

CAPILANO UNIVERSITY COURSE OUTLINE			
TERM:	FALL 2014	COURSE NO:	WGST 100
INSTRUCTOR:	TBA	COURSE NAME:	INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN STUDIES
OFFICE:	LOCAL:	SECTION NO(S):	CREDITS: 3
E-MAIL:			

COURSE FORMAT:

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

COURSE PREREQUISITES:

None.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course provides an introduction to the discipline of Women's Studies and will examine the status of women in contemporary Canadian and North American society. The focus of this course will be women's experiences and analysis of their diversity, origins and context. We will look at how we construct our knowledge about our experiences as women or men in relation to other forms of identity. Throughout, an integrative, feminist approach will be used; highlighting that each element of identity is interconnected and that they interact within a system of power relations.

COURSE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

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

- Explain how gender and other forms of identity are socially constructed
- Define key terms and concepts in the discipline of Women's & Gender Studies
- Understand the diversity of experiences of women, both within and between cultures
- Outline the history of feminist activism and critically assess the state of gender equality in Canada and other countries
- Identify how multiple forms of identity (gender, "race"/ethnicity, class, sexuality) can intersect to create complex hierarchies of privilege and disadvantage
- Critically analyze how feminist perspectives can contribute to an understanding of power relations in multiple contexts
- Think critically about controversial issues and current debates within feminism and gender studies
- Demonstrate research and writing skills appropriate for a first-year undergraduate

COURSE WEBSITE:

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

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Hobbs, Margaret & Carla Rice. Gender and Women's Studies in Canada: Critical Terrain. Toronto: Women's Press, 2013
- Other readings as assigned, either linked to on Moodle or as print copies.

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.

WEEK	TOPIC
<i>Week 1</i>	Introduction: What is Women's Studies?
<i>Week 2</i>	Foundations: Systems of privilege and inequality
<i>Week 3</i>	Disciplinary Approaches: Theories and the Construction of Knowledge
<i>Week 4</i>	Disciplinary Approaches: Constructions of Sex and gender
<i>Week 5</i>	Gendered Identities
<i>Week 6</i>	Cultural representations and media images of gender
<i>Week 7</i>	Body Images and Ideals: Conforming and resisting
<i>Week 8</i>	Health and Reproductive Rights
<i>Week 9</i>	Violence against Women
<i>Week 10</i>	Women and Global Restructuring
<i>Week 11</i>	Women, the New Economy, and Poverty
<i>Week 12</i>	Feminism, Activism & Social Change
<i>Week 13</i>	Discussion of Reviewed Books
<i>Week 14-15</i>	Final Exam Period

EVALUATION PROFILE:

Interview Assignment

• Questions	5%
• Paper	25%
Reading Test #1	10%
Reading Test #2	10%
Reading Journal	30%
Feminists in Focus	10%
Participation	<u>10%</u>
	100%

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	

ASSIGNMENTS:Interview Assignment:

Following guidelines handed out in class, each student will interview a woman *of a different generation* from their own and submit a 5-7 page (double spaced) type-written report and analysis.

Reading Tests:

Two tests designed to assess students' understanding of reading material and the central concepts discussed in the course.

Feminists in Focus:

A short paper (1.5-2 pages) on a well-known feminist, plus a brief presentation in class (max. 5 minutes)

Reading Journal:

Each week, students will write a minimum of one entry, based on the readings and other course material for that week.

Participation:

Along with regular attendance, both effort and quality of participation will determine the participation grade. Quality participation involves fully completing the assigned readings and being prepared to discuss them. The fourth hour activities for this class includes regular participation in the Moodle discussion forums.

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.