

Syllabus

Introduction to Women's Studies

Sul Ross State University
The University of the Big Bend

WS 2301.W01
Spring 2015
Instructor: Dr. Sharon Hileman

Office: MAB 114
Phone: 432-837-8015
e-mail: shileman@sulross.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION: As a discipline, the goal of Women's Studies is to enhance students' knowledge, interest, and understanding of the contributions, challenges, needs, and aspirations of women--and of the way that gender shapes the lives of both women and men. Furthermore, Women's Studies seeks to re-examine material from much of the rest of the curriculum with a focus on women's perspectives and an awareness of the gender system. Women's Studies, then, is the study of history, language, literature, and culture from new and illuminating perspectives. In focusing on women as a group, we must, by definition, study the interaction of race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, geography, class, age, sexuality, and disability. Women are a group that encompasses great diversity. Women's Studies is a dynamic and rapidly expanding interdisciplinary field of study and provides its students with the opportunity to use several theoretical/critical frames such as the historical, sociological, psychological, political, legal, literary, ethnographic, and aesthetic. In the last forty years, Women's Studies programs have been introduced at leading universities throughout the world.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Students will be able to

- Analyze the social construction of gender and sexuality.
- Explain the effects of the gender system in the lives of both women and men.
- Define gender issues using the lenses of race, class, ethnicity, age, and disability.
- Describe the history of the women's movement, particularly the first and second wave.
- Discuss issues crucial to women's lives, including health, work, the family, and gender violence.
- Develop skills in critical thinking.
- Demonstrate the ability to write clearly and logically on assigned course topics.

REQUIRED BOOKS:

Susan M. Shaw and Janet Lee, *Women's Voices, Feminist Visions: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, 6th ed. New York: McGraw Hill, 2015. **You must get the 6th edition!**

Terry Tempest Williams, *Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place*. New York: Vintage, 2001. Any edition is fine.

The reading assignments are posted under the "Assignments" button. In addition to the reading in the texts, students are responsible for the content material in the external links and in the "Course Documents."

ATTENDANCE: Distance Learning (Online) Absences/Non-Participation Statement:

Policies in effect for on-campus, traditional classroom instruction courses also apply to students enrolled in distance education courses, including Web-based and ITV courses. The University allows a maximum of 20% absences in a course before an instructor may drop a student for excessive absences. In Web courses, this policy is interpreted as not participating for more than three weeks in a long semester, one week in a summer session, or three days in the midwinter session. Any student dropped for non-participation will receive an F in the course dropped. Inactivity may include the following: not logging on to the course, not submitting assignments, not participating in scheduled activities, not communicating with the instructor by phone or email, and/or not following the instructor's participation guidelines stated in the syllabus.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

There will be three exams, each covering approximately one-third of the course. Exams are objective and short answer. In addition, students will be required to participate in the Discussion Board a minimum of once weekly. There will be reading questions and a writing assignment based on *Refuge*. Points are also given to students who take the pre-test and post-test exams. **Be sure to take the pre-test during the first week of class!**

GRADING:

There are 1000 points possible in the course, distributed in the following ways:

Exams (200 points each)	600 points
Discussion Boards (20 points each)	240 points
<i>Refuge</i> assignment	140 points
Pre-Test	10 points
Post-Test	10 points

Grades will be determined by the number of points:

900-1000 points	A
800-899 points	B
700-799 points	C
600-699 points	D
Below 600 points	F

PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Plagiarism is defined by the American Association of University Professors as "taking over the ideas, methods, or written words of another, without acknowledgement and with the intention that they be taken as the work of the deceiver It is theft of a special kind, for the true author still retains the original ideas and words, yet they are **diminished** as that author's property and a fraud is committed upon the audience that believes that those ideas and words originated with the deceiver. To turn in another student's paper or portions of that paper or to submit a purchased paper is plagiarism. To copy (phrases, sentences, paragraphs, or pages) from a book, article, or web page is plagiarism. **Anyone who plagiarizes will be given a "zero" on that particular assignment.** The policy is the same for exams. **Anyone who cheats on an exam will be given a "zero" for that particular test.**

DISABILITIES:

Accessibility Services, part of Counseling and Accessibility Services, provides support and assistance to students with physical disabilities, including hearing and visual impairments; psychological disabilities; learning disabilities; and Attention Deficit Disorder. To be eligible for services a student must be admitted to the university, have a documented disability, and register with the Accessibility Services office. Contact the Counseling and Accessibility Services, in Ferguson Hall 113 C at (432) 837-8399.

MULTICULTURAL/CORE REQUIREMENT:

This class, Introduction to Women's Studies, WS 2301 W01 Fall 2014, , meets three units in the 040 Language, Philosophy, and Culture component in the recently revised core curriculum and the multicultural requirement in the 2012-2014 catalog.

WRITING ASSISTANCE:

For those students with access to the Sul Ross campus, please utilize the Writing Lab in MAB 102 (TEL: 837-8270 or writing@sulross.edu for students at a distance). Excellent tutors are available to assist you with all your writing needs--from developmental through advanced.

DISTANCE STATEMENT:

Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should submit online assignments only through Blackboard which requires secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

Week One (Week of January 20, 2015)

Reading: Susan Shaw and Janet Lee, *Women's Voices, Feminist Visions*: Chapter One, "Women's Studies: Perspectives and Practices," pp. 19-27 and Readings # 4, 6, 8, and 9 in the chapter. Also, read "Feminist Men" on p. 715.

If you do not already have the book, you can read the scanned version of Chapter One on the Course Documents page. While all of Chapter One has been scanned, you need to read only the material assigned above.

January 24: Discussion Board post due by midnight.

Week Two (Week of January 26, 2015)

Reading: Shaw and Lee, *Women's Voices, Feminist Visions*: Chapter Two, "Systems of Privilege and Inequality in Women's Lives," pp. 51-71 and Readings # 15, 18, and 19 in the chapter. Also, read "Ain't I A Woman" at this web site: .

January 31: Discussion Board post due by midnight.

Week Three (February 2, 2015)

Reading: Shaw and Lee, *Women's Voices, Feminist Visions*: Chapter Three, "Learning Gender," pp. 116-35 and Readings # 20, 24, 25, and 27 in the chapter.

Lecture: "Gender System." Go to the "Course Documents" section of our web pages, click on the "Lectures" folder, and read the lecture on "Gender Systems."

February 7: Discussion Board post due by midnight.

Week Four (February 9, 2015)

Reading: Shaw and Lee, *Women's Voices*, Chapter Four: "Inscribing Gender on the Body," pp. 181-204 and Readings # 28, 29, 30, 33, and 34 in the chapter. Read about Female Genital Mutilation at this web site: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs241/en/>

February 14: Discussion Board post due by midnight.

Week Five (February 16, 2015)

Exam 1

The exam is a timed test consisting of multiple choice and short answer questions. The exam will include all reading assignments from the text, course documents, and web sites. It counts 200 points or 1/5 of the course grade.

A practice test will be available from Feb. 16-19. The actual exam will be available Feb. 20-21 from 6:00 a.m. Friday until midnight Saturday. There are no make-ups. Specific instructions are given on the Exams page.

February 20-21: Exam 1

Week Six (February 23, 2015)

Reading: Shaw and Lee, Chapter Five: "Media and Culture," pp. 250-75 and Readings # 38, 40, 43, 44, and 48 in that chapter.

February 28: Discussion Board post due by midnight.

Week Seven (March 2, 2015) Women's History Month

Reading: Shaw and Lee, Chapter Six: "Sex, Power, and Intimacy," pp. 313-33 and Readings # 49 and 50 in the chapter.

To celebrate women's history, read the information on these early feminists: Lucretia Mott, Lucy Stone, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Frederick Douglass and look at their pictures. Read the document titled "Declaration of Sentiments from Seneca Falls" as well. All of these materials are on the Course Documents page under "Handouts." Then view the short videos below on the Seneca Falls Convention and Alice Paul's efforts to obtain suffrage (the vote) for women.

March 7: Discussion Board post due by midnight.

Seneca Falls Video (password: ws2301): [Seneca Falls](#) from [Ann Johnson](#) on [Vimeo](#).

Watching this video is part of your assignment for Week Seven.

Video on Alice Paul: [Click on this link.](#)

Watching this video is part of your assignment for Week Seven.

Week Eight (March 9, 2015)

Shaw and Lee, Chapter Seven: "Health and Reproductive Justice" pp. 362-94 and Chapter 12: "Religion and Spirituality" pp. 635-49..

March 14: Discussion Board post due by midnight.

SPRING BREAK: Begin reading *Refuge: An Unnatural History of Family and Place*

Week Nine (March 23, 2015)

Continue reading *Refuge*

March 28: *Refuge* assignment due

Week Ten (March 30, 2015)

Practice Test and Exam 2

Specific dates and times for the practice test and exam will be provided later.

Week Eleven (April 6, 2015)

Reading: Shaw and Lee, Chapter Eight, "Family Systems, Family Lives," pp. 433-51 and Readings # 63 and 67 in the chapter..

In the lectures folder, read the lecture on the Flapper, the "liberated woman" of the 1920s.

April 11: Discussion Board post due by midnight.

Week Twelve (April 13, 2015)

Reading: Shaw and Lee, Chapter Nine, "Work Inside and Outside the Home," pp. 470-99 and Readings # 70, 71, 73, and 74 in the chapter.

April 18: Discussion Board post due by midnight.

Week Thirteen (April 20, 2015)

Reading: Shaw and Lee, Chapter Ten, "Resisting Gender Violence," 537-64 and Readings # 81, 82, and 83.

In the handout folder, read "Translations of Selected Russian Proverbs on Wife-beating."

April 25: Discussion Board post due by midnight.

Week Fourteen (April 27, 2015)

Reading: Shaw and Lee, Chapter Eleven, "State, Law, and Social Policy," pp. 582-604 and Readings # 85, 88, and 91.

In the lectures folder, read "Origins of the Modern Day Women's Movement." In the handouts folder, read "Handout to Accompany the Emergence of the Second Wave of American Feminism." Also in the handouts folder, read the brief biographical sketches of Betty Friedan, Bella Abzug, Gloria Steinem, Barbara Jordan, and Shirley Chisholm--all early leaders in the second wave.

May 2: Discussion Board post due by midnight.

Week Fifteen (May 4, 2015)

In Shaw and Lee, read "The World's Most Powerful Women 2013," pp. 698-701

In the lectures folder, read "How Far Have Women Really Come?" and "Summing Up Women's Studies--Title VII and Current Issues."

Final Exam Week

The final exam will be available May 11 and 12.