

Women's Studies 591 - Lecture 01
Integrative Seminar
Winter 2014
Tuesday 14:00-16:45

Instructor: Dr. Fiona Nelson
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E-Mail: nelsonf@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: Wednesday, 10:00 – 12:00
Other times available by appointment

WARNING

Some of the materials and topics in this class may include explicit written or audio-visual content (violence, sexuality, objectionable or illegal conduct). If these materials make you uncomfortable, you are encouraged to speak with the professor. 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.

Course Description

This is an advanced seminar in which students will have the opportunity to apply their knowledge of feminist praxis, theory and research to in-depth considerations of contemporary feminist writings. As a capstone, the course is intended to allow students to draw together many of the major themes and skills of their Women's Studies training to this point. Class sessions will, for the most part, be spent discussing the assigned readings and any issues that arise from the readings. It is expected that students will have some background knowledge of feminist issues, perspectives and praxis, and that they will be able to draw upon their experiences in these areas when processing and analysing class material. We will be moving rather quickly through a lot of material. It will thus be imperative that students keep up with the readings, make every effort to attend all classes, and participate in class discussions.

Objectives of the Course

The objective, on an ongoing basis, is to engage thoughtfully, and critically, with contemporary feminist writings. Students will be asked to read the assigned materials, to engage in reflective journaling about the materials, and to participate in class discussions about the materials. The ultimate objective of the course is to have students produce a high-quality paper/project. Although working with a set body of literature in

class, students will have the opportunity to design final projects based on their own interests and commitments.

Internet and electronic communication device information

Face-to-face, engaged, interaction is the key feature of a seminar course. Additionally, there will be no lecture during which one needs to take notes. Students are thus requested *not* to use their computers in this class and to make sure their cellphones are turned off.

Required Books:

Orr, Catherine M., Ann Braithwaite and Diane Lichtenstein (eds.). 2012. *Rethinking Women's and Gender Studies*. New York: Routledge.

Serano, Julia. 2013. *Excluded: Making Feminist and Queer Movements More Inclusive*. Berkeley, California: Seal Press.

Armstrong, Sally. 2013. *Ascent of Women*. Toronto: Random House Canada.

Enslar, Eve. 2013. *In the Body of the World*. Toronto: Random House Canada.

Assignments and Evaluation

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

Grade Components:

-Discussion Questions (4 x 3%)	12%
-Reflective Journals (5 x 7%)	35%
-Final Paper Proposal & Annotated Bibliography	10%
-Final Paper/Project	35%
-Class Participation	8%

About the Discussion Topics/Questions:

Due: in class, January 21st, February 25th, March 11th, March 25th,

A seminar class is a fabulous, and rare, opportunity to meet with a group of like-minded scholars and work/talk through issues and materials of interest. On the first class of discussion of each of the four assigned books, you are being asked to bring one topic/question that has occurred to you while completing the reading, which you would like the seminar group to discuss. You should state your topic or question in one sentence and then write a paragraph with your preliminary response to your own

question/topic, or with a very brief discussion of why you think this topic needs to be discussed. So, each of these assignments will be a one-sentence statement of your topic or question followed by a one-paragraph (about half a page) preliminary discussion. Seminar discussions on these days will be structured around these topics/questions.

It would be meaningless to submit a topic/question without being present to discuss it or to submit one late. A missed submission will thus result in a loss of the 3% grade.

About the Reflective Journals:

Due: in class, January 28th, February 4th, March 4th, March 18th, April 1st

Length: 3-5 pages (double-spaced)

Reflective journaling is one way of expressing your engagement with the assigned readings. Elements of class discussion might also turn up in these. You are asked to complete one or two journaling assignments for each book we are reading. For the first book, with which we will engage for three weeks, a journal will be due on the second and third days of discussion of the book. For the remaining three books, the journal will be due on the second class in which the book is being discussed. You can write about anything regarding the book and/or the discussions surrounding the book. The assignment will probably be most useful to you if you use as a departure point a strong (positive or negative) reaction that you have had to the book or to the discussion thereof, or if you are able to reflect on ways in which the book might contribute to your final paper/project. You will be asked to share elements of your journal with the class, so keep that in mind when writing. Further details of this assignment will be discussed in class.

Because these journals will constitute part of our class discussions, late journals cannot be accepted unless you are absent from class with some sort of documentation.

About the Final Paper/Project Proposal & Annotated Bibliography :

Due: Draft 1 to be discussed in class February 11th/ Proposal due in class February 25th.

Length: 8-12 pages

This paper will vary depending on what sort of final project you are proposing. The paper should include:

- description of proposed research or project
- brief discussion of your reasons for choosing this topic
- brief discussion of the ways in which you intend to approach this topic/question
- annotated bibliography, including a discussion of the ways in which each chosen article/source might contribute to your project/paper

Many more details about this will be provided in class.

***Important note:** if you are proposing human subject research, your ethics proposal must be ready to be submitted to the ethics committee by February 11th (at the latest; earlier would be better). This will require you to have been working on this, in consultation with me, for at least a couple of weeks prior.

About the Final Paper/Project:

Due: Papers/projects to be presented and submitted in class on Tuesday, April 8th.

Length: 20-30 pages

Further details about the final paper will be discussed in class

****Regardless of your grades on other course components, you cannot pass this course if you do not submit the Final Paper.***

****It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.***

About the Class Participation Grade:

All students are encouraged and expected to participate in the class discussions; the ability to articulate one's position and discuss it with others is a vital academic skill to develop. Likewise, people are asked to be mindful of how much they are contributing and try not to dominate class discussions; being able to listen is also a very important skill. Seminar courses depend fundamentally on the quality of class discussion. It is thus vital that you attend class and that you come prepared to discuss the readings.

Handing in papers outside of class-time, return of final papers, and release of final grades:

1. If students are unable to submit papers in class, they should make arrangements to hand in their papers directly to the instructor. Under no circumstances may papers/assignments be placed on or under the professor's door.
2. Term work will be returned in class. Students who want their final papers returned by mail must attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope with the paper. Otherwise final papers will be available for pick-up only during the professor's office hours at the beginning of the next term.
3. Final grades are not posted publicly. They are available only online.

Deferrals:

If at all possible you must provide *advance* notice to the instructor if you are unable to pass in an assignment or essay on time. All requests for deferral of a course component due to health reasons must be accompanied by written documentation as outlined in the University Calendar and should be obtained while the student has the physical or

emotional problem rather than after recovery. Deferrals will be allowed in the following circumstances: illness, domestic affliction or religious conviction. Travel arrangements and misreading of the syllabus are not valid reasons for requesting a deferral. Deferrals will not be granted if it is determined that just cause is not shown by the student. Assignments submitted after the deadline, without documentation or my approval, may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

Please note that requests to defer term work past the end of a term go through the Undergraduate Programs Office (UPO) and must be processed by the deadlines that are established in the U of C Calendar. You can find the form you need online

Deferred Term Work Form:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/files/registrar/defTW.pdf>

You must submit this deferral form to the Faculty of Arts Associate Dean (Students) through the Program Information Centre: SS110 (first floor social sciences). Only the Associate Dean approves requests for deferrals which extend beyond the end of a term. Instructors are not involved in such decisions. To make an appointment with the Associate Dean, phone (403) 220-3580.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

Grading System

The following grading system will be used:

	Grading Scale
A+	96-100
A	90-95.99
A -	85-89.99
B+	80-84.99
B	75-79.99
B-	70-74.99
C+	65-69.99
C	60-64.99
C-	55-59.99
D+	53-54.99
D	50-52.99
F	0-49

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 U of C Research Ethics “Information for Applicants,” sections 3.0 to 9.0, inclusive:

http://www.ucalgary.ca/UofC/research/html/ethics/info_undergrad.html

The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) legislation disallows the practice of having students retrieve assignments from a public place, e.g., outside an instructor’s office or the Department main office. Written assignments must be returned to students individually, during class, or during the instructor’s office hours; if a student is unable to pick up her/his assignment s/he may provide the instructor with a stamped, self-addressed envelope to be used for the return of the assignment.

Academic Accommodation: If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Student Accessibility Services (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/access/>

Academic Misconduct:

Plagiarism, cheating and other academic misconduct are regarded as serious academic offences. Students are advised to consult the University Calendar which presents a Statement of Intellectual Honesty and definitions and penalties associated with cheating, plagiarism, and other academic misconduct.

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 or the Writing Support Centre (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

Writing Skills Statement

All written assignments 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.

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

"SAFEWALK" Program -- 220-5333

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 booths.

Emergency evacuations:

In the case of fire or other emergency evacuation of this classroom/lab, please proceed to the assembly point by *[check link to find assembly point for your building:*

[http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/node/75\]](http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/node/75)

Students' Union:

Students' Union contacts can be found at:

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/home/contact.html>

Student Representation

There are now four Arts reps because of the amalgamation, with the email addresses being arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, and arts4@su.ucalgary.ca. Please contact if you have questions related to Students Union matters, events, or concerns.

For your student ombudsman, please see

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

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 on the 4th Floor of MacEwan Student Centre.
- 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.

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

The following are the dates by which the indicated readings should be completed:

January 14: FIRST CLASS – NO ASSIGNED READING

January 21: Orr, Braithwaite & Lichtenstein – Pages xiii - 101

January 28: Orr, Braithwaite & Lichtenstein – Pages 102 -224

February 4: Orr, Braithwaite & Lichtenstein – Pages 225 - 332

February 11: DISCUSSION OF FINAL PAPER/PROJECT PROPOSALS - NO READINGS

February 18: READING WEEK – NO CLASS

February 25: Serano – Pages 1 – 168

March 4: Serano – Pages 169 - 299

March 11: Armstrong – Pages 1 - 154

March 18: Armstrong – Pages 155 -284

March 25: Ensler – Pages 1 - 109

April 1: Ensler – Pages 110 - 217

April 8: PRESENTATION OF FINAL PAPERS/PROJECTS – NO READINGS