



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY  
WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM

**WMST 315 Lec 01**  
**Introduction to Women's Studies**  
**Fall Term 2015**

**Course Outline**

**Lectures: T/R 11:00-12:15, SA129**

**Instructor:** Rebecca Sullivan  
**Office:** SS1142  
**Phone:** 403-220-3397  
**Email:** rsulliva@ucalgary.ca (\*\* preferred means of communication \*\*)  
**Office hours:** Tuesdays, 12:30 – 2:00 PM

**Course Description:**

This course explores the scholarly and political implications of conducting feminist research by examining key methods and their justifications. Students will have the opportunity to design their own research project.

**Learning Objectives:**

- To understand key principles and practices behind feminist research methods
- To understand the relationship between theory, method, and praxis in feminist and queer studies
- To understand specific research methods sufficiently in order to select appropriate methods and apply them effectively to independent research projects
- To understand the ethical obligations required in the application of specific research methods

Students are welcome to define their own learning objectives and to share them with the class.

**Course Content:**

Some of the materials and topics in this class will include explicit content (violence; sexuality; profanity; blasphemous, 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 braver in 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.

When in a classroom dedicated to social justice education, conflict will happen. That is part of a healthy, dynamic, questioning space of learning and discovery. You are encouraged to hold onto your own personal beliefs, but recognize that there will be differences of opinion and experience.

A university classroom holds high standards of research, evidence, and analytical proof. Students need to listen attentively, respectfully, and critically to the evidence provided in class lectures, readings, discussions, and other materials.

If you feel that you need more support than can be provided by the classroom or the instructor, you are encouraged to take advantage of some of these resources:

**SU Wellness Centre**

(<http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/> 403-210-9355 / 403-266-4357)

**Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse Hotline**

(<http://www.calgarycasa.com/> 403-237-5888)

**Alberta Mental Health Hotline**

(<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/services.asp?pid=saf&rid=1019446> 1-877-303-2642)

Trained peer supporters are also available on campus through:

**Women's Resource Centre**

(<https://www.ucalgary.ca/women/> 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, MacEwen Centre, in The Loft)

**Q Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity**

(<https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/programs-services/student-services/the-q-centre/> 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Mac Hall, near The Den).

If you have a serious concern about the instructor's conduct, you may speak in full confidence to the Head of the Department of Philosophy ([phildept@ucalgary.ca](mailto:phildept@ucalgary.ca)) Please note, Women's Studies is a program that is administered by the Department of Philosophy.

## **Student Conduct**

A Student Code of Conduct Agreement is part of this course, available on D2L. It is a required component of the class.

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

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.

Students are welcome to bring portable word processing devices (tablets, laptops, airbooks, Acer, anything you got) to class as learning tools to improve your focus and engagement in the lecture. Using your device to access personal or non-course related material is prohibited and may result in having your privileges to use your device in class revoked and/or you being removed from the class. See the Student Code of Conduct Agreement for more details.

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>

### **Course Technology**

A D2L portal has been set up for this course that allows for group correspondence, course announcements, class materials, assignment submissions and grading, and other forms of communication. Students are expected to check D2L before class time for any last minute changes or cancellations. D2L only uses @ucalgary email addresses.

### **Student-Professor Communication**

Appropriate communication procedures are described in detail in the Student Code of Conduct Agreement. The professor's preferred means of communication is first by scheduled office hours, then by a pre-arranged meeting time (only if the professor's office hours conflict with another course), and then by email.

The professor will endeavor to respond to emails within two business days after receiving the message. If the student emails a question that is fully addressed by the syllabus, classroom agreement, or an announcement / news item posted on D2L, the professor will not reply. Therefore, if you don't receive a response within two business days, that probably means you can find the answer somewhere yourself. The professor may respond to your email query with the request that you come meet with them in person to discuss.

### **Braver Space Guidelines**

"Braver Space" principles recognize that everyone brings different resiliencies and capacities to a group setting. We must all bring our personal bravery into the classroom space, and be mindful of what that means specifically to us. This does not mean sharing or participating in a way that violates personal boundaries (yours or another person's), nor cajoling others into participating in ways that are not conducive to their personal bravery. Rather, it means being respectful, self-aware, and mindful of the classroom dynamic and your place in it. Some guidelines are provided below.

Do not make assumptions about other people's identities and life experiences. That includes but is not limited to race, gender, sexuality, physical ability, mental and emotional well being, spirituality or religiosity, age, citizenship status, and reproductive capabilities.

Recognize that language is a powerful tool in social justice education. It also changes as new issues and greater clarity develop. Therefore, if you need to correct language use, do so respectfully; and if you are corrected, accept that correction respectfully.

Make an effort to speak from the position of “I” (not the generalized “you” or “people”) and to clarify any statements you make, using verifiable evidence and experience. Making a sweeping judgment on a class or group of people is not acceptable.

Address people without assuming their gender. Some ways to do this:

- Don’t refer to groups as guys, ladies, women, men, etc.,
- Refer to individuals whose gender has not been disclosed to you in gender-neutral ways such as “the person who said...”

Address people using the gender pronouns they have indicated for themselves. Offer your gender pronouns to others to make it a braver space to talk about gender pronouns. Some gender pronouns include, but are not limited to:

- they/them/theirs
- she/her/hers
- ze/hir/hirs
- he/him/his
- ey/em/eirs

Provide discrete and succinct content warnings if you will be talking about topics that may be traumatic for some and the content is not already apparent. Examples of such topics could include abuse, violence, addiction, suicide, mental health, transphobia/homophobia/other forms of discriminatory behaviours. An example of wording could be, “Please note that there will be (x) content in my discussion.”

Respect your own and others’ physical, mental, and emotional boundaries. Please speak up in a respectful way if you are uncomfortable, seek support if you want/need it, and engage in self-care as required.

### **Required Texts:**

Available on D2L and through the university library (<http://library.ucalgary.ca/>).

In-class screening are considered as a required part of the lectures and part of any examination or assignment parameters.

Additional recommended readings may be included in D2L.

### **Course Requirements:**

Research Pitch	Weeks 4 & 5	15% (10% / 5%)
Ethics Application	November 24 <sup>th</sup>	20%

## Close Reading

Online Quiz #1	November 3 <sup>rd</sup>	25%
Online Quiz #2	December 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10%
Take-home Exam (Research Design)	December 10 <sup>th</sup>	30%

### ***Research Pitch***

This assignment is based on the belief that one must be able to clearly explain your research concept and goals in under five minutes to a willing and interested audience. While the time is short, preparation for such a presentation is critical and will take much time and effort. A Research Pitch worksheet is provided through D2L in the Research Pitch folder under Course Content and students are strongly recommended to follow those guidelines closely.

The Research Pitch must be on the same topic that is eventually developed into your research design for your take-home exam. You must have your topic and a title selected by September 29<sup>th</sup> (see below), and you may not change it.

Students must provide a title slide on PowerPoint that includes your full name and the title of your presentation. Other material may be present on this one slide, at your discretion. Only PowerPoint will be accepted. The slide must be submitted online to the D2L Dropbox Folder entitled Research Pitch no later than September 29<sup>th</sup> at 5PM. These slides will be made available to the entire class and the professor will compile them into one PowerPoint file for each day. *Failure to submit the slide on time, or in the wrong format, or in the wrong Dropbox Folder, or more than one slide will result in a penalty of one full grade.*

You have a total of 5 minutes to (1) Prepare yourself at the front of the class to present; (2) Present; (3) Be seated again with minimal disruption to the class. Be sure to account for the time it will take you to walk up and down, take your breath, say your thank-yous, etc. The professor will handle the technology. The presentations will be timed and a buzzer will let the next presenter know when to begin. If you are not seated by the time the buzzer begins, you will be penalized by one full letter grade. If you are still up at the class presenting, you will be told to sit down and you will receive an F.

Your presentation is worth 10%. Students listening to your presentation will evaluate it using the evaluation sheet provided through D2L in the Research Pitch folder under Course Content. Each student must print out their own copy of the evaluation sheet and bring it to class so that you can submit your evaluations of that day's presentations at the end of class. At the end of all the presentations, you must have evaluated at least 75% of all the presentations to receive 5%. Between 50-74% of the presentations will give you 2.5%. Less than 50% will give you 0.

If the presentations are not completed on their assigned day, they will commence the next class day. Therefore, be prepared to present both at your assigned time and, potentially, the next class (if necessary, we will finish the presentations on October 13<sup>th</sup>). There will be a maximum of 14 presentations each day. They will be intense days so prepare yourselves accordingly to your best needs.

### ***Ethics Application OR Close Reading***

Students have the option to do ONE of the following assignments. Only one will be accepted and graded. If you submit both, you take your chances on which one will be accepted and graded.

### ***Ethics Application***

Any research on human subjects requires a thorough ethics review. Writing the ethics proposal is a skill all its own. Students will have their choice of three pre-selected scholarly articles that engage in research using human subjects (one using quantitative methods, one using qualitative methods, and one using a mixed methods approach) and must write an ethics proposal based on that article. An ethics proposal worksheet will be provided through D2L in the Ethics Application folder under Course Content. Students must use this worksheet and follow instructions carefully. Submit online to the D2L Dropbox Folder entitled Ethics Application no later than November 24<sup>th</sup> before midnight. Only Word or PDF format is accepted. Even though the professor is a MAC user, I don't accept Pages.

### ***Close Reading***

During the week on Textual Analysis and Close Reading, we will be watching the film noir classic *Gilda*. A Close Reading worksheet will be provided through D2L in the Close Reading folder under Course Contents. On it will be a short selection of key moments in the film (could be one shot, could be a brief sequence). Students must select which moment for their close reading and provide a compelling feminist close reading of that moment. Students must use this worksheet and follow instructions carefully. Submit online to the D2L Dropbox Folder entitled Close Reading no later than November 24<sup>th</sup> before midnight. Only Word or PDF format is accepted. Even though the professor is a MAC user, I don't accept Pages.

### ***Online Quizzes***

Online quizzes will be made available through D2L on the assigned date, from 9:00 AM until 10:00 PM. There will be no regular class on that day. The first quiz will be based on all material covered in the course since the first day. The second will be based on all material since the first quiz. This is an online quiz administered by D2L and graded automatically by the system.

You may refer to your notes or any other resources at your disposal, but remember that nothing replaces good old-fashioned studying, and scrambling about for the answer increases your chance of making a technological error or just wasting precious time. Students are expected to work independently. Sharing of answers will be considered plagiarism and you will receive a grade of F (0) and risk disciplinary measures.

The quizzes are timed so that you will have no more than 75 minutes to complete, and the computer will shut them down precisely at 10:00 PM, so it is strongly recommended that you begin no later than 8:30 PM. There is a timer at the top of the page for the quiz, but you should also have your own timers set. It is possible to go over time, but there will be a significant grade penalty.

To ensure no technological problems, students must turn off all pop-ups, and open any windows they might want to refer to prior to commencing the quiz. Students are also expected to use a reliable computer and Internet connection. If you're not 100% positive that what you have is up to the task, go to the TFDL or a computer lab on campus.

### ***Take Home Exam: Research Design***

In D2L under the Research Design Module (Contents), there is a worksheet which all students must use for this assignment. You must submit the final completed worksheet to the D2L Dropbox labeled "Research Design." Only Word or PDF format is accepted. Even though the professor is a MAC user, I don't accept Pages. Instructions for each part of the Research Design assignment are included in the worksheet and at least one lecture during the term is devoted to the specific topic of each part. The assignment is due on Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup> by midnight.

This is the student's opportunity to design the independent research project that they originally presented in their research pitch. Please note that the student will not be expected to actually undertake that project, but only to provide this design. That means you have the opportunity to undertake a thoughtful research design for a future Honours research, directed reading, or another senior seminar course that you may take at a later date.

The Research Design must be on the same topic as the Research Pitch. There can be some adjustments and improvements (in fact, there should be!) but it must not stray too far from what was originally proposed.

### **Policy for Late Assignments**

Unless otherwise stated, no extensions will be granted on assignments except in cases of documented medical or personal distress. Failure to submit on time will result in a grade of F (zero).

Failure to complete all of the required exams and assignments may result in a grade of F (zero) in the course. If you complete all assignments but receive more than two Fs (including an F in participation), the professor reserves the right to give you a final grade of F.

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of all assignments in case of loss by any cause.

**There will be no Registrar-scheduled final exam.**

### **Grading system:**

This course uses a combination of letter and number grades, according to the chart below. The university's Undergraduate Grading System is available here: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-2.html>. In most cases where the final letter grade for the course is less than 1% from the next higher grade, the professor will round-up. This course does not use a bell curve – whatever mark you get is it.

Percentage	Letter	Usually Graded	Point
90 + %	A+	95	4.0
85 – 89 %	A	87	4.0
80 – 84 %	A-	82	3.7
77 – 79 %	B+	78	3.3
74 – 76 %	B	75	3.0
70 – 73 %	B-	72	2.7

67 – 69 %	C+	68	2.3
64 – 66 %	C	65	2.0
60 – 63 %	C-	62	1.7
55 – 59 %	D+	57	1.3
50 – 54 %	D	52	1.0
0 – 49 %	F	0	0

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### **Writing Support:**

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students.

**<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>**

### **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>**

### **University Guidelines on e-mail etiquette:**

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

### **Academic Accommodation:**

It is the students' responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodations and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact them at 403-220-6019. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodations. More information about academic accommodations can be found at **[www.ucalgary.ca/access](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access)**.

**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 Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, 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 Program Information Centre at 403-220-3580 or [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca).

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](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)

**Contact for Students Ombudsman's Office:** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

#### **About the Women's Studies Program**

This course is part of the core requirements for a Women's Studies degree. The Women's Studies Program offers Major, Minor, and Honours undergraduate degrees. Housed in the Department of Philosophy, the program is dedicated to offering students a feminist social justice classroom where we can bravely explore issues relating to gender and sexual equity and diversity from many perspectives. For more information, contact the program coordinator ([wmstprog@ucalgary.ca](mailto:wmstprog@ucalgary.ca)) and check out our website: <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/womens-studies>.

The University of Calgary has a number of student clubs and campus centres dedicated to issues of gender and sexual equity and diversity. Here are links to their Facebook sites (please note that the instructors are often members of social media sites):

#### **Consent Awareness and Sexual Education Club**

#### **Queers on Campus**

#### **Q: The SU Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity**

#### **Women in Leadership Club**

#### **Women's Resource Centre**

#### **Women's Studies and Feminism Club**

The Women's Studies program is administered by the Department of Philosophy. The Program Coordinator is Dr. Rebecca Sullivan ([rsulliva@ucalgary.ca](mailto:rsulliva@ucalgary.ca) / [wmstprog@ucalgary.ca](mailto:wmstprog@ucalgary.ca)). The Head of the Department of Philosophy is Dr. Nicole Wyatt ([nicole.wyatt@ucalgary.ca](mailto:nicole.wyatt@ucalgary.ca) / [phildept@ucalgary.ca](mailto:phildept@ucalgary.ca)).

#### **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 possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement below on plagiarism.

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

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/>