

Women's Studies 307 – Contemporary Issues in Feminism

September 4 – 8, 2012 / 9:00 – 4:30 / ST130

Dr. Rebecca Sullivan

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Office hours: Wednesdays 8:30 – 9:30; Thursdays 11:00 – 12:30, effective September 12th

* I will endeavor to make myself available before and after class, to the best of my ability. I am NOT available during the lunch hour. I can also be reached by e-mail.

Course description:

This course explores debates about pornography with an emphasis on the Canadian context. It uses this controversial subject matter to critically investigate the definitions and discourses on heteronormativity, gender and sexual politics, public space and private choice, sexual citizenship, and other important issues affecting feminist theorizing and praxis.

Students will be exposed to explicit pornographic material daily. Some of this material could be deemed disturbing or offensive, as it will include graphic sexual content and may also include scenes of graphic violence, substance abuse, or other potentially objectionable activities. However, given the subject matter of this course, there will be no exemptions from any aspect of the course requirements. Students are expected to attend all lectures and to participate fully in class discussions and assignments.

Everyone in this class is expected to follow a strict code of conduct including:

1. respectful, measured and thoughtful discussion
2. respectful understanding of sexual, gender, racial and other forms of social inequalities
3. respectful use of explicit language and imagery
4. respect for all sexual orientations and consensual sexual acts
5. respect for other points of view

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.

Use of recording technologies in class is prohibited.

A Blackboard 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 Blackboard before the course for any last minute changes or cancellations.

Students are strongly encouraged to bring portable word processing devices (tablets, laptops, airbooks, Acer, anything you got) to class. There will be in-class assignments which you can submit electronically. Just turn the recording devices off.

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and prepared to work. The class begins promptly at 9:00 AM every morning.

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:

All readings (including book chapters) are available online through the University of Calgary library system. If you need any assistance in locating a reading, contact a librarian or visit Learning Commons. It is the student's responsibility to independently source and retrieve all readings.

Students are strongly encouraged to read as much in advance of the course as possible, and to take summary notes for reference. The days in the course will be long and intense, with daily quizzes on the previous day's material.

The reading list is available for download in Course Documents on Blackboard.

Assignments and Evaluation:

Thought Piece	10%
Quizzes	40% (4 X10%)
Debate	15%
Debate Decisions	10% (8 X 1.25%)
Final essay	25%

Thought Piece (10%)

On the first day of class, you will be given a question and expected to write a thoughtful, intellectually informed response.

A thought piece is a piece of writing meant to be thought-provoking and speculative that consists chiefly of background material and personal opinion and analysis. It is neither a rant nor a personal journal entry. Rather, ideas and opinions still require some grounding to indicate that you have considered the consequences of your position and recognize its potential for further exploration. You are encouraged to use any of the course readings and your notes for this assignment. You must also be prepared to share your work with others in the class.

You may write the piece in longhand, using your own pen and paper, or use your own portable word processing device (strongly encouraged). You will have exactly one hour to write your piece. There are no length requirements, however you are expected to be thorough, detailed and precise in your writing. If you are writing in longhand, submit directly to the professor. If you are submitting electronically through Blackboard's Digital Dropbox, your submission must be time-stamped no later than 10:05 AM. Submissions date stamped any later will automatically receive a grade of 0.

Refer to the essay grading rubric, available on Blackboard in the Course Documents section, to understand expectation for all writing assignments.

Quizzes (4 X 10 = 40%)

Tuesday through Friday, you will have a quiz on the previous day's material, including readings, lectures and any screenings. The quiz will begin promptly at 9:00 AM and will end promptly at 10:00 AM. They will be a mixture of question types (multiple choice, short answer, long essay, matching concepts, etc.)

There will be no make-up tests. If you miss the test you will receive a grade of 0. Students are therefore encouraged to arrive at least fifteen minutes before class begins.

Debate (15%)

Monday through Thursday, students will be placed in debate teams prior to the beginning of the course. Before the lecture, the professor will provide two debate questions and identify the teams that will present that day. If you are not in attendance that day, you will receive a grade of 0. Your group will proceed without you and will not be penalized.

There will be two debates each day in the afternoon. The teams are expected to follow a modified version of Oxford style debate rules, to whit:

1. There will be 3-4 members on each team
2. The Professor will be the moderator
3. Each member is expected to speak for 2-3 minutes
4. The “for” side will present first, the “against” side will present second
5. There will be a 10 minute open question period
6. One member of each team will provide a 2-3 minute summation. The order will be first the “against” side, then the “for” side.

Debate Decisions (8 X 1.25% = 10%)

Each member of the class who is not presenting will submit their vote for who had the winning argument. They must supply a brief, 30-40 word explanation that directly references the debate and arguments presented. This is not an opportunity for you to argue your position, but to assess who best presented their position and why.

Your submission must clearly state your name at the top of the page and your vote (“For” or “Against”) with your explanation following directly below. Submit your vote via Digital Dropbox on Blackboard no later than 8:00 PM that same day. Submissions date stamped any later will automatically receive a grade of 0.

Final Essay (25%)

On the final day of class, you will receive an essay question. Students will be expected to undertake independent research of their own and incorporate readings and other materials from the course to answer this question. Write a sound, scholarly response in essay format. Your final submission should be between 6-8 pages and follow the scholarly format outlined in the Essay Grading Rubric, available through Course Documents in Blackboard. More details and requirements will be circulated with the essay question.

The final essay is due on Friday, January 13th for grading with comments. You have an automatic extension to Friday, January 20th for grading without comments. Students are encouraged to meet with the professor to discuss their final essay, and to submit queries via e-mail.

Policy for Late Assignments

Unless otherwise noted, late assignments will not be accepted and will receive a grade of zero.

If you miss more than two quizzes, you may fail the course.

If you receive a 0 on more than four debate decisions, you may fail the course.

If you do not participate in a debate, you may fail the course.

Grading system:

Grading Scale			
Letter	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

Note on Grading

Due to the intense time frame of this course, students should not expect to receive grading or comments on all of their assignments during the week of classes.

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.