



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

WMST 503-S01  
Community Service Learning

Winter Term 2019

Course Outline

Lectures: Thursdays 5:00 to 7:45 p.m., Social Science 1248

**Instructor:** Joe Kadi  
**Office:** Social Sciences Building, #1206  
**Office Phone:** Please use email  
**Email:** jkadi@ucalgary.ca  
**Office Hours:** Thursdays 12:15-1:15, or by appointment. Open Forum Tuesdays 3:30-4:30 p.m.

**Land Acknowledgement**

The University of Calgary resides upon the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprising the Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations), the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III. The University of Calgary is situated on land adjacent to where the Bow River meets the Elbow River, and that the traditional Blackfoot name of this place is "Moh'kins'tsis", which we now call the City of Calgary.

*ii' taa'poh'to'p*, the Blackfoot name of the University of Calgary's Indigenous Strategy, was bestowed and transferred in ceremony by Kainai Elder, Andy Black Water on June 21, 2017. The name signifies a place to rejuvenate and re-energize while on a journey. Traditionally, these places are recognized as safe, caring, restful - and offer renewed energy for an impending journey. In a traditional naming ceremony, transitioning into the new name is a journey of transformation towards self-actualization.

**Course Description**

This course provides an opportunity for students to learn from volunteer service in community organizing and/or activism relating to feminist, gender, and sexuality studies. Students must secure their own volunteer position, and identify a Community Supervisor or Sponsor Collective before enrolling in the class. We will meet as a class at least five times in a term to discuss readings and practicum experiences. Volunteer commitment over the term must be between 20 to 25 hours (1 to 1.5 hours per week, adjustable).

**Prerequisites:** Women's Studies 201, 405 and Instructor's consent.

## Course Learning Outcomes

Community engaged learning combines community service with academic instruction, focusing on critical, reflective thinking and personal and civic responsibility. This course involves students in activities that address community-identified needs, develop their academic skills, and enhance their commitment to gender and sexual justice. While community service is a required component of this course, students are graded on their critical, academic understanding of the principles and practices of engaged learning from a gender/sexual lens, and of their own community engagement. Because this is a Women's Studies course, students must adhere to the academic standards of the field, defined broadly to encompass all forms of critical gender and sexuality studies.

### Objectives of this course include:

- To develop self-reflexive, critical frameworks that will inform your community and/or activist practices on behalf of marginalized gender or sexuality groups
- To understand the theoretical, methodological, and pedagogical paradigms behind Community Engaged Learning, and their applicability to the fields of gender and sexuality studies and their related sub-fields.
- To appreciate the valuable insights gained by articulating gender and sexuality scholarship to related community organizing and/or activism
- To become a more critical, self-reflexive, and conscious scholar and activist
- To participate in a vibrant, questioning community of learning that is rooted in respect for diversity and demand for social justice

Students are welcome to define their own learning objectives and to share them with the class.

### Required/Recommended Texts (including electronic resources):

Our articles are available on D2L and through the university library (<http://library.ucalgary.ca/>).

### Course Assessment

In keeping with the principles of community engaged learning, you will **not** be assessed based on weighted average of graded assignments but on the successful completion of a pre-determined set of tasks. As a general rule, a successful completion of a task demonstrates a largely correct understanding of the material and a competence in thinking critically about it. This grading system allows you as a student much more self-determination and goal management. This system is more rigorous than traditional grading and builds on well-documented links between high expectations and student success. It creates a safe but challenging environment in which you will thrive, because each assignment is assessed pass/fail, and the requirements for a pass are always clearly delineated. It will be easy for you to tell whether your work is complete, done in good faith, and consistent with our expectations and the intended learning outcome.

Final Assignment				Final Reflection
Class Preparation	1 reflection paper	2 reflection papers	3-4 reflection papers	4-5 reflection papers

<b>Class Participation</b>	Participation in 1-2 scheduled class meetings	Participation in 3-5 scheduled class meetings	High level participation in 3-4 scheduled class meetings	High level participation in all 5 scheduled class meetings
<b>Class Engagement</b>	Engagement Questionnaires	Engagement Questionnaires	Engagement Questionnaires	Engagement Questionnaires
<b>Assignment Type</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>A</b>
<p>Plus or minus grades will be awarded to students who complete some but not all of the tasks in the next grade up. For example, a student who completes all engagement questionnaires, provides high level participation in three classes, but only submits two reflection papers, may receive a grade of B- or C+. By contrast, a student who completes all engagement questionnaires, provides adequate participation in 2-4 classes, but submits 3 reflection papers may receive a B- or a C+.</p>				

### ***Class Engagement***

In our participatory classroom, with a small group of students, it will be essential for each student to engage in the learning process and contribute to a successful classroom experience. We will be working within the braver space guidelines of the Women’s Studies program, and we will be working with the Student Agreement that has been created within the Women’s Studies program. Students will be required to sign, and conduct themselves by, the Student Agreement, and they will assess their own participation in an ongoing fashion. The guidelines for engagement assessment will be available on our D2L site.

### ***Class Participation***

A seminar classroom depends upon the full participation of its members. Attendance matters, but active engagement in classroom discussions, grounded in solid preparation and mindful self-reflection matters more. Thus, there are two different standards for participation in this course. “High Level Participation” means at a minimum that you come to class on time, stay throughout, remain actively engaged with little to no personal distractions, provide meaningful, evidence-based contributions that are relevant to the discussions, listen actively and respectfully to others, and ask complex questions of yourself and others. Anything less than this does not constitute “high level” and will be considered as “participation” only. Quality of participation matters more than quantity. Indeed, dominating discussions or frequently interjecting weak contributions do not constitute “high level participation.” The topics for each of the five class meetings are also the topics for the reflection papers and are detailed below. Therefore, you have ample opportunity to prepare yourself for high level participation.

### ***Reflection Papers***

Reflection papers are forms of academic writing that include personal reflections of significant depth and breadth, tested through scholarly paradigms. Each of our five meetings is organized around a theme. Students electing to complete reflection papers must write on these specific themes and submit by their established deadline. All submissions go into D2L Dropbox under the assigned folder. Only Word (doc or docx) or PDF format will be accepted.

Your reflection papers need only be approximately 750 words, but they must follow a scholarly format, reference the assigned readings in a meaningful way, and also be informed by at least one additional independently-sourced scholarly reference that is cited in the paper. Follow the guidelines in the rubric provided in D2L. As a general rule, all your papers must meet or exceed the criteria for a “B” as outlined in the rubric to count toward your completed assignments.

### ***Reflection Paper Topics and Deadlines***

***Introducing Your Service:*** Each student will provide an introduction to their service organization, including details such as its history, founders/foundation, mandate, vision, terms of reference, its key stakeholders, and commitment to gender and/or sexual justice. If your service commitment is within a particular unit of the organization, provide details on that as well. The student will also explain their role in the organization, and why they selected it. Finally, the student will provide a clear learning goal statement for their service, and an explanation as to why they enrolled in this course.

***Due January 26, 11:59 p.m.***

***Volunteerism and Activism:*** Each student will provide a thoughtful reflection on how best to define their service along an imperfect continuum of volunteerism and activism. Volunteerism is usually defined as unpaid service to immediately address a community need, whereas Activism is seen as addressing the root or structural problems that created the need. Neither is better than the other, nor does one preclude the other. The issue at stake here is for the student to honestly assess their commitment dynamic and their primary motivation – is it volunteer-oriented or activist-oriented?

***Due February 9, 11:59 p.m.***

***Organizational Culture:*** In this assignment, students will provide a “thick description” of their organization’s workplace culture. This includes not only a discussion of the structure of the organization (its leadership model, its environment, its expectations on employees and volunteers, etc.) but also the behaviours and modes of communication. In other words, students must provide a detailed account of their organization in ways that draws insight into the cultural and social relationships and their contexts.

***Due March 2, 11:59 p.m.***

***Autoethnographic Analysis:*** An autoethnographic analysis connects the student’s personal motivations to their current contexts. It is an opportunity for the student to reflect on the anticipations they had entering into this course, and where they stand now. Most importantly, it is an opportunity for students to reflect on disappointments (with the service component, with the classroom component, with their own preparedness) in a positive, proactive way that turns these seeming failures or frustrations into guiding opportunities for better practices in the future.

***Due March 16, 11:59 p.m.***

***Bridging Academics and Experience:*** What theoretical or methodological paradigms best inform your approach to community engaged learning? Key to this presentation will be the concept of praxis as the theory of action.

***Due April 6, 11:59 p.m.***

### ***Final Reflection***

The final assignment is a “reflection on your reflections” – an opportunity to review your contributions to both your community organization and to your peers, and to comment upon your own growth in discovery, experience, and knowledge. It should be organized around the following question: “How has community engaged learning enriched my commitment to gender and sexual justice?” The paper should be approximately 1500 words, follow a scholarly format, and integrate at least eight peer-refereed

sources, of which no more than five can come from previous citations. In other words, at least three of your sources must not have been cited in any of your previous reflection papers.

***Due April 15, 11:59 p.m.***

**Level of Engagement Reports (guidelines available on D2L):**

Level of Engagement 1, by Feb. 15, 11:59 p.m.

Level of Engagement 2, by March 15, 11:59 p.m.

Level of Engagement 3, by April 4, 11:59 p.m.

**Practicum Assessments (guidelines available on D2L):**

Practicum Assessment from Student about Student, due April 4, 11:59 p.m.

Practicum Assessment from Supervisor about Student, due April 4, 11:59 p.m.

**Policy for Late Assignments**

Unless otherwise stated, no extensions will be granted on assignments except in cases of documented medical or personal distress.

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of all assignments in case of loss by any cause.

**There will be no Registrar-scheduled final exam.**

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**Women's Studies Program Course Policies**

**Course Content:**

Some of the materials and topics in this class may include explicit content (violence; sexuality; profanity; blasphemous, objectionable or illegal conduct). If you feel any materials may cause you distress or severe discomfort, you are encouraged to speak with the professor and/or to take measures to ensure that you feel braver in the classroom. 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. No one person's right to their beliefs may supersede another person's right to security and dignity.

When in a classroom dedicated to social justice education, conflict will happen. That is part of a healthy, dynamic, questioning space of learning and discovery. You are encouraged to hold onto your own personal beliefs, but recognize that there will be differences of opinion and experience.

A university classroom holds high standards of research, evidence, and analytical proof. Students need to listen attentively, respectfully, and critically to the evidence provided in class lectures, readings, discussions, and other materials.

If you feel that you need more support than can be provided by the classroom or the instructor, you are encouraged to take advantage of some of these resources:

**SU Wellness Centre**

(<http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/> 403-210-9355 / 403-266-4357)

**Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse Hotline**

(<http://www.calgarycasa.com/> 403-237-5888)

**Alberta Mental Health Hotline**

(<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/services.asp?pid=saf&rid=1019446> **1-877-303-2642**)

Trained peer supporters are also available on campus at the following centres:

**Women's Resource Centre**

(<https://www.ucalgary.ca/women/> **4<sup>th</sup> Floor, MacEwen Centre, in The Loft**)

**Q Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity**

(<https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/programs-services/student-services/the-q-centre/> **2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Mac Hall, near The Den**)

**Faith and Spirituality Centre**

(<http://www.ucalgary.ca/fsc/> **3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, MacEwen Centre**)

**Native Centre**

(<https://www.ucalgary.ca/nativecentre/> **3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, MacEwen Centre**)

If you have a serious concern about the instructor's conduct, you may speak in full confidence to the Head of the Department of Philosophy ([phildept@ucalgary.ca](mailto:phildept@ucalgary.ca)) Please note, Women's Studies is a program that is administered by the Department of Philosophy.

**Student Conduct:**

A Student Code of Conduct Agreement is part of this course, available on D2L.

Students are expected to attend class regularly. They must come prepared and ready to work.

Responsibility for 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 meetings.

Students are welcome to bring portable word processing devices (tablets, laptops, airbooks, Acer, anything you got) to class as learning tools to improve your focus and engagement. Using your device to access personal or non-course related material is prohibited and may result in having your privileges to use your device in class revoked and/or you being removed from the class. See the Student Code of Conduct Agreement for more details.

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>

**Course Technology:**

A D2L portal has been set up for this course that allows for group correspondence, course announcements, class materials, assignment submissions and grading, and other forms of communication. Students are expected to check D2L before class time for any last minute changes or cancellations. D2L only uses @ucalgary email addresses.

## **Student-Professor Communication:**

Appropriate communication procedures are described in detail in the Student Code of Conduct Agreement. The professor's preferred means of communication is first by scheduled office hours, then by a pre-arranged meeting time (only if the professor's office hours conflict with another course), and then by email.

The professor will endeavor to respond to emails within two business days after receiving the message. If the student emails a question that is fully addressed by the syllabus, classroom agreement, or an announcement / news item posted on D2L, the professor will not reply. Therefore, if you don't receive a response within two business days that probably means you can find the answer somewhere yourself. The professor may respond to your email query with the request that you come meet with them in person to discuss.

## **Braver Space Guidelines:**

"Braver Space" principles recognize that everyone brings different resiliencies and capacities to a group setting. We must all bring our personal bravery into the classroom space, and be mindful of what that means specifically to us. This does not mean sharing or participating in a way that violates personal boundaries (yours or another person's), nor cajoling others into participating in ways that are not conducive to their personal bravery. Rather, it means being respectful, self-aware, and mindful of the classroom dynamic and your place in it. Some guidelines are provided below.

Do not make assumptions about other people's identities and life experiences. That includes but is not limited to race, gender, sexuality, physical ability, mental and emotional well being, spirituality or religiosity, age, citizenship status, and reproductive capabilities.

Recognize that language is a powerful tool in social justice education. It also changes as new issues and greater clarity develop. Therefore, if you need to correct language use, do so respectfully; and if you are corrected, accept that correction respectfully.

Make an effort to speak from the position of "I" (not the generalized "you" or "people") and to clarify any statements you make, using verifiable evidence and experience. Making a sweeping judgment on a class or group of people is not acceptable.

Address people without assuming their gender. Some ways to do this:

- Don't refer to groups as guys, ladies, women, men, etc. Instead use gender-neutral terms like "folks," "all," "everyone," etc.
- Refer to individuals whose gender has not been disclosed to you in gender-neutral ways such as "the person who said..."

Address people using the gender pronouns they have indicated for themselves. Offer your gender pronouns to others to make it a braver space to talk about gender pronouns. Some gender pronouns include, but are not limited to:

- they/them/theirs
- she/her/hers
- ze/hir/hirs
- he/him/his
- ey/em/eirs

Similarly, if you are unsure about any aspect of a person's identity and how they would prefer to be addressed, ask respectfully. This can apply to Indigeneity, race or ethnicity, faith or spirituality, physical or mental ability, or other vectors of their identity. When speaking in more

general terms, if you are corrected, accept the correction graciously. If you are questioned about your choice of general or self-identification, provide a succinct and respectful explanation.

Provide discrete and succinct content warnings if you will be talking about topics that may be traumatic for some and the content is not already apparent. Examples of such topics could include abuse, violence, addiction, suicide, mental health, transphobia/homophobia/other forms of discriminatory behaviours. An example of wording could be, "Please note that there will be (x) content in my discussion."

Respect your own and others' physical, mental, and emotional boundaries. Please speak up in a respectful way if you are uncomfortable, seek support if you want/need it, and engage in self-care as required.

### **About the Women's Studies Program:**

This course counts toward any Women's Studies degree. The Women's Studies Program offers Major, Minor, and Honours undergraduate degrees. Housed in the Department of Philosophy, the program is dedicated to offering students a feminist social justice classroom where we can bravely explore issues relating to gender and sexual equity and diversity from many perspectives. For more information, contact the program coordinator ([wmstprog@ucalgary.ca](mailto:wmstprog@ucalgary.ca)) and check out our website: <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/womens-studies>.

The University of Calgary has a number of student clubs and campus centres dedicated to issues of gender and sexual equity and diversity. Here are links to their Facebook sites (please note that the instructors are often members of these social media sites):

[Consent Awareness and Sexual Education Club](#)  
[Faith and Spirituality Centre](#)  
[Native Centre](#)  
[Queers on Campus](#)  
[Q: The SU Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity](#)  
[Women in Leadership Club](#)  
[Women's Resource Centre](#)  
[Women's Studies and Feminism Club](#)

The Women's Studies program is administered by the Department of Philosophy. The Program Coordinator is Joe Kadi ([jkadi@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jkadi@ucalgary.ca) / [wmstprog@ucalgary.ca](mailto:wmstprog@ucalgary.ca)). The Head of the Department of Philosophy is Dr. Nicole Wyatt ([nicole.wyatt@ucalgary.ca](mailto:nicole.wyatt@ucalgary.ca) / [phildept@ucalgary.ca](mailto:phildept@ucalgary.ca)).

### **IMPORTANT DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION**

#### **Academic Honesty**

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is regarded as an extremely serious academic offense, the penalty for which may be an F on the assignment, an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw from the University. See the relevant sections on 'Academic Misconduct' in the current University Calendar. Intellectual honesty requires that your work include adequate referencing to sources. Plagiarism occurs when you do not acknowledge or correctly reference your sources. If you have questions about correct referencing, consult your instructor.

#### **Academic Accommodation**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](https://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).



Students needing an Accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their instructor.

### **D2L Help**

Desire2Learn is UCalgary's online learning management system. Important information and communications about this course may be posted on D2L. Go to <https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it> for help.

### **General Academic Concerns and Program Planning**

Have a question but not sure where to start? The Arts Students Centre is your information resource for everything in the Faculty of Arts. Drop in at SS102, call 403-220-3580, or email [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca). Advisors in the ASC can also provide assistance and advice in planning your program through to graduation. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> for detailed information on common academic concerns

### **Registration Overload/Prereq Waivers**

If you are seeking to register in a Philosophy course that is full or to get permission to waive the prereqs for a course, email the Department Manager, Tram Nguyen ([tram.nguyen1@ucalgary.ca](mailto:tram.nguyen1@ucalgary.ca)). Include the specific course information and your UCID number in your request.

### **Writing**

This course will include written assignments. Faculty policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3rd floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library. Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15-minute drop-in appointments, and register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit [www.ucalgary.ca/ssc](http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc).

### **Protection of Privacy**

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. The Department of Philosophy ensures the student's right to privacy by requiring all graded assignments be returned to the student directly from the instructor or teaching assistant.

### **Internet and Electronic Communication Devices**

The instructor reserves the right to establish course policies regarding the use of devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartbooks. If allowed, these devices must be used exclusively for instructional purposes and must not cause disruption to the instructor or to fellow students. Cell phones and paging devices should be set to silent mode during lectures. Audio or video recording of lectures is not permitted without the written permission of the instructor. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy

**Emergency Evacuation:**

In case of an emergency evacuation during class, students must gather at the designated assembly point nearest to the classroom. The list of assembly points is found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints> . Please check this website and note the nearest assembly point for this course.

**Other Helpful Contacts**

- Safewalk and Campus Security: 403-220-5333.
- Faculty of Arts Student Representatives: 403-220-6552, [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)
- Student Union: <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>; 403-220-6551.
- Student Ombudsman: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>
- Campus Mental Health Strategy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>