

WMST 431 S01
Gender, Bodies & Knowledge
Winter 2013
T/Th 9:30-10:45

Instructor: Christine Mains
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Office Hours: Thurs 11-12 or by appointment

Course Description

How do women and men think about and experience their bodies? This interdisciplinary analysis will draw from studies in medicine, history, psychology, philosophy, feminist theory, and popular culture to consider the implications of social constructions of sexuality, reproductivity, health care, youth and old age for how people live their lives, personally and politically. Through lectures, class discussions, written assignments, presentations, and class activities we will work to critique the social constructions of and knowledge about the gendered body.

Prerequisite: Any Women's Studies course or consent of the Assistant Dean (Student Affairs).

Objectives of the Course

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- Connect theory to practical and political implications in women's lives.
- Incorporate a range of responses to oppressive discourses and practices involving women's bodies.
- Recognize and critique assumptions about sex, gender, race, sexuality, class, ability and feminism.
- Articulate ideas about the gendered body in discourse through a variety of oral and written assignments.

Textbooks and Readings

There is no textbook to purchase for this course. Passages excerpted from different kinds of "texts" will be provided by the instructor and by students as part of class discussion and group presentations; citation information for these passages and excerpts will be provided so that students can read further.

Assignments and Evaluation

Personal Essay	January 31	10%
Proposal for Research Paper	February 26	5%
Responsible Participation x 3	throughout term	15%
Small Group Presentations	April 3-April 16	15%
Research Paper	April 16	30%
Final Take-Home Exam	April 23	25%

All assignments must be submitted, or a grade of F may be assigned at the instructor's discretion.

Personal Essay: This assignment is an essay of ~1200 words, requiring no secondary research or use of sources other than the student's experience.

Proposal for Research Paper: This assignment consists of a few paragraphs explaining the chosen research paper topic along with a working thesis statement, and an annotated bibliography of 5-6 potential secondary sources.

Responsible Participation: For this assignment, students will sign up to take responsibility for guiding discussion in three classes at different points in the term. Students will select readings or other kinds of texts relating to the topic of discussion, and provide excerpts of key passages from those texts, along with background material and a few questions to encourage class discussion. Depending on class enrollment, 6-10 students will share this responsibility for each class. A written version of the material will be due the same day.

Small Group Presentation: Later in the term, students will be formed into small groups based on topics as discussed in class, with the aim of researching the topic in more depth and ensuring a variety of texts and cultural perspectives on the topic are considered. Each group member should expect to speak for ~8-10 minutes, depending on class enrollment.

Research Paper: This assignment is a researched essay of 3000-3500 words, requiring research into secondary sources on theories and topics discussed in class. In their research, students will be expected to go beyond the readings in order to develop a fuller understanding of a particular topic. All sources must be properly cited, and the research paper must be well organized and well edited.

Final Take-home Exam: Questions for the take-home exam will be based on class discussion following the small group presentations. Students will choose from a set of questions, and will write short essay responses illustrating their understanding of the questions with examples. While students will have access to their readings, notes, and returned assignments, and will be able to make use of their own computer technology in completing the exam, they are not expected to write more than would be required in a typical sit-down final exam.

All written assignments will be submitted and returned through Digital Dropbox on Blackboard. No assignments will be submitted in hardcopy, whether handed to the instructor, dropped at the main office, or slid under office doors, nor will assignments be accepted through email attachment. It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment, and to check email regularly for notices of missing assignments.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments are due through Digital Dropbox on the stated due date. Assignments may be submitted after the deadline only with the emailed permission of the instructor, and may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

Grading System

In this class, you will receive grades in the 4-point GPA scale *rather than* percentages.

	Grading Scale	GPA
A+	96-100	4.0
A	90-95.99	4.0
A -	85-89.99	3.7
B+	80-84.99	3.3
B	75-79.99	3.0
B-	70-74.99	2.7
C+	65-69.99	2.3
C	60-64.99	2.0
C-	55-59.99	1.7
D+	53-54.99	1.3
D	50-52.99	1.0
F	0-49	0

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

In the first week of class, we will work together to develop a list of topics relating to the broader questions that are the focus of the class; we will create a schedule of discussion, and a sign-up sheet for the Responsible Participation assignment. The schedule of discussion will be posted to Blackboard; it is a good idea to get into the habit of checking Blackboard regularly.

Writing Skills Statement

All written assignments (including written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented, using either MLA or APA style correctly and consistently.

If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

Internet and electronic communication device information

Students may use laptops to take notes, but not to do any other personal work (such as Facebook or checking email) in order not to distract other students. At no time may students use cell phones for any reason whatsoever.

Ethics

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e. surveys, interviews, observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see

The Department of Communication and Culture Research Ethics site:

<http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/ethics>

or the University of Calgary Research Ethics site:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/ethics/cfreb>

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link;
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Academic Accommodation Policy

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre (220-8237) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course. For further information, please see
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/node/46>

Emergency Evacuation and Assembly points

Please note the evacuation points for this particular classroom. All classrooms on campus exit to specific places in case of emergency. The emergency assembly points differ depending upon where your classroom is located. For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

"SAFEWALK" Program

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 403-220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

Students' Union

For details about the current Students' Union contacts for the Faculty of Arts see
<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html>

Student Ombudsman

For details on the Student Ombudsman's Office see
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, students should identify themselves on all written work by using their ID number. Also you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam.

For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.