

WMST 321 L01  
Women and Health  
Fall 2013  
Wednesdays 2:00-4:45

**Instructor:** Dr. Katherine Zelinsky  
**Office Location:** TBA  
**Office Phone:** TBA  
**E-Mail:** zelinsky@ucalgary.ca  
**Web Page:** N/A  
**Office Hours:** Wednesdays, 1:00-2:00 (Please make an appointment)

### **Course Description**

In this course, we will critically examine and explore various aspects of, and issues and perspectives surrounding, women and health. The terrain of exploration is vast: the readings in the course will provide overviews of such topics as gender-based power and clinical/medical practice; women and body image; eating disorders; women and cancer; racialized girls/ women and health; violence against women; women and depression; women as health care providers. The readings also offer a glimpse into the diverse generic range of this field of inquiry, including academic articles, personal memoirs, essays, poems and short fiction.

### **Objectives of the Course**

The primary objectives of the course are:

1. To introduce students to the expansive field of Women's Health.
2. To explore women's health as both personal experience and as defined by cultural, socio-economic and political contexts.
3. To learn to ask questions about women's health: what "health" means on both an individual and a social, gender-defined level.
4. To provide a space in which students can explore the field of investigation through various means: by asking questions, challenging received assumptions, researching, writing and talking with peers about girls and women's health.

## Textbooks and Readings:

Lorde, Audre. *The Cancer Journals: Special Edition*. San Francisco: Aunt Lute Books, 1997.

Schaefer, Jenni. *Life Without Ed*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2004.

Zelinsky, Katherine (Compiler), *University of Calgary Coursepack of Selected Readings, Women's Studies 321*, Fall 2013.

## Assignments and Evaluation; Due Dates

Analytical/Research Paper	25%	Wed., October 16
Group Presentation	25%	Period covering last 3 weeks of class
Quiz	10%	Wed., October 30
Creative Assignment	30%	Wed., November 13
Class Participation	10%	Ongoing

1. The Analytical/Research paper requires you to choose a topic on women's health inspired by one of the works from the course list of readings. You will be asked not only to research the topic (e.g. breast cancer support organizations and feminism) but also to assume a position of your own, based on your research, and to define your own argument. You should use the work from the course readings that inspired your topic (for example, "The Cancer Journals" or "The Social Construction of Disability") as a springboard for your discussion. Possible approaches to this assignment are: exploring an aspect of your chosen course reading that is not adequately addressed by the author or refuting some aspect of the author's argument with recent research findings. I will expect you to mention the work in your introduction and in your conclusion, and, occasionally, in the body of your paper. Your essay should be **double-spaced, stapled** and between 5-6 pages in length. You must include **4-5 authoritative research sources**. The paper will be assessed on the basis of the quality and clarity of its argument, its critical thinking, the authority and relevance of its sources, and its grammatical, sentence, paragraph and organizational proficiency. You are free to use either APA or MLA formatting for your paper.

2. For the group presentation you will be required to explore one aspect of women and health; the general topic may or may not have been discussed in class, but you must draw connections between your argument and at least one of the writers/works from the course list of readings. Make sure that your topic is **narrow and specific** and has a clear, sustained focus. Presentations can be no longer than 20 minutes in length. Groups will likely comprise 3 students, depending on the size of the class. They will take place in the last three weeks of the course. You are free to use visual materials and other forms of media in your presentation, but **remember that you must not let the visual**

**materials (or powerpoint) “talk” for you. Remember, too, that the group presentation is not a research project or a collection of facts/data.** Your objective is to provide analysis of the material and conceptualize your argument in relation to one of the writers from the course list of readings.

3. The quiz will be a multiple choice exam; the questions will be based on the material covered up to that point in class discussions.

4. The creative assignment will ask you to write a play or some kind of mock exchange, debate, consciousness-raising session, talk show or conference featuring 3 or 4 writers from the course readings (not including the poets). You will be required to assume the “voice” of your chosen writers and focus their discussion around a health issue for women, for example, rape, body image, marginalized women and healthcare, reproductive rights, women and depression. Each writer/speaker should be given equal time so that your assignment has a sense of balance. There must also be a “point” to your assignment. What conclusion(s) would the writers come to? Would they agree or disagree, ultimately? What knowledge, wisdom, advice would they pass on to each other and to their fictional audience? The assignment should be 5-6 pages in length, stapled and **single-spaced for each speaker, double-spaced between speakers.**

5. Class Participation includes speaking in class discussions, including responding to questions and commentary about the course readings, contributing your ideas to small group discussions, attending regularly, arriving to class on time and not leaving early.

**N.B. All course requirements must be completed in order to qualify for a passing grade.**

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

Note: Please hand in your essays directly to your instructor. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS102. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed the following morning, stamped with the previous day's date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox.

**Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No**

### **Policy for Late Assignments**

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A-to B+) for each day late.

## Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, **students should identify themselves on all written work by using their ID number. Also you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam.**

For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.

## Grading System

	Grading Scale
A+	96-100
A	90-95.99
A -	85-89.99
B+	80-84.99
B	75-79.99
B-	70-74.99
C+	65-69.99
C	60-64.99
C-	55-59.99
D+	53-54.99
D	50-52.99
F	0-49

## Schedule of Lectures and Readings

The class schedule will be posted on Blackboard before the first day of class.

## 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 possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor or the library if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

### **Internet and electronic communication device information**

**Please turn off cell phones!** Laptops are allowed in class as long as they are being used to take notes or to assist you in the planning of class presentations. Students who use their laptops for other purposes, especially if such activities distract other students, will be asked to remove them from the classroom. Students are expected to attend each class and to have read and reflected on the materials assigned for discussion each day. The classroom will be a safe place in which students and Instructor can engage in respectful discussion, exchange and debate. That means a safe space for everyone! Please familiarize yourself with the University's policy on classroom etiquette and academic misconduct.

### **Academic Misconduct**

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link;  
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

### **Additional Information**

**Please exercise decorum and discretion if you email me. That means using correct grammar and appropriate salutations (for example, Dear Professor Zelinsky or Dear Katherine). Although I expect that you will ask most of your questions in class (and I will answer them there or on Blackboard), you may feel the need to email me occasionally. I will do my best to respond within 48 hours. I will not, however, respond to emails after 6:00 p.m or on weekends.**

### **Academic Accommodation Policy**

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre (220-8237) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course. For further information, please see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/node/46>

### **Emergency Evacuation and Assembly points**

Please note the evacuation points for this particular classroom. All classrooms on campus exit to specific places in case of emergency. The emergency assembly points differ depending upon where your classroom is located. For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

## **"SAFEWALK" Program**

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 403-220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

## **Student Representation**

There are now four Arts reps because of the amalgamation, with the email addresses being [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), and [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca). Please contact if you have questions related to Students Union matters, events, or concerns.

For your student ombudsman, please see

<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

## **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 on the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor of MacEwan Student Centre.
- 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.