

CAPILANO UNIVERSITY			
COURSE OUTLINES			
<b>TERM:</b>	<b>FALL 2014</b>	<b>COURSE NO:</b>	<b>WGST 240</b>
<b>INSTRUCTOR:</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>COURSE NAME:</b>	<b>GENDER, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY</b>
<b>OFFICE:</b>	<b>LOCAL:</b>	<b>SECTION NO(S):</b>	<b>CREDITS: 3</b>
<b>E-MAIL:</b>			

**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:** None

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

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course provides insight into the role that science and technology play in our society and their impact on the lives of women. Topics include an historical review of the role women have played in the development of science, investigation of the reasons for the traditionally low participation of women in scientific and technical fields, and the relationship between science and gender. Students will analyze how gender has been central to scientific endeavours — not only through the exclusion of women, but in the ways that masculinity has been constructed. A feminist perspective will highlight how this has affected the built environment, consumer choices, and women's and men's lives.

**COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

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

- Describe how science and technology affect all aspects of our society.
- Identify historical and contemporary women scientists.
- Analyze the relationship between science and gender.
- Critically analyze and evaluate scientific claims
- Identify models for more participatory scientific practices
- Describe and analyze gendered associations with various forms of technologies.
- Explain the impact of gendered assumptions about the use of technology on the division of labor and women's work, both productive and reproductive.

**COURSE WEBSITE:** <https://moodle.capilanou.ca>

**REQUIRED TEXT:**

Fox, Mary Frank, Johnson, Deborah G., and Sue Rosser.

Women, Gender, and Technology. University of Illinois Press, 2006.

Additional readings will be available online and in the Capilano University library.

**COURSE CONTENT:**

Note: The following list is a general guide to the topics to be covered each week. A detailed outline, complete with assigned readings, can be found on the course website.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topics</b>
<i>Week 1</i>	<b>Introduction to the course</b> Defining sex, gender, gender roles Identifying feminist approaches to science
<i>Week 2</i>	<b>Discovery and Doing: An Introduction to science &amp; technology</b> Mothers of Invention: A history of women in science
<i>Week 3</i>	<b>The gender gap in science &amp; technology</b> Girls and science education Barriers to women's entrance into science as practitioners
<i>Week 4</i>	<b>Nature/Nurture, a false dichotomy:</b> Genetic code Sociobiology: Scientific studies of difference
<i>Week 5</i>	<b>Gender and Biomedical Technologies</b> Constructions of Sameness: Plastic Surgery
<i>Week 6</i>	<b>History of gendered technology, household technologies &amp; domestic technology:</b> Labour-saving or enslaving? Gendered assumptions about the use of technology on the division of labour and women's work
<i>Week 7</i>	<b>Consuming Science and Technology</b> Women, Design, Consumption: Product case studies Stereotypical images in science and technological advertising
<i>Week 8</i>	<b>Producing Technology</b> Gender and the global high-tech underclass
<i>Week 9</i>	<b>Technology as language:</b> Women's voices/ Men's voices The social construction of computers
<i>Week 10</i>	<b>Mobile technology, networks, and gaming</b> Surveillance, cell phones, and the sex trade
<i>Week 11</i>	<b>Technology &amp; development issues:</b> a gendered perspective Gender, technology, and the representation of indigenous knowledge
<i>Week 12</i>	<b>Engendering environmental thinking:</b> A feminist analysis of the present crisis
<i>Week 13</i>	<b>Social justice and technology</b> Changing the world: Global issues, local initiatives
<i>Week 14-15</i>	<b>Final Exam Period</b>

**EVALUATION PROFILE:**

Topic review/ Annotated bibliography	15%
Assignments (journal entries, exercises)	20%
Research Paper	25%
Final Exam	30%
Participation	<u>10%</u>
	100%

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

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

Topic Review: Short paper (500 words) and annotated bibliography on an assigned topic.

Short Assignments/Journal:

Written assignments (each one page, single spaced) will be assigned weekly, to be collected twice during the term for overall evaluation.

Research Paper: Individual paper on a specific topic selected from a list of options.

Final Exam: Cumulative assessment from beginning of term.

Participation & 4<sup>th</sup> hour activities

Students are required to complete on-line reading and associated questions (organized on the course Moodle site), and participate in weekly discussion forums.

**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.

**Operational details** – continued

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.

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.