

## **Women's Studies 311-01 Feminist Theorizing** **Tuesday, Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., PF110**

**Instructor:** Joe Kadi, office Social Science 1054.

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**Office hours:** 11 a.m. until 12 noon, Tuesdays, Social Science 1054.

### **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 and action – and social change generally – in everyday life.
- Deepen our critical/holistic thinking skills.
- Work to establish a vibrant learning community based on respect and support.

### **WARNING**

Some of the materials and topics in this class may include explicit written or audio-visual content (violence, sexuality, objectionable or illegal conduct). If these materials make you uncomfortable, you are encouraged to speak with the professor. 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.

### **Student Agreement and Other Important Matters:**

Students are expected to carefully read the Student Agreement, and sign it, after our first class. The Student Agreement explains important issues having to do with creating a respectful environment, ensuring confidentiality, setting up a distraction-free classroom, and so forth. If a student has concerns about the Student Agreement and needs to speak to me in order to negotiate a modified agreement, you need to come to discuss this with me. Otherwise, I expect that all students will sign the document, and follow the guidelines stated there.

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.

Use of recording technologies in class is prohibited.

A Blackboard portal has been set up for this course which allows for group correspondence, course announcements, assignment submissions, and other forms of communication. Students are expected to check Blackboard before the course for any last minute changes or cancellations. Students are also expected to check their email regularly.

Students will not be allowed to use word processing devices during regular class time (unless they are necessary for accessibility purposes).

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

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>

### **Texts 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).

These books are available from the UC bookstore. If the bookstore runs out, these can be purchased at local bookstores, or purchased online. The website [www.goodbooks.com](http://www.goodbooks.com) is a good place to check for secondhand books (make sure you take note of where the books are being sent from, as books being mailed from the US or England may not get here on time for our class).

**Important note:** In addition to the books listed above, there are two articles that are required reading; both of these will be posted on our BB site.

### **Assignments and Evaluation:**

Participatory Classroom, part I. 10%

Participatory Classroom, part II. 10%

Quizzes, one on four different days, 12.5% each, total 50%.

Final take-home exam, 30%.

Refer to the essay grading rubric, available on Blackboard in the Course Documents section, to understand expectation for all writing assignments.

#### ***Participatory Classroom, a two-part assignment, each part worth 10% of the grade.***

In this two-part assignment, students will write one short paper near the beginning of term outlining goals and intentions regarding attendance and participation, and a second short paper near the end of term, assessing whether these goals and intentions have been met. Each paper will be two to three double-spaced pages, 12 point font; clear writing and strong organization is necessary. Part I is due at the beginning of class on 21 January 2014. Part II is due 3 April 2014, at the beginning of class.

#### ***Quizzes (4 X 12.5% for 50% of the grade).***

In these closed-book short tests, on 28 January, 11 February, 4 March, and 25 March, 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 12.5 percent, adding up to a total of 50 percent of the overall grade. Quizzes will occur at the beginning of class, and will take 45 minutes of the class to complete. 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 and they will receive 0 on the assignment.

#### ***Final Take-home Exam (30%)***

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: 10 April 2014, at the beginning of class (must be handed in, in person). Mandatory attendance for the last day of class.

## 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 the Faculty of Arts office, Social Science 102. 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.

If you miss more than one quiz, you may fail the course.

## Grading system:

Letter	Grading Scale		
	Range	Usually Graded As	Point
A+	96-100	98	4
A	90-95.99	93	4
A -	85-89.99	87	3.7
B+	80-84.99	83	3.3
B	75-79.99	77	3
B-	70-74.99	72	2.7
C+	65-69.99	67	2.3
C	60-64.99	62	2
C-	55-59.99	57	1.7
D+	53-54.99	54	1.3
D	50-52.99	52	1
F	0-49	0	0

## 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>

## Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette:

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

## Grade appeals:

Consult the following University Calendar link and request advice from the interdisciplinary programs office, on the main floor of the Social Sciences building. Note that "mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision."

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

**Deferral of term work and final examinations:**

Should you require an extension of for completion of term papers or assignments beyond the deadline of five days after the end of lectures, an Application of Deferment of Term Work form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. See Calendar: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>.

**Academic accommodation:**

It is a student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation and if you have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Your academic accommodation letters should be provided to your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the commencement of this course. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/>

**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 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 in their new space 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.

**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>

## **PLAGIARISM**

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated plagiarism.

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/>

## **STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT**

According to the University Calendar, (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j.html>)

“The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, ..., to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community”. The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a “positive and productive learning and working environment.” This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that “seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of students and/or university staff”. Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.