

**DEPARTMENT OF AMERICAN STUDIES  
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY-CENTRAL ASIA  
WOMEN'S LITERATURE: INTRO TO WOMEN'S STUDIES  
AMS 410 01286  
3 Credit Hours  
Instructor: Stephanie R. Olson**

Lectures: Tuesdays 14:05 - room XXX and Fridays 14:05 - room XXX

Office Hours: ICP-231 Thursdays 10 – 12 and by appointment

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course is an introduction to the broad field of American Women's Studies. We will read about and discuss a wide range of material that will help you to explore and develop your own thinking. Many of the readings may challenge your beliefs and assumptions while others may support your own ideas. We will learn about the history of the women's movement in the U.S. as well as about contemporary women's issues. Issues that we will discuss include feminism, gender roles and socialization, sexuality, masculinity, marriage and the family, birth and mothering, women and work, race and feminism, violence against women, reproductive health and rights, women and the law, and global feminism. The course will also incorporate video material that illustrate and illuminate some of these issues.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Students will learn:

1. The history of the U.S. Women's Movement
2. Historical and current women's issues in the United States
3. How to effectively communicate in writing ideas about and analysis of women's issues and feminism

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

#### Assigned Readings

There is one required course reader which will be a compilation of writings on feminism and women's issues.

#### Attendance and Assignments

To receive a grade of "C" or higher in this course, you must attend class regularly, come prepared to discuss course material, and hand assignments in on time. More than 3 absences will lower the student's grade 2 points/percent per occurrence from the final grade. For more than 5 unexcused absences a student will be given an X or F. Do not be tardy (late) for class. Three tardies will equal one absence. Late submissions will be penalized with a deduction of 10% of the grade per day. **If you know that you are going to miss class or be late, speak to or e-mail the professor beforehand.**

#### Participation

Active class participation is strongly encouraged. You are required to contribute to the class discussion by offering opinions and arguments and/or bringing material to class that will enrich the learning experience such as newspaper articles, cartoons, video clips, etc.

### Writing Expectations

There is a heavy emphasis on writing in this course. This will help you to develop your writing skills in English and improve your analytic writing and ability to produce and communicate critical ideas.

Along with two papers (3 – 5 pages each); students will be required to write a short reflection on class themes each week. Students who need extra help with writing can utilize the AUCA Writing and Academic Resource Center, Room 228, [warc@mail.auca.kg](mailto:warc@mail.auca.kg)

### Reading Expectations

It is important to keep up with the class readings and to come to class prepared to discuss the reading for that day.

### Presentations

You are required to present on the week's theme in one class this semester. Presenters will be responsible for providing a 10 minute speech and facilitating the discussion of the class. Your grade will be based upon the presentation of the information, your analysis, and the questions and class engagement you generate. If you are signed up to do a presentation and do not show up on that day, you will receive a zero for the assignment.

### Grading

30% -- Two Short Papers (3 - 5 pages each)

10% -- Reflection writings (ten one or two paragraph writings on class themes)

20% -- Mid-term Exam

20% -- Final Exam

20% -- Presentation and Participation (includes attendance, contribution to class discussion and class presentations)

### **AUCA RULES**

- (1) *All academic work* must be free of plagiarism and meet all the standards stipulated in the AUCA Honor Code. It is the responsibility of all students to thoroughly inform themselves about the said standards before undertaking or performing any academic work. Intentional plagiarism will result in an F for the assignment and possible suspension from the university.
- (2) *Late submissions*: Students are expected to respect all deadlines. Late submissions will be penalized with a deduction of 10% of the grade per day.
- (3) *Mobile Phones* must be turned off during class.

### **SCHEDULE<sup>1</sup>**

#### WEEK ONE

January 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>

Introductions

#### WEEK THREE

January 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>

History of Women's Movement in the United States

A. Third Wave

B. Feminism Today

WEEK FOUR

Jan 31<sup>st</sup> and February 3<sup>rd</sup>

What is Gender?

- A. Gender v. Sex
- B. Learning Gender - Gender Socialization

WEEK FIVE

February 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>

Femininity and Masculinity

- A. Women and the Media
- B. Masculinity

WEEK SIX

February 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>

Sexuality

WEEK SEVEN

February 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>

Women's Bodies and Health

- A. Reproductive Rights and Health

WEEK EIGHT

Feb 28<sup>th</sup> and March 2<sup>nd</sup>

Women's Bodies and Health continued

- A. Pornography and Prostitution
- B. MIDTERM

WEEK NINE

March 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>

Spring Break

WEEK TEN

March 13<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>

Violence Against Women

- A. Rape and Domestic Violence
- B. Women's Self-Defense

WEEK ELEVEN

March 20<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>

Women and Motherhood

- A. Maternal Thinking?
- B. Birth and Midwifery

WEEK TWELVE

March 27<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>

Women and Work

- A. Paid Work
- B. Unpaid Work

WEEK THIRTEEN  
April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>

Women and Work continued  
A. Women and Poverty  
B. Glass Ceilings and Bottomless Pits

WEEK FOURTEEN  
April 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>

Women and Law  
A. Sex Equality under the Law  
B. Sexual Harassment

WEEK SIXTEEN  
April 24<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>

Global Feminism

May 2<sup>nd</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>

Exam Week

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<sup>1</sup> *The course syllabus* is a general study plan; deviations may be made to accommodate unforeseen developments.