

**WMST311-01**  
**Feminist Theorizing**  
**Fall 2012**  
**Wednesday, 1:00 to 3:50, Trailer B – 102**

**Instructor:** Joe Kadi  
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**Office Hours:** Wednesday 11:0 to 12:00

**Course Description**

Over the past decades, feminist theory has provided insightful analysis about the important social issues of our time, analysis that remains helpful and relevant today. Since its inception, the women's movement has stressed the importance of theory, based on the understanding that effective social change can only be brought about through clear understandings about social systems, and clear visions about alternative ways of organizing society. This class will offer students an in-depth understanding of three important strands of feminist theory.

**Objectives of the Course**

- Understand the broad range of issues feminists are concerned about.
- Understand three important strands of feminist theory.
- Consider the relevance of feminist theory in today's complex world.
- Appreciate the practical implications of feminist theory in everyday life.
- Deepen our critical/holistic thinking skills.
- Work to establish a vibrant learning community based on respect and support.

**Textbooks and Readings:**

Gaard (editor), *Ecofeminism: Women, Animals, Nature*, (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1993).

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

Hogan, *Dwellings: A Spiritual History of the Natural World*, (New York: Touchstone, 1995).

## **Assignments and Evaluation**

Grade Components:

Four quizzes, worth 10 percent each, for a total of 40 percent.

Mid-term exam: 25 percent.

Self-evaluation paper: 10 percent.

Final exam: 25 percent.

Four quizzes on the reading for the day, worth 10 percent each. In these closed-book short tests, on 26 September, 10 October, 7 November, and 21 November, 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. Each test is worth 10 percent, adding up to a total of 40 percent of the overall grade. 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.

Mid-term exam, worth 25 percent. Students will write an in-class exam, based on the material that has been covered so far. This will be a closed-book test. Date: 24 October.

Self-evaluation paper, worth 10 percent. Students will evaluate their attendance, participation, and depth of learning, following the letter grade scheme used during the term. After assigning their own grade (for example, a 'B+'), students will then write a 2 to 3 page paper, double-spaced, explaining the rationale for the grade. There are three elements that students will need to analyze, both to figure out how to grade themselves, and to discuss in the paper they write. These three elements are attendance, participation, and depth of learning. Due date: 5 December at the beginning of class (must be handed in, in person).

Take-home final exam, worth 25 percent. The final exam will consist of essay questions which will allow students to reflect critically on what they have learned in the course. All course material will be covered on this exam. Due date: 5 December at the beginning of class (must be handed in, in person).

Important Note: Students will need to provide a doctor's note if illness prevents them from completing the mid-term or final exam on the agreed-upon day.

**Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No**

## **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 Social Science 110. 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.

Students must provide advance notice to the instructor if you are unable to submit 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.

### **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>.

### **Grading System**

	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

### **Schedule of Lectures and Readings**

To be handed out the first day of class.

### **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**

To be discussed on the first day of class.

### **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.

### **Student Representation**

There are now four Arts reps because of the amalgamation, with the email addresses being [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), and [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto: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.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

### **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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.