website.**

Attendance/Absence/Lateness: If you are going to be absent due to an emergency, please email me to let me know but **remember it is your responsibility to get the lesson notes and/or assignments from one of your classmates.** It is imperative that you **get contact information for at least three (3) of your classmates** to ensure that you keep up to date with course material. Students who are consistently late tend to not do as well as students who arrive on time. So be punctual! **Excessive absence and/or lateness will affect your participation grade.**

Assignments: With the exception of examinations, your assignments must be typed double spaced in 12 point Times New Roman font, contain one-inch margins, and be free of spelling and grammatical errors. **Assignments are due at the start of class on their due date.**

Blackboard is an excellent course tool that we will be using primarily for announcements, assignments,

documents, links, and discussion boards. To have access to Blackboard, you need to activate your Lehman College e-address immediately at the IT Center located in the plaza level of Carman Hall or call # 718 960 1111.

Cell Phones et al: Please turn your cell phones on **silent** before class starts. Everyone can hear your phone on vibrate! Please **do not answer your phone and do not text during class**. If you must use your phone because of an emergency, discreetly and politely walk out to the hall. **Excessive attention to your phone during class will affect your participation grade.**