

Women's Studies 201 Intro to Women's Studies Tuesday, Thursday, Noon to 2:45 p.m., EDC386

Instructor: Joe Kadi, office Social Science 1054.

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Office hours: 2:45 – 3:15, Tuesdays and Thursdays, EDC 386, or by appointment.

Course description:

This course introduces students to the field of women's studies, and focuses on providing a helpful overview of relevant issues and concerns. The creation of women's studies is one of the significant achievements of the second-wave feminist movement. Feminists worked for many years to create a place in the academy to study and reflect on issues of gender, especially as they relate to sexuality, race and class, both globally and locally.

From its beginning, women's studies has been connected with feminist community organizing and social change work. In this course we will explore key concepts and theories that feminists use to make sense of the world, along with examining how the field of women's studies connects academic and activist work.

Objectives of the Course

- To understand key issues in women's lives, and the lives of marginalized communities.
- To gain knowledge of important historical forces and events.
- To appreciate the practical implications of feminist analysis in everyday life.
- To consider gender, race, and class, in both social terms and personal terms.
- To develop critical thinking skills.
- To become a more conscious, self-reflective person.
- To create a vibrant learning community based on participation and respect.
- To understand what social change is, and how it has impacted, and continues to impact, our world and our lives.

WARNING:

Some of the materials and topics in this class may include explicit content (violence, sexuality, profane language, objectionable or illegal conduct). If you feel any materials may cause you distress or severe discomfort, you are encouraged to speak with the professor and/or to take measures to ensure that you feel safe within the classroom. You will not be exempt from any assigned work but we will work together to accommodate your concerns. This class respects difference and diversity while welcoming thoughtful, critical debate and discussion. No one person's right to their beliefs may supersede another person's right to security and dignity. If you find you need more support than you can find from the class, contact the Student Union's Wellness Centre: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>

Student Agreement and Other Important Matters:

Students are expected to carefully read the Student Agreement, and sign it, after our first class. The Student Agreement explains important issues having to do with creating a respectful environment, ensuring confidentiality, setting up a distraction-free classroom, and so forth. If a student has concerns about the Student Agreement and needs to speak to me in order to negotiate a modified agreement, you need to come to discuss this with me. Otherwise, I expect that all students will sign the document, and follow the guidelines stated there.

Responsibility for attending and fulfilling the requirements for all aspects of the course resides with the student. The professor will not give out lecture notes, repeat information, nor provide replacement copies of material that was provided during regular class hours. The course includes a combination of individual assignments, group work, lectures, screenings, and readings.

A D2L portal has been set up for this course which allows for group correspondence, course announcements, assignment submissions, and other forms of communication. Students are expected to check D2L before the course for any last minute changes or cancellations. Students are also expected to check their email regularly.

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and prepared to work.

Plagiarism, defined as using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it, is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement on plagiarism provided at the end of the syllabus.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

Texts and readings:

Friedman and Valenti (editors), *Yes Means Yes: Visions of Sexual Female Power and a World Without Rape*, (Berkeley: Seal Press, 2008).

Suzuki, David, *The Legacy*, (Vancouver: Greystone, 2010).

These books are available from the UC bookstore. If the bookstore runs out, these can be purchased at local bookstores, or purchased online. The website www.goodbooks.com is a good place to check for secondhand books (make sure you take note of where the books are being sent from, as books being mailed from the US or England may not get here on time for our class).

Important note: In addition to the books listed above, there are several articles that are required reading; these will be posted on our D2L site. It is the students' responsibility to track our readings, locate the readings, and finish them before class begins.

Assignments and Evaluation:

Participatory Classroom, part I. 10%

Participatory Classroom, part II. 10%

Tests, one on four different days, worth 20% each, total 80%.

Refer to the document entitled 'Guidelines for the participatory classroom assignment', on our D2L site, which will explain that assignment in detail.

Participatory Classroom, a two-part assignment, each part worth 10% of the grade:

In this two-part assignment, students will write one 2 to 3 page paper near the beginning of term outlining goals and intentions regarding attendance and participation, and a second 2 to 3 page paper near the end of term, assessing whether these goals and intentions have been met. Each paper will be double-spaced, and printed with 12 point font; clear writing and strong organization is necessary. In the first paper, the student will set out their plan for their level of attendance, participation, and adherence to the Student Agreement. Considering that this is a participatory classroom, and that the success of a participatory classroom depends on each individual, this assignment will provide the chance for students to set out their intentions for the term. In the second part of the assignment, students will begin by assigning themselves a grade that they believe accurately reflects their attendance, participation, adherence to the Student Agreement, and depth of learning. They will explain their rationale for this grade by explaining how they have conducted themselves throughout the semester, and they will also refer to the first paper (intentions and goals set in the first paper will help frame the second paper).

This assignment will help students clarify their role in the participatory classroom, and it will help them clarify why they have chosen to take this course, in terms of considering questions such as: What are your desired learning outcomes? What do you think will be challenging? What issues interest you? For the first part of this assignment, the syllabus, course outline, and initial readings will help provide clarity about these learning outcomes. For the second part of the assignment, students will refer to key scholars and texts that have informed their work through the term.

In Part II of the assignment, the student's assessment will be considered in light of the instructor's observations, and the instructor will have final say concerning the grade the student has given themselves. Part I is due at the beginning of class on 22 May 2014. Part II is due 26 June 2014, at the beginning of class.

Tests (4 X 20% for 80% of the grade).

In these closed-book short tests, on 22 May, 29 May, 10 June, and 19 June, students will be asked to explain general concepts, ideas, and theories from the articles they have read that day. This will not involve memorizing word for word from the text, but will be a chance for students to explain these concepts in their own words. Two of the quizzes will be short answer; two of the quizzes will be short essay questions. Each test is worth 20 percent, adding up to a total of 80 percent of the overall grade. Quizzes will occur at the beginning of class, and will take 45 minutes of the class to complete. If a student notifies the professor ahead of time that they will be missing class on one of these days, that student will be able to make up the assignment. If a student does not notify the professor ahead of time that they will be missing class on one of these days, then that student will not be able to make up the assignment and they will receive 0 on the assignment.

Policy for Late Assignments

There is a strict lateness policy that will be followed in this class. For every day late, one grade level will be deducted (for example, if a student earns an A- on a paper and hands the paper in one day late, the grade will go down to a B+; if a student earns an A- on a paper and hands the paper in two days late, the grade will go down to a B). If the assignment is more than 3 days late, the instructor reserves the right to refuse to accept it and you will receive a grade of F. Students should always consult with the instructor if there is a valid reason for an extension on an assignment, as it is likely that a workable solution can be negotiated. Papers may not be sent over email, unless a student has received prior permission from the instructor. If the assignment is not submitted during regular class hours on the day that it is due, it will be considered one day late. Under exceptional circumstances, and only with prior approval from the instructor, students may need to use the drop box available close to the front doors of the Faculty of Arts office, Social Science 102. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

Also, it is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

If you miss more than one quiz, you may fail the course.

Grading system:

Letter	Grading Scale		
	Range	Usually Graded As	Point
A+	96-100	98	4
A	90-95.99	93	4
A -	85-89.99	87	3.7
B+	80-84.99	83	3.3
B	75-79.99	77	3
B-	70-74.99	72	2.7
C+	65-69.99	67	2.3
C	60-64.99	62	2
C-	55-59.99	57	1.7
D+	53-54.99	54	1.3
D	50-52.99	52	1
F	0-49	0	0

Academic regulations and schedules:

Consult the Calendar for course information, university and faculty regulations, dates, deadlines and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the University Calendar is <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.htm>

Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/it/help/articles/email/etiquette>

Grade appeals:

Consult the following University Calendar link and request advice from the interdisciplinary programs office, on the main floor of the Social Sciences building. Note that “mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision.”

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

Deferral of term work and final examinations:

Should you require an extension of for completion of term papers or assignments beyond the deadline of five days after the end of lectures, an Application of Deferment of Term Work form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. See Calendar: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>.

Academic accommodation:

It is a student’s responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation and if you have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Your academic accommodation letters should be provided to your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the commencement of this course. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/>

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints;>

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/>

“Safewalk” Program:

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night: call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Contact for Students Ombudsman's Office:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated plagiarism.

The University Calendar states:

1. Plagiarism - Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:
 - (a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
 - (b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
 - (c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
 - (d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, or when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. Citing your sources in a bibliography is not enough, because a bibliography does not establish which parts of a student's work are taken from other sources. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose. Advice on adequate documentation can be found at the following web sites:

<http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

According to the University Calendar, (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j.html>)

“The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, ..., to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community”. The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a “positive and productive learning and working environment.” This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that “seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of students and/or university staff”. Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.