

New Course Proposal Form

Directions:

- A. Complete this form.
- B. Attach a syllabus or course guidelines that includes
 - a. list of measurable student learning outcomes
 - b. information on how outcomes will be assessed including descriptions of reading and writing activities, projects, presentations, testing, etc
 - c. list of course requirements such as attendance, assignments, etc
- C. Have your proposal reviewed by the appropriate department and school/college committee.
- D. Submit your proposal to the University Curriculum Committee in care of the Office of Academic Affairs.

Form information:

1. Department/Program: Women's Studies
2. Course Information: WOMN / 2010 / Feminist and Gender Theory
Prefix Number Title
03 / None
Credit Hours Prerequisites
3. Catalog Description for the catalog: (This description should briefly describe the basic content of the course as it will be offered.)

A course designed to introduce students to feminist and gender theory and serve as a foundation for further study of gender across the disciplines.

4. May students repeat this course for credit? If so, are there limits?

No.

5. What is the rationale for adding this course?
 - a. How does it support the philosophy and enhance the curriculum of your department?

WOMN 2010 Feminist and Gender Theory is consistent with the mission of the Women's Studies program, as stated below:

The mission of the Women's Studies program is to encourage feminist research, teaching, and programming that employs gender as a category for interdisciplinary analysis. This program strives to incorporate women's issues, voices, and histories into the Webster curriculum. Particular emphasis is placed on the analysis of gender in relation to race, ethnicity, nationality, class, age, and sexuality in an effort to identify connections between women's oppression and the oppression of other groups.

WOMN 2010 Feminist and Gender Theory provides an introduction to and solid grounding in feminist and gender theory. This course will provide students with the theoretical background, the historical understanding, and the analytical skills they need to explore issues of gender in a variety of ways, and will thereby prepare students for more advanced work in Women's Studies.

- b. How does it relate to the overall University curriculum?

The WOMN 2010 course enhances the university's commitment to diversity by introducing students to feminist and gender theory, and preparing students to succeed in a broad range of courses that explore the diversity of women's lives across lines of nationality, age, class, race/ethnicity, sexual identity, and/or gender identification. And by introducing students to principle feminist theories, and encouraging students to define, critique, and apply theories of feminism, the course also contributes to the university's commitment to critical thinking.

6. Should this new course be considered for General Education coding? Yes
If yes, attach the Application for General Education Coding Form.

7. Staffing requirements:

- a. Qualifications necessary for instructor Graduate Certificate or Advanced Degree in Women's Studies or related field.

- b. What staffing changes, if any, will be necessary to offer this additional course?

None at this time.

8. When will this course be initiated? Spring 2009 How often will it be taught? The course will be offered once a year in the beginning, and eventually every semester. What sites are likely to offer this course? Initially, the Webster campus, but this course will likely be taught at other campuses in the future.

9. Does this course affect degree requirements in your, or any other, department/program's major, emphasis, minor, or certificate. No
If yes, please attach corrected catalog copy for approval.

10. List any existing University course(s), undergraduate or graduate, which are similar in title and /or subject matter and explain how this course differs from them.

WOMN 2010 Feminist and Gender theory is most similar to WOMN 1010 Introduction to Women's Studies. The existing WOMN 1010 is an introductory survey of women's studies across the disciplines, taught by a team of instructors, each one teaching from the perspective of his or her discipline. WOMN 1010 introduces the field of women's studies scholarship, and introduces working concepts of feminism, at an introductory level. WOMN 2010 is both a more advanced and a more focused course, which, through its exploration of feminist and gender theories, will enable students to define, apply, and critique principle feminist theories, and also to contextualize historically both definitions and theories of feminism. WOMN 2010 will thereby prepare students for more advanced Women's Studies courses.

11. Are University resources adequate to support this course? (library holdings, space, specialized, equipment, etc.) Yes If not, what additions are necessary?

12. What course(s), if any, will be dropped to make room for this course? None

13. What entities (department, college/school) have reviewed and approved this proposal?

Signatures:

<u>Anne McElhoney</u>	/	<u>4/8/08</u>
Department/ Program Chairperson		Date
<u>Scott Cayce</u>	/	<u>4/8/08</u>
Dean of College/School		Date
<u>[Signature]</u>	/	<u>15 April 2008</u>
Chair/Curriculum Committee		Date

Rev. 2004

Course Guidelines for WOMN 2010 Feminist and Gender Theory

Course Description:

A course designed to introduce students to feminist and gender theory and serve as a foundation for further study of gender across the disciplines.

Course Objectives

1. Explore and critique definitions of feminism and gender
2. Define and apply multiple theories of feminism
3. Clarify and analyze concepts basic to feminist thought such as “oppression,” “sexism,” and “patriarchy.”
4. Become familiar with the history of feminism (dates vary depending on campus where course is taught and whether this history focuses exclusively on the US or not. At the very least the Suffrage Movement, the 1960s in the US (Civil Rights, Vietnam), the breaking up of colonial empires across the world and the international environmental movement will be studied.)
5. Explore construction of gender and deepen understanding of sex/gender distinction.
6. Explain connections between forms of oppression through categories of gender, race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, age, ability and nationality
7. Prepare students for more advanced work in Women’s Studies

Measurable Student Learning Outcomes

1. Students will be able to define, apply, and critique principle feminist theories.
2. Students will be able to identify and critique normative constructions of gender roles.
3. Students will be able to contextualize historically both definitions and theories of feminism and understand these as diachronic.
4. Students will be able to explain connections between forms of oppression through categories of gender, race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, age, ability and nationality
5. Students will be adequately prepared to take other women’s studies courses that assume knowledge of feminist theories and concepts.

Information on how outcomes will be assessed

1. Students' ability to define, apply, and critique principle feminist theories will be assessed through class discussion on assigned readings as well as written assignments that require students to engage with feminist theories.
2. Students' ability to identify and critique normative constructions of gender roles will be assessed through class discussion and written assignments.
3. Students' ability to contextualize historically both definitions and theories of feminism and to understand these as diachronic will be assessed through written work—essays, response papers, and exams—as well as through class discussion and group assignments.
4. Students' ability to explain connections between forms of oppression through categories of gender, race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, age, ability and nationality will be assessed through class discussions about readings that explore these connections, as well as through written essays in which students explore the connections in their own written work.
5. Students' preparation to take other women's studies courses that assume knowledge of feminist theories and concepts will be assessed through a final written assignment that examines the students' understanding of feminist theories.

Course Requirements

Students are expected to:

1. Attend class regularly.
2. Participate in class discussions.
3. Complete all presentation assignments.
4. Complete all written assignments, including reading checks, in-class writings, short response papers, and longer essays on literary texts.
5. Pass a final exam or written assignment that tests the students' achievement of learning outcomes for the course.