



WST 3500/SOCI 4800 – Feminist Theory

Course Syllabus – Spring 2016

T/TH; 12:45p-2p

Clayton Hall, T217

CRN (21155/20554)

3.0 Semester Credit Hours

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Office Hours: Mondays & Tuesdays, 9a-12:30p; By Appointment



DISCLAIMER: TEST DATES, ASSIGNMENTS, POLICIES, ETC., STATED IN THIS SYLLABUS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. IF THERE ARE CHANGES TO THE SYLLABUS, STUDENTS WILL BE NOTIFIED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Individuals with disabilities who need to request accommodations should contact the Disability Services Coordinator, Student Center 214, (770) 961-3719, disabilityservices@mail.clayton.edu.

Course Description: In this course we will examine women and gender from an interdisciplinary perspective, borrowing from Humanities and Social Science fields such as English, psychology, philosophy, art history, sociology, film studies, women’s health, and cultural studies. At the same time, we will consider the ways that gender roles vary across time and in different cultural contexts, paying particular attention to analysis of interrelated gender, race, sexuality, and class oppressions.

Course Prerequisites: CRIT 1101 (C) and ENGL 1102 (C)

Computer Requirement: Each CSU student is required to have ready access throughout the semester to a notebook computer that meets faculty-approved hardware and software requirements for the student’s academic program. Students will sign a statement attesting to such access. For further information on CSU’s Official Notebook Computer Policy, please go to <http://www.clayton.edu/hub/ITP-Choice/Notebook-Computer-Policy>

Computer Skill Prerequisites:

- Able to use the Windows™ operating system
- Able to use Microsoft Word™ word processing
- Able to send and receive e-mail using Outlook™ or Outlook Express™
- Able to attach and retrieve attached files via email
- Able to use a Web browser
- Able to use Desire2Learn (D2L) campus tool

In-class Use of Student Notebook Computers: Student notebook computers will not be used in the classroom in this course. Computers will be required to access course materials and to communicate with your instructor.

Program Learning Outcomes:

General Education Outcomes

The following link provides the Clayton State University Core Curriculum outcomes (see Area E):

http://www.clayton.edu/Portals/5/core_curriculum_outcomes_clayton.pdf

Students will examine and apply concepts of social identity and individual differences, such as ethnicity, race, gender, age, class, ability or sexual orientation.

Course Learning Objectives (Shaw & Lee 2015, p13):

The primary objectives for this course are:

- To understand the social construction of gender: the ways gendered personhood is mapped on to physical bodies
- To examine the intersection of gender with other systems of inequality in women's lives, including the effects of imperialism and globalization
- To learn about the status of women and other marginalized peoples in society and ways to improve that status through individual and collective action for social change
- To experience how institutions in society affect individual lives and to be able to think critically about the role of patterns of privilege and discrimination in our own lives
- To develop critical thinking skills, improve writing and speaking skills, and empower self and others

Writing Assistance

The Writers' Studio 224 is located in the A&S building, room 224. There you can talk with trained writing consultants about your writing projects. They are available to work with you at any stage of your paper, from generating ideas to organizing your paper to understanding how to format it correctly. The service is free; you may drop in and wait for a consultant or sign up for a regular appointment. But remember: you, not your consultant, are ultimately responsible for the quality and content of the papers you submit. They're continuing with their extended hours, which offer students greater tutoring flexibility. Their hours this semester are Monday through Thursday 9 AM - 9 PM & Friday 9 AM -12 PM.

Writing consultants are available to meet with students for either 30 or 60 minutes, and up to 3 hours per week. Furthermore, appointments can be made 14 days in advance.

Aside from meeting with consultants one-with-one, you can also submit an individual paper or participate in writing workshops. In these workshops, faculty and consultants will guide you in discussions and activities important to academic writing topics. You will be identify, analyze, integrate, and synthesize writing principles through a series of writing exercises. Remember that they are here to collaborate with you as you develop your own experiences as a student-writer. Visit their website for more information: <http://clayton.edu/writersstudio>.

There you will find a link to register for appointments online: <http://clayton.mywconline.com>. You will need to do a one-time registration. Simply click on the "Click here to register" link once at MYWCONLINE.

Textbooks:

Tong, Rosemarie. (2014). *Feminist Thought: A More Comprehensive Introduction (Fourth Edition)*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

ISBN: 978-0-8133-4842-1

Phillips, Layli. (2006). *The Womanist Reader*. New York, NY: Routledge.

ISBN: 978-0-415-95411-2

Collins, Patricia Hill. (2008). *Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment*. New York, NY: Routledge.

ISBN: 978-0-415-96472-2

Evaluation: You will always *earn* the grade you receive. If you are having trouble in the course, please come see me sooner rather than later. The final grades will be computed as follows:

Grade	Percentage	Point Range
A	90-100%	540-600
B	80-89%	480-539
C	70-79%	420-479
D	60-69%	360-419
F	<59%	<359

Evaluation Methods	Points
Reflection Papers: 14 papers @ 30 points each	420
Final Book Review Paper	180
TOTAL	600

Chapter Reflection Papers: Almost every week, you will have to write a reflection paper. Each reflection paper should be at least 1 full (11-point, Calibri font), double-spaced paper, reflecting on the chapter of that week. Each paragraph must have at least 4 sentences. Each paper is worth 30 points. Your reflection paper should address the concepts in the chapter, as well as bringing in other current feminist issues. You will be graded on your thoughtfulness, your grammar/punctuation, and how well you address the concepts in the chapters. There is no need to put your name, date, or name of course on your paper; it should only contain content. All papers must contain less than 10% plagiarism detected by the Turnitin.com plagiarism software. Any paper over 10% will receive a zero grade. Your paper should be put in the Dropbox in your Desire2Learn (D2L) tool and is due on Thursday at noon (12p). **No late papers will be accepted.**

Final Book Review Paper: There will be a final book review paper that is due Final Exam Week. This is a 10-page paper. It must have a title, introduction, body (relating to at least one of the topics that we have gone over during the semester), and conclusion. It must be properly cited using APA format. It will be worth 180 points. Your paper should be put in the Dropbox in D2L. **No late papers will be accepted.**

Mid-term Progress Report: The mid-term grade in this course, which will be issued on February 23, reflects approximately 33% of the entire course grade. Based on this grade, students may choose to withdraw from the course and receive a grade of "W." Students pursuing this option must fill out an official withdrawal form, available in the Office of the Registrar, or withdraw on-line using the Swan by mid-term, which occurs on March 4. [Instructions for withdrawing are provided at this link.](#)

The last day to withdraw without academic accountability is Friday, March 4, 2016.

Course Schedule

Date	Lesson Topic/Evaluation
Jan. 12	Liberal Feminism (Tong)
Jan. 14	Liberal Feminism, cont. <i>Reflection Paper due Friday at noon</i>
Jan. 19	Radical Feminism
Jan. 21	Radical Feminism <i>Reflection Paper due Friday at noon</i>
Jan. 26	Feminist Film Screening – Live Nude Girls Unite!
Jan. 28	NO CLASS <i>Reflection Paper due Friday at noon</i>
Feb. 2	Marxist and Socialist Feminism
Feb. 4	Marxist and Socialist Feminism <i>Reflection Paper due Friday at noon</i>
Feb. 9	Psychoanalytic and Care-Focused Feminism
Feb. 11	Psychoanalytic and Care-Focused Feminism <i>Reflection Paper due Friday at noon</i>
Feb. 16	Existentialist and Postmodern Feminism
Feb. 18	Existentialist and Postmodern Feminism <i>Reflection Paper due Friday at noon</i>
Feb. 23	Feminist Film Screening – Miss Representation Mid-term grade will be given out
Feb. 25	NO CLASS <i>Reflection Paper due Friday at noon</i>
Mar. 1	Ecofeminism
Mar. 3	Ecofeminism <i>Reflection Paper due Friday at noon</i>
Mar. 4	LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY
Mar. 8/10	NO CLASS/SPRING BREAK
Mar. 15	Women of Color Feminisms
Mar. 17	Women of Color Feminisms, cont. <i>Reflection Paper due Friday at noon</i>

Mar. 22	The Social Construction of Black Feminist Thought (Collins)
Mar. 24	Feminist Film Screening – Dark Girls / <i>Reflection Paper due Friday at noon</i>
Mar. 29	Core Themes in Black Feminist Thought
Mar. 31	Core Themes in Black Feminist Thought, cont. / <i>Reflection Paper due Friday at noon</i>
Apr. 5	Black Feminism, Knowledge, and Power
Apr. 7	Introduction; Birthplaces, Birthmothers: Womanist Origins (Phillips) / <i>Reflection Paper due Friday at noon</i>
Apr. 12	Womanist Kinfolk: Sisters, Brothers, Daughters, & Sons...
Apr. 14	Womanist Kinfolk: Sisters, Brothers, Daughters, & Sons... / <i>Reflection Paper due Friday at noon</i>
Apr. 19	Womanist Theory & Praxis: Womanism in the Disciplines
Apr. 21	Womanist Theory & Praxis: Womanism in the Disciplines / <i>Reflection Paper due Friday at noon</i>
Apr. 26	Critiquing the Womanist Idea
Apr. 28	Book Review and Paper Questions
May 3	FINAL PAPER DUE at 2:30p

Course Policies

General Policy

Students must abide by policies in the [Clayton State University Student Resource Handbook](#), and the [Basic Undergraduate Student Responsibilities](#).

University Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend and participate in every class meeting. Instructors establish specific policies relating to absences in their courses and communicate these policies to the students through the course syllabi. Individual instructors, based upon the nature of the course, determine what effect excused and unexcused absences have in determining grades and upon students' ability to remain enrolled in their courses. The university reserves the right to determine that excessive absences, whether justified or not, are sufficient cause for institutional withdrawals or failing grades.

Course Attendance Policy

Attendance is expected for all class periods. Attendance is required for examination periods. Any absence must be accompanied by a written excuse from a doctor or other competent authority.

Missed Work

Without a valid excuse, a grade of zero points will be assigned for the missed work. If a valid excuse is provided:

- Make-up Reflection Papers will be given only if there is a valid excuse. This is up to the instructor's discretion.
- Make-up examinations will be given only if they are taken before graded examinations are returned to students (next class period). In the event that a make-up examination cannot be taken before exams are returned to other students, the missed examination will not count in calculating the course grade. This means that other graded work will be responsible for a greater weight in determining the course final grade.
- The final paper must be finished. Students missing the final paper should contact their instructor concerning the applicability of an [Incomplete grade](#).

Academic Dishonesty

Any type of activity that is considered dishonest by reasonable standards may constitute academic misconduct. The most common forms of academic misconduct are cheating and plagiarism. All instances of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of zero for the work involved. All instances of academic dishonesty will be reported to the [Office of Community Standards](#). Judicial procedures are described in the [Student Resource Handbook](#) (Procedures for Adjudicating Alleged Academic Conduct Infractions beginning on page 16).

Plagiarism Detection Software

Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. You should submit your papers in such a way that no identifying information about you is included.

Disruption of the Learning Environment

Behavior which disrupts the teaching–learning process during class activities will not be tolerated. While a variety of behaviors can be disruptive in a classroom setting, more serious examples include belligerent, abusive, profane, and/or threatening behavior. A student who fails to respond to reasonable faculty direction regarding classroom behavior and/or behavior while participating in classroom activities may be dismissed from class. A student who is dismissed is entitled to due process and will be afforded such rights as soon as possible following dismissal. If found in violation, a student may be administratively withdrawn and may receive a grade of WF. A more detailed description of examples of disruptive behavior and appeal procedures is provided at: <http://www.clayton.edu/Portals/5/DisruptiveClassroomBehavior.pdf>