LIBS 397/Anth 450: Introduction to Women’s Studies/Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective
COURSE SYLLABUS: Fall 2012

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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:


Course Description:
This course provides an introduction to the theories and methods of women’s/gender studies. The course incorporates topics from the US as well as cross-cultural studies of gender in the contemporary world.

Student Learning Outcomes:
1. Students will learn to comprehend the underlying theories and methods pertaining to women’s studies/feminist studies
2. Students will learn to think and write analytically about feminist/gender issues
3. Students will compare and contrast issues faced by women in the U.S. and cross-culturally

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities/ Assessments
This course consists of activities and assessments to assist you in achieving the learning outcomes for this course. It is vital that you come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings. There will be frequent in-class writing assignments based on the scheduled readings. Students are expected to be prepared to discuss and write analyses of each reading assignment. Each of these assignments and/or quizzes will be worth 15 points. Because coming to class and being prepared is vital to student comprehension and the development of analytical skills students will be awarded 25 points for attendance and participation. Five points will be deducted for each absence. Students who exceed five absences will be dropped from the course. I also reserve the right to deduct an additional two points for non-participation in class discussions.
There will be two essay exams in this course. Each exam will be worth 50 points. The final exam is not comprehensive and only those students who provide adequate documentation will be permitted to make up exams at the same time that they take the final exam. Exams in the course will cover material from the reading assignments, lectures, class discussions and any films shown during the semester. All exams will require students to engage in critical analyses of the materials covered.

Each student will write two three-page critical reviews of two articles from the two readers. These must be selected from among the articles not covered on the course syllabus. Each paper will be worth 25 points. The papers must provide a brief summary of the content of the article and a critical analysis based on class readings and lectures. Note: The critical analysis should be the longest portion of the paper.

**Grading**

In class and home assignments are worth 15 points each and will be graded on the following criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>In Class/Homework Papers</th>
<th>Review Papers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student followed directions</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student answered question posed (rather than got off track, or discussed topics not germane to the course)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student paper contributes to discussion and moves topic forward with substance and depth</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student uses critical thinking &amp; evidence from texts &amp; lectures (rather than anecdote or personal opinion)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student uses proper grammar, complete sentences, spell-check &amp; cites when appropriate</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Score</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
<td><strong>25</strong></td>
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**Grading Scale**

<p>| 90-100 % | A |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>65-79</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>56-64</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>&lt; 56</td>
<td>F</td>
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**ACCESS**

**COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**
Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have during my office hours or by email. I am also available by appointment, so feel free to call. I will do my best to clarify any issues you bring to me.

**COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES**

**Cheating:** Anyone caught cheating for any reason will receive an F for the assignment and depending on the seriousness of the incident an F in the course. All assignments in this class are meant to be done independently by each student. So be sure not to share your work with anyone.

Plagiarism is a serious form of cheating in which a student (or professor) fails to give proper credit to an author for their work and ideas. Always cite the sources of your information and remember that even if you summarize and paraphrase someone else's ideas you must give them credit.

**ADA Statement**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services  
Texas A&M University-Commerce  
Gee Library 132  
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835  
Fax (903) 468-8148  
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu  
Student Disability Resources

**Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook).
Reading Schedule: Please note that the Reading Schedule is subject to change as circumstances warrant. I will announce any changes as far in advance as possible.

Week One: August 28-30
- Zinn, et al., The Five Sexes Revisited, p.13
- What it Means to be Gendered Me, p. 72
- Brettell and Sargent, The Role of Women in Human Evolution, p. 16

Week Two: September 4-6
- Zinn, et al., Doing Time, Doing Masculinity, 82
- The Well Coifed Man p. 87
- Yearning for Lightness, p. 100

Week Three: September 11-13
- Zinn, et al., Because She Looks like a Child, 163
- The Globalization of Sexual Identities, p. 186
- Brettell and Sargent, Is There a Muslim Sexuality?, p. 255

Week Four: September 18-20
- Zinn, et al., Becoming 100% Straight, p. 197
- Brettell and Sargent, Rituals of Manhood, p. 211
- Hijras: An Alternate Sex/Gender in India, p.275

First Critical Review Paper due Thursday, September 20

Week Five: September 25-27
- Brettell and Sargent: The Named and the Nameless, p. 215
- The Making and Unmaking of Persons, p. 237

Exam I, Thursday, September 27

Week Six: October 2-4
- Brettell and Sargent: Gender and the Stories Pittsburgh Police Officers Tell about Using Physical Force, p. 227
- Zinn, et al., Getting to Equal, p324
- Separating the Men from the Moms, p. 330

Week Seven: October 9-11
- Brettell and Sargent: Dowry, Bride Burning and Female Power in India, 308
- Lifeboat Ethics: Mother Love and Child Death in Northeast Brazil, p., 33
- Female Genital Cutting, p.491

Week Eight: October 16-18
- Zinn, et al., Racializing the Glass Escalator, p.373
- Boundary Lines, p. 403
- Keeping Women Down and Out, p. 418

Week Nine: October 23-25
- Brettell and Sargent: Factory as Home and Family, p. 532
- Sexuality and Discipline among Filipina Domestic Workers in Hong Kong, p. 545
- Zinn, et al, “I’m Here but I’m There”, p. 294
Second Review Paper Due Thursday, October 25

Week Ten: October 30-November 1
Zinn, et al., Katrina, Black Women, and the Deadly Discourse on Poverty in America, p. 125
Deploying Race, Gender, Class, and Sexuality in the Iraq War, p. 114

Exam II, Thursday, November 1

Week Eleven: November 6-8
Brettell and Sargent: Between a Rock and a Hard Place, p. 362
Matrifocality, Power and Gender Relations in Jamaica, p. 377
The Female World of Cards and Holidays, p. 385

Week Twelve: November 13-15
Zinn, et al., White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack, p. 235
Age, Race, Class, and Sex, p.239
Latino Masculinities in the Post-9/11 Era, p. 259

Week Thirteen: November 20
Moving Up With Kin and Community, p. 344
Just One of the Guys?, p. 386
Thanksgiving Holiday, November 22-23

Week Fourteen: November 27-29
Brettell and Sargent, Gender and War, p. 21
The Cultural Nexus of Aka Father-Infant Bonding, p. 39
Cities of Women, p. 123

Week Fifteen: December 4-6
Brettell and Sargent, Gender and Ritual: Giving Birth the American Way, p. 455
Zinn, et al., Rereading Sex and the City, p. 486

Final Exam, Tuesday, December, 11, 1:15-3:15