

Women's Studies Assessment Plan For the Certificate in Women's Studies Spring 2006

**College of Arts and Sciences
Women's Studies Program
Assessment_Plan_Final_2/07**

Program Description

“Man” is the generic term commonly used to represent all of humankind. This linguistic choice reflects our tendency to view men as central actors, thereby ignoring half of the world's population. Women's Studies aims to redress this tendency. 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. The 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.

Women's Studies Program Mission Statement

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 to 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.

Women's Studies Program Student Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of the certificate, students should be able to:

1. Appreciate the diversity of women's lives across lines of nationality, age, class, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, sexual preference, and/or gender identification.
2. Appreciate the variety of academic disciplines through which women as a topic of study can be approached.
3. Produce scholarship demonstrating engagement with feminist theories and methodologies.
4. Integrate the analysis and interpretation of the concept of gender with personal experience.
5. Maintain clarity of thought and expression in written work and oral presentations.

Specific Courses and Projects Targeted for Assessment:

Two courses (with several sections each) will be targeted for assessment in the certificate program: WOMN 1010 and WOMN 3000. WOMN 1010 Introduction to Women's Studies and WOMN 3000 Topics in Women's Studies are courses currently required for all certificate students. In addition, all students graduating with a Women's Studies certificate are required to complete a senior research project. These projects will also be assessed in light of the program learning outcomes.

Course Description and Student Learning Outcomes for WOMN 1010

Course Description

This is an interdisciplinary course designed by the Women's Studies Committee at Webster to introduce students to feminist scholarship in a variety of disciplines. The course is team-taught and each instructor will teach from the perspective of his/her discipline.

Student Learning Outcomes for WOMN 1010

Students who successfully complete this course will:

- a. Be introduced to the field of Women's Studies scholarship.
- b. Learn to understand the variety of perspectives from which women, as a topic of study, can be approached.
- c. Be able to engage in discussions on how gender is a socially and culturally constructed concept.
- d. Distinguish between concepts basic to feminist thought such as "oppression," "sexism," and "patriarchy."
- e. Be able to compare and contrast the similarities and differences of a variety of social groups across class, race, ethnicity, and a host of other variables that describe human populations.
- f. Learn to apply feminist theories in analyzing their own lives as well as the lives of others.
- g. Be able to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of concepts and theories in Women's Studies in order to advance in their coursework.

Course Description for WOMN 3000

An advanced, in-depth analysis of topics related to gender issues, e.g., cultural and social developments in the arts, sciences, and social sciences. Because WOMN 3000 is a topics course, course content varies from course to course.

Description of Senior Research Project

In their senior year, Certificate Students are required to complete of an independent library research project in the field of women's studies and/or a participant action research project within a feminist organization.

Measurement of Student Learning:

Assessment Measures:

Each year, the committee will:

- collect syllabi from WOMN 1010 and WOMN 3000
- ask instructors of select WOMN 1010 and WOMN 3000 courses to choose a sample cross-section of the students' final essays each semester. Instructors will be asked to evaluate these papers in light of the course learning outcomes and the program goals.
- administer course evaluations for WOMN 1010 and WOMN 3000
- administer an exit interview, designed to measure several of the goals of the certificate as a whole, to graduating seniors each spring
- oversee senior student projects. The committee must approve these projects in order for the student to proceed.

Once a year, typically in the fall, the committee will meet to review:

- course syllabi to ensure that the course objectives and learning outcomes are appropriate to the certificate.
- the sample essays from WOMN 1010 and WOMN 3000
- course evaluations from WOMN 1010 and WOMN 3000
- senior exit interviews
- senior research projects in light of program goals and intended student outcomes.

The Women's Studies Committee will also communicate with faculty teaching other courses that count toward the minor and certificate to be sure that their course objectives and learning outcomes generally match those of the Women's Studies program.

Women's Studies Course Evaluation

Instructor's Name: _____

Course Number and Section : _____ Semester/Year: _____

As a means of on going program assessment, we are asking you to respond to these narrative questions to help us evaluate how well the goals for this course match the goals of the Women's Studies program were met. 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 to 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.

1. What was the most important thing that you learned in this class?
2. To what extent did this course enhance your ability to appreciate the variety of perspectives from which women, as a topic of study, can be approached? Please be specific.
3. To what extent did this course enhance your ability to apply feminist theories in analyzing your own experiences and the experiences of others?
4. In what ways did this course deal with the experiences of women of different races, classes, ages, and sexual identity?
5. After taking this course are you more inclined or less inclined, to take other courses that count toward the Certificate in Women's Studies? Please explain.

6. What other courses in Women’s Studies have you taken or do you plan to take? Are there other courses that you would like to see offered?

**Women’s Studies Course Evaluation
SCORING TEMPLATE**

1. What was the most important thing that you learned in this class?

2. To what degree did this course enhance your ability to appreciate the variety of perspectives from which women, as a topic of study, can be approached?

1	2	3	4	5
Not At All	A Small Amount	As Expected	More Than Expected	Far Beyond My Expectations

3a. To what degree did this course enhance your ability to apply feminist theories in analyzing your own experiences?

1	2	3	4	5
Not At All	A Small Amount	As Expected	More Than Expected	Far Beyond My Expectations

3b. To what degree did this course enhance your ability to apply feminist theories in analyzing the experiences of others?

1	2	3	4	5
Not At All	A Small Amount	As Expected	More Than Expected	Far Beyond My Expectations

4a. To what degree did this course deal with the experiences of women of different ages?

1	2	3	4	5
Not At All	A Small Amount	As Expected	More Than Expected	Far Beyond My Expectations

4b. To what degree did this course deal with the experiences of women of different races?

1	2	3	4	5
Not At All	A Small Amount	As Expected	More Than Expected	Far Beyond My Expectations

4c. To what degree did this course deal with the experiences of women of different social classes?

1	2	3	4	5
Not At All	A Small Amount	As Expected	More Than Expected	Far Beyond My Expectations

4d. To what degree did this course deal with the experiences of women of different sexual identities?

1	2	3	4	5
Not At All	A Small Amount	As Expected	More Than Expected	Far Beyond My Expectations

9. After taking this course are you more inclined or less inclined, to take other courses that count toward the Certificate in Women’s Studies?

1	2	0
Less Inclined	More Inclined	Don’t Know

10. What other courses in Women’s Studies have you taken or do you plan to take? Are there other courses that you would like to see offered?

Scoring Standards of Student Attainment for Women's Studies

GOAL	Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Fails to Meet Expectations
Appreciate the diversity of women's lives across lines of nationality, age, class, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, sexual preference, and/or gender identification.			
Appreciate the variety of academic disciplines through which women as a topic of study can be approached.			
Produce scholarship demonstrating engagement with feminist theories and methodologies			
Integrate the analysis and interpretation of the concept of gender with personal experience.			
Maintain clarity of thought and expression in written work and oral presentations.			

Scoring Template For WS

Senior Thesis Project

Student Name: _____

Project Advisor: _____

Project Title: _____

Date: _____

Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Fails to Meet Expectations
----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------

Goals:

1. Appreciate the diversity of women's lives across lines of nationality, age, class, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, sexual preference, and/or gender identification.

2. Appreciate the variety of academic disciplines through which women as a topic of study can be approached.

3. Produce scholarship demonstrating engagement with feminist theories and methodologies

4. Integrate the analysis and interpretation of the concept of gender with personal experience.

5. Maintain clarity of thought and expression.

Comments:

Scoring Template For WS

Essay

Student Name: _____

Instructor: _____

Course: _____

Date: _____

Question Essay Addresses:

Exceeds Expectations	Meets Expectations	Fails to Meet Expectations
----------------------	--------------------	----------------------------

Goals:

1. Appreciate the diversity of women's lives across lines of nationality, age, class, race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, sexual preference, and/or gender identification.	_____	_____	_____
2. Appreciate the variety of academic disciplines through which women as a topic of study can be approached.	_____	_____	_____
3. Produce scholarship demonstrating engagement with feminist theories and methodologies	_____	_____	_____
4. Integrate the analysis and interpretation of the concept of gender with personal experience.	_____	_____	_____
5. Maintain clarity of thought and			

expression.

Comments: