

WMST 101: Women and the World

Instructor: Dr. Michele Ren

Office: Buchanan House 206 Office Hours: Tu/W/Th 1:30-2:30 and by appointment

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COURSE OBJECTIVES/PROCEDURES: In this class we will be studying the concept of gender and its links to women's issues at home and abroad. The study of women entails looking critically at the world we live in, in ways that many of you have not been asked to do before. The most important thing that I will ask of you is to keep an open mind when reading, writing about, and/or discussing the course materials. I won't ask you to agree with any of our materials, but I will ask that you show an understanding of them when expressing a disagreement.

REQUIRED TEXTS/MATERIALS:

Walker, Alice. *The Color Purple*. Orlando: Harcourt, 1982. ISBN: 9780156031820

Articles (available on D2L): **Print** them, make notes as you read, and bring them to class the day they are due.

PARTICIPATION: Please come to class with printed articles, ready for a quiz *and* prepared to discuss the day's reading. Two F's (59 or below) on a reading quiz = an absence. More than 6 absences will result in automatic failure of the course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS (see individual assignment sheets on D2L for further detail):

Reflection Essays (2) 100 pts: Minimum 3 FULL pages, double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt font, 1" margins. Essay 1 will be on an issue from weeks 1-4. Essay 2 will be on an issue from weeks 5-10. Each essay should quote from and cite at least 3 of the required readings. Late essays will lose a letter grade for each day they are late.

Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence Awareness & Gay/Lesbian History Month (3) 15 pts: We will not meet as a class on Fridays in October. Instead, please attend 3 Campus Events and write about each on the D2L Discussion board (300 word minimum). A list of eligible events will be available in September. These Fridays are also a good time to schedule/conduct your interviews. Posts are due within 72 hours of each event.

Feminist Fridays (1) 20 pts: Since part of our objective in this course is to learn new ways of viewing the world, I will ask you to try to analyze the world through a women's studies perspective, or, as some call it, a "feminist lens." Towards these ends, once during the semester, you will bring in some cultural artifact: an image, an ad, a news item, a song, etc. to share with the class. Missed presentations cannot be made up without advance notice and/or a documented excuse.

Interview with an Older Woman + Essay (1) 65 pts: A minimum 15 minute audio file (in MP3 or WMA format **only** 15pts) and a minimum 3 page essay (double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt. font, 1" margins – 50pts) examining the woman's life. Late audio files and/or essays will lose a letter grade for each day they are late.

Final Reflection Essay (1) 100 pts: A synthesis of your reflections upon the readings, presentations, and videos for the course. Minimum 5 FULL pages: double-spaced, in Times New Roman 12 pt font, with 1" margins. Late essays will lose a letter grade for each day they are late, those not received by Sunday, May 6 will receive a zero.

GRADE SCALE: A: 270-300 B: 240-269 C: 210-239 D: 180-209 F: 0-179

PLAGIARISM: Claiming somebody else's *writing or thinking* as your own is unacceptable in college, no matter what the assignment. Failure to cite the words/ideas of another will result in a zero on that assignment.

SERVICES TO STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Students with disabilities who desire adjustments to the class setting may work with the Disability Resource Office (DRO) in order to document their needs and establish appropriate accommodations. No adjustments may be made until you have provided me with completed forms from the DRO; accommodations cannot be applied retroactively.

Calendar*	Monday	Wednesday	Friday
Week 1 Aug 27-31	Course Intro/Syllabus	Ice Breaker	
			A Day Without Feminism
Week 2 Sept 3-7	<i>A Brief History of American Women</i> Ain't I a Woman/ Declaration of Sentiments	On Woman Suffrage	American Women
Week 3 Sept 10-14	<i>Oppression and Privilege</i> Oppression	White Privilege	Age, Class, Race, and Sex
Week 4 Sept 17-21	<i>The Politics of Women's Bodies</i> Gynocide	The Beauty Myth	Essay 1
Week 5 Sept 24-28	<i>Woman Hating?</i> Invisibility of Misogyny	Rape and Women's Voice	At the Dark End
Week 6 Oct 1-5	<i>The Color Purple</i> 1-76	77-147	Campus Event
Week 7 Oct 8-12	<i>The Color Purple</i> 148-224	225-294	Campus Event
Week 8 Oct 15-19	<i>Masculinities/Men's Activism</i> For Every Woman	Words of God do not justify	Campus Event
Week 9 Oct 22-26	<i>Women Worldwide: Differences and Commonalities</i> Women, Educ, Economic	Report from the Bahamas	Campus Event
Week 10 Oct 29-Nov 2	<i>Women, War & Peace</i> Women & Militarism	What Abu Graib Taught Me	Essay 2/FF 1
Week 11 Nov 5-9	<i>Women's Bodies: Under the Knife</i> Pretty Woman	Unmasking Tradition	FF 2
Week 12 Nov 12-16	<i>Women, Food, and Size</i> A Way Outa No Way	Nourishing Ourselves	FF 3
Week 13 Nov 26-30	Walker 225/Audio File Due New Outlook/Lorraine Williams		Interview Essay/FF 4
Week 14 Dec 3-7	<i>Women and the Environment</i> Rachel Carson	In Japan	FF 5 Story of Wangari Maathai
Week 15 Dec 10-14	Final Reflection Essay Due by 5:00pm, Thursday, December 13 Exam Week Office hours Mon 12/10 & Tues 12/11 9:30-11:30		