

CAPILANO UNIVERSITY			
COURSE OUTLINE			
TERM:	FALL 2014	COURSE NO:	WGST 224
INSTRUCTOR:	TBA	COURSE NAME:	WOMEN AND HEALTH
OFFICE:	LOCAL:	SECTION NO(S):	CREDITS: 3
E-MAIL:			

COURSE FORMAT:

Three hours of class time, plus an additional hour delivered through on-line or other activities for a 15 week semester, which includes two weeks for final exams.

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

Note: Completion of WGST 100 and/or WGST 111 is recommended.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

What do sex and gender have to do with health? In this class we will consider the social construction of “sex,” “gender” and “health,” and how these constructions affects women’s health. We will approach these questions from multiple perspectives, including:

- Sex differences between women’s health and men’s health
- Variations in health among women
- Gendered dynamics between health care providers/systems and women

This class will provide an overview of women’s health issues, with a focus on North America, and will consider those issues in the context of how women live their lives. We will look at how health is influenced by the intersections of race and ethnicity, socio-economic class, dis/ability, age, gender and sexuality.

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of this course, a student will be able to:

- Discuss major topics in women's health in Canada
- Analyze the tension between biomedical and social constructivist worldviews, and how this tension informs research and practice in women’s health.
- Recognize various feminist perspectives on specific health issues relevant to women.
- Analyze barriers to accessing health care and/or achieving ‘health’ that exist for racialized, queer, and differently abled women as well as women experiencing violence and women living in poverty
- Describe various possibilities for overcoming these barriers.

COURSE WEBSITE:

<http://moodle.capilanou.ca>.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Boston Women's Health Book Collective & Norsigian, J. Our Bodies Ourselves. Touchstone Books, 2011.
- Varcoe, C., Hankivsky, O, & Morrow M. Women's health in Canada: Critical perspectives on theory and policy. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2007
- Skloot, R. The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks. New York: Crown Publishing, 2010 (*Capstone book*)

COURSE CONTENT:

Note: The order and topics may change. A detailed list of readings and assignments will be provided in class, and available on the course Moodle site.

<u>WEEK</u>	<u>TOPIC</u>
Week 1	Introduction to Women's Health Issues
Week 2	Definitions and Models: Feminism(s) and Health
Week 3	"Raging Hormones"
Week 4	Reproductive Rights and Justice
Week 5	Medicalization of Pregnancy and Childbirth
Week 6	Barriers to accessing health and healthcare
Week 7	Construction of human sex & sexuality
Week 8	Cancers and Sexually Transmitted Infections
Week 9	In-Class Debates
Week 10	Occupational and Mental Health
Week 11	Violence against women
Week 12	Term Paper Presentations
Week 13	Capstone Book Discussion
Week 14-15	Final Exam Period

EVALUATION PROFILE:

Midterm Exam	25%
Debate (Group mark)	15%
Research Paper:	
Proposal	5%
Peer Review	5%
Final Paper	25%
Online Exercises	15%
In-Class Participation	<u>10%</u>
	100%

ASSIGNMENTS:

Note: Assignment details and due dates can be found on the course website.

Term Paper: Students will research a topic relevant to women's health, with three elements to the assignment (proposal, peer review, and final paper.)

On-Line Exercises: Short discussion/reflection assignments on Moodle.

Participation: The participation grade is based on attendance and the general quality of contributions to the class over the course of the semester. It will be the quality, more than the quantity, of class preparation and participation that will count.

GRADING PROFILE:

A+ = 90 - 100%	B+ = 77 - 79%	C+ = 67 - 69%	D = 50 - 59%
A = 85 - 89	B = 73 - 76	C = 63 - 66	F = 0 - 49
A- = 80 - 84	B- = 70 - 72	C- = 60 - 62	

OPERATIONAL DETAILS:

Capilano University has policies on Academic Appeals (including appeal of final grades), Student Conduct, Cheating and Plagiarism, Academic Probation and other educational issues. These and other policies are available on the University website.

Office Hours: To be announced in the first class. Please note that email and Moodle messages will be read and answered during these times.

Attendance: Regular attendance is strongly recommended. When students are absent from class, they are still responsible for the material covered during their absence, including announcements, assigned readings and handouts.

Late Assignments: Marks will be deducted for lateness (% reduction per day). Late assignments must be delivered in class or to the instructor's office -- no email submissions will be accepted.

Missed Exams: Students will be allowed to make up exams and quizzes only under the following conditions: if a doctor's certificate of illness is provided; if suitable documentation is provided for other instances (i.e. death of a close family member); if **prior** approval of the instructor has been obtained.

Incomplete Grades: On rare occasions, a student may be in a situation that warrants the granting of an incomplete grade. Students seeking this grade should submit a written request as soon as the need becomes apparent.

English Usage: University-level writing skills are required for all assignments. Spelling, punctuation and grammatical errors will result in a reduced grade and, if they are excessive, may result in a refusal to grade the paper. See the English Writing Centre for help.

Operational details – continued

Electronic Devices: Laptops may be used only for course purposes in class, and cell phones must be turned off. No personal electronic devices (cell phones, calculators, electronic dictionaries, etc...) may be used during an examination without prior approval from the instructor.

Emergency Procedures:

Please familiarise yourself with the emergency procedures posted on the wall of your classroom.