

WOMEN'S STUDIES 375
SEX, POWER, AND POLITICS
SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

Spring 2012
Tues/Thurs 8:00-9:15 am
Arts and Letters 204
Schedule # 23043

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Office Hours: Tues. 10-11 am. 7-7:30 pm
Wed. 11:30 am-12:30 pm
Thurs. 1-2 pm or by apt.

Issues of gender, sexuality, and women's status are part of the contemporary political scene, both nationally and internationally. This course is designed to help you to understand and even play a role in these political and cultural struggles. Because mainstream (non-feminist) approaches to politics are well represented in the media and in other courses, this class focuses on feminist approaches and critiques. It will help you to understand the roles of women in local, national, and global politics, the goals and tactics of a range of women's movements, and a detailed understanding of a few issues of importance to women's lives. It will also give you a more global perspective.

The first part of the course takes an in-depth look at the women's movement in the United States from the 1960s to the present. How did it change women's lives and US politics? What aspects did it leave unchanged? Is it still relevant today? As the course develops we will take a more global look at women's political participation and policies affecting women's lives. Finally we will focus in detail on four issues: war and peace; gay rights; reproductive rights; and women's paid and unpaid work.

The course is controversial and full of material designed to incite, excite, and enrage. You don't have to agree with any of it to get an A, but everyone benefits if we all keep open minds. Although the issues touch on all of our lives, we will try whenever possible to look at empirical information. Hopefully we can create an environment where you will be able to explore new ideas and get involved with issues that matter to you.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES FOR SEX, POWER, AND POLITICS

- Demonstrate an understanding of the ways that women's lives are shaped by feminist politics in the US and internationally
- Demonstrate an understanding of the ways that women are involved in politics and affected by policies in the US and internationally
- Analyze the intersectionality of different dimensions of social organization (gender, race, class, culture, etc.) as concepts and as lived experience
- Identify mechanisms of oppression and resistance
- Make connections between abstract knowledge and social activism

*Thinking about a Major or Minor in Women's Studies? The program offers exciting courses, is committed to women's issues and social justice, and is adaptable to your interests and concerns. Women's Studies is **not** impacted! For more information contact: **Dr. Doreen Mattingly, 594-8033, MATTINGL@mail.sdsu.edu***

INSTRUCTOR POLICIES

I expect you to attend class regularly and participate in class discussions. In fact, you will find it very difficult to pass the class without regular attendance. I do not, however, take roll or give participation points. Class will be a combination of lecture, discussion, guest speakers, films, and anything else I can think of. **All activities during class time, including guest speakers, films, and discussions of the day's news, are part of the class and may be part of your exams or assignments.**

You are also expected to do all of the assigned reading for the week before class. The SDSU catalog states that students "Should expect to spend a total of three hours per week, in class and study time, for each unit of college work attempted" (2001, 421). For a three-unit class during the regular term, this translates 9 hours per week (including 3 hours of class).

Office hours, appointments, and messages: You are welcome to visit or call my office during scheduled office hours; no appointment is necessary. If you want to meet with me at another time, please make an appointment (594-8033). If you need to leave some written work, put it in the envelope on my office door (AL 315). You may also contact me via e-mail (MATTINGL@mail.sdsu.edu), but DO NOT turn in assignments via email unless you have asked for and received permission from me. I do not check email on evenings or weekends.

Make-up exams: Students can take make-up exams only if they have received Dr. Mattingly's permission BEFORE the class period when the test is given.

Late assignments: Late assignments will be dropped one letter grade for each day they are late. Assignments are always due at the beginning of class. Assignments received 30 minutes or more after the class period begins will be considered one day late. You may turn in assignments early, either in class or in the envelope on Dr. Mattingly's door.

Classroom behavior: I come to class on time, awake, and prepared, and I expect you to do the same. It makes me crazy when people sleep in class, so if you're too tired stay home. You are welcome to bring coffee or other beverages to class.

Laptops: If I believe you are using your laptop for activities that aren't class related, I'll ask you to turn it off and not bring it back. I cannot begin to explain how distracting it is to me, and probably to other students, when you are playing solitaire, checking email, etc.

Using Blackboard: Most lecture notes, handouts given in class, as well as grades and announcements, will be posted on Blackboard. If this is your first time using Blackboard, go to the Blackboard login page at <http://blackboard.sdsu.edu> and enter your username and password. Your username and password are the same ones you use for GradeLine and WebLine. If you have questions, visit the SDSU e-Services page at <http://www.sdsu.edu/e-services>.

BOOKS AND ARTICLES

Henderson, Sarah J. and Alana S. Jeydel. 2010. *Women and Politics in a Global World, Second Edition*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Dicker, Rory. 2008. *A History of US Feminisms*. Seal Press

Traister, Rebecca. 2010. *Big Girls Don't Cry: The Election that Changed Everything for American Women*. Free Press.

Additional readings posted on *Blackboard*

ASSIGNMENTS

Exams: There will be three exams in this class; the dates are shown on the schedule below. All will be essay exams. You will have a list of questions in advance. Each exam is worth 20% of your final grade.

Feminist Press Analysis: You will write a 5-page paper analyzing copies of newsletters and magazines created by women's organizations in the 1970s. A detailed prompt and grading rubric will be handed out. Worth 10% of your total grade.

Women in Politics Assignment: You will write a 5-page paper analyzing media coverage of female political figures. A detailed prompt and grading rubric will be handed out. Worth 10% of your total grade.

International Feminism Online: You will write a 5-page paper analyzing the websites of two international feminist organizations. A detailed prompt, list of organizations and websites, and grading rubric will be handed out. Worth 10% of your total grade.

Reading Quizzes: Most Thursdays you will take a short quiz about the content of that week's reading. The combined scores from all quizzes are worth 10% of your grade.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

Test 1	20%
Test 2	20%
Test 3	20%
Feminist Press Analysis	10%
Gender in Elections	10%
Int'l Women's Movements	10%
<u>Reading Quizzes:</u>	<u>10%</u>
Total	100%

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week	Topic	Assignments
Jan 19		
Week 1: Jan 24 & 26 US First Wave Feminism	<i>A History of US Feminisms</i> , Chapters 1 and 2 Wheeler, “One Woman, One Vote” <i>Blackboard</i>	
Week 2: Jan 31, Feb 2 US Second Wave Feminism I	<i>A History of US Feminisms</i> , Chapter 3 Freeman, “The Women's Liberation Movement” <i>Blackboard</i>	
Week 3: Feb 7, Feb 9 US Second Wave Feminism II	<i>A History of US Feminisms</i> , Chapter 4 Thompson, “Multiracial Feminism” <i>Blackboard</i>	
Week 4: Feb 14, Feb 16 Gay Rights	D’Emilio, “Cycles of Change, Questions of Strategy” <i>Blackboard</i> Rimmerman, “Jilted at the Alter,” <i>Blackboard</i>	
Week 5: Feb 21, Feb 23 Backlash	Diamond, “Family Matters,” <i>Blackboard</i> Romero, “Penalizing Poor Women,” <i>Blackboard</i>	Feminist Press Analysis due Feb 21
Week 6: Feb 28, Mar 1 Reproductive Rights	McFarlane, “Reproductive Health Policies,” <i>Blackboard</i> Weitz, “Rethinking the Mantra that Abortion Should be Safe, Legal, and Rare,” <i>Blackboard</i>	
Week 7: Mar 6, 8 Women in Electoral Politics I	<i>Big Girls Don’t Cry</i> , Chapters 1-4	Tues: Exam 1
Week 8: Mar 13, 15 Women in Electoral Politics II	<i>Big Girls Don’t Cry</i> , Chapters 5-7	
Week 9: Mar 20, 22 Women in Electoral Politics III	<i>Big Girls Don’t Cry</i> , Chapters 8-12	Women in Politics Assignment Due Mar 20
March 26-30	Spring Break	
Week 10: April 3, 5 Women in Electoral Politics Internationally	<i>Women and Politics in a Global World</i> , Chapter 1 Larserud and Taphorn, “Designing for Equality,” <i>Blackboard</i>	
Week 11: April 10, 12 Women’s Movements around the World	<i>Women and Politics in a Global World</i> , Chapter 7	Tues Exam 2
Week 12: April 17, 19 Women, War, and Peace	<i>Women and Politics in a Global World</i> , Chapter 11 Video: <i>Pray the Devil Back to Hell</i>	
Week 13: April 24, 26 Reproductive Rights in Global Perspective	<i>Women and Politics in a Global World</i> , Chapters 6 & 9 Susskind, “Ungagging Women’s Human Rights” <i>Blackboard</i>	
Week 14: May 1, 3 Work, Family, and Equality	<i>Women and Politics in a Global World</i> , Chapters 4 & 5	International Feminism Analysis due May 1
Week 15: May 8	Catch up, review	
May 15, 8-10 am		Exam 2

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

General Education

Courses that fulfill the 9-unit requirement for **Explorations** in General Education take the goals and skills of GE Foundations courses to a more advanced level. Your three upper division courses in Explorations will provide greater interdisciplinary, more complex and in-depth theory, deeper investigation of local problems, and wider awareness of global challenges. More extensive reading, written analysis involving complex comparisons, well-developed arguments, considerable bibliography, and use of technology are appropriate in many Explorations courses. This is an **Explorations course in Social and Behavioral Sciences**. Completing this course will help you learn to do the following with greater depth: 1) explore and recognize basic terms, concepts, and domains of the social and behavioral sciences; 2) comprehend diverse theories and methods of the social and behavioral sciences; 3) Identify human behavioral patterns across space and time and discuss their interrelatedness and distinctiveness; 4) enhance your understanding of the social world through the application of conceptual frameworks from the social and behavioral sciences to first-hand engagement with contemporary issues

Students with special needs:

Students who need accommodation of disabilities should contact me privately to discuss specific accommodations for which they have received authorization. If you have a disability, but have not contacted Student Disability Services at 619-594-6473 (CalpulliCenter, Third Floor, Suite 3101), please do so before making an appointment to see me.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses. You are plagiarizing or cheating if you:

- for written work, copy anything from a book, article or website and add or paste it into your paper without using quotation marks and/or without providing the full reference for the quotation, including page number
- for written work, summarize / paraphrase in your own words ideas you got from a book, article, or the web without providing the full reference for the source (including page number in the humanities)
- use visuals or graphs you got from a book, article, or website without providing the full reference for the picture or table
- recycle a paper you wrote for another class
- turn in the same (or a very similar paper) for two classes
- purchase or otherwise obtain a paper and turn it in as your own work
- copy off of a classmate
- use technology or smuggle in documents to obtain or check information in an exam situation

In a research paper, it is always better to include too many references than not enough. When in doubt, always err on the side of caution. If you have too many references it might make your professor smile; if you don't have enough you might be suspected of plagiarism. If you have any question or uncertainty about what is or is not cheating, it is your responsibility to ask your instructor.