

GEND 2020.001 WOMEN'S AND FEMINIST ACTIVISM

Course Description

Interdisciplinary exploration of women's and feminist organizing, resistance, and progress from the mid-1800s to the present. The course will address social, historical, and political contexts influencing issues, methods, and outcomes. Satisfies G.E. area D2. 3 Units.

Course Overview

This course examines the history, ideas, and strategies of women's and feminist activism from the nineteenth century to the present. Drawing on gender studies, sociology, history, ethnic studies, and media analysis, students explore major feminist movements and traditions, including Black feminism, womanism, queer and trans feminism, disability activism, reproductive justice, anti-violence organizing, labor activism, and ecofeminism. Particular attention is given to how race, class, sexuality, disability, nationality, and other forms of inequality shape feminist movements, political strategies, and debates about social change.

Student Learning Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Explain major historical and contemporary traditions in women's and feminist activism.
2. Analyze gender using interdisciplinary and intersectional frameworks.
3. Evaluate how race, class, sexuality, disability, and nationality shape feminist movements and women's experiences.
4. Identify important activists, organizations, institutions, and strategies for social change.
5. Compare different approaches to activism, resistance, and personal empowerment.
6. Develop clear, evidence-based arguments about gender, inequality, and social change.

Class Format

This course is fully online and is conducted through the university's online learning platform, Canvas. You should plan to log in to Canvas several times each week to participate in course discussions, review materials, and submit assignments. Although there are no scheduled online meetings, there are several deadlines throughout each week. You may complete your work at your own pace within each assignment's submission period. All course materials will be available online.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required textbook - Dicker, Rory. 2016. *A History of U.S. Feminisms*. 2nd ed. Berkeley: Seal Press. A copy is available on reserve at the library for two-hour checkout.

Required viewing: Students will watch the complete series *Mrs. America*. The series is available through Hulu and may also be purchased through other major streaming platforms. Students who have difficulty accessing the series should contact the instructor as soon as possible to discuss an alternative arrangement.

All other material - Available on Canvas free of charge.

ASSIGNMENT SUMMARY

	Point Value		Approximate % of your grade
Discussion Forums	1000	13 forums at 100 pts each 3 lowest dropped	38%
Three Waves Paper	400		15%
Mrs. America Paper	400		15%
Unit Paper	400		15%
Final Paper	400		15%
TOTAL	2600		
Extra Credit	100	2 at 50 points each	4%

Major Assignments

Detailed instructions and full prompts will be posted on Canvas in advance of each deadline.

Forums – Post one original discussion thread and five replies to your peers’ comments in a discussion forum based on the required material for the week. Due by 11:59pm on Sundays.

Three Waves Paper – Use the course textbook to analyze the development, central concerns, and limitations of the three waves of U.S. feminism.

Mrs. America Paper – Analyze key themes, conflicts, and representations of feminist and anti-feminist activism in the required series *Mrs. America*.

Unit Paper – Conduct an in-depth analysis of the required materials from one eligible weekly unit. A list of eligible units will be posted on Canvas before the deadline.

Final Paper – Synthesize material from the final units, reflect on major course themes, and develop your own ideas about future activism and social change.

Extra Credit – Complete short assignments based on approved course-related materials or activities listed on Canvas. Materials already required for the course are not eligible.

CLASS SCHEDULE

The course schedule is subject to change; students will be notified and Canvas will be updated as soon as possible. All material is required unless otherwise noted.

TXT	= from the required textbook <i>A History of U.S. Feminisms</i> by Rory Dicker
PDF	= PDF available on Canvas
AV	= Audio/Visual assignment (i.e. watch or listen to something)
TBA	= To Be Announced

Week 1

Welcome to the Class!

- PDF hooks Introduction: Come Closer to Feminism
- PDF hooks Ch.1 - Feminist Politics
- PDF Kang et al. Key Terms Excerpt
- PDF Wamsley A Guide to Understanding Gender Identity and Pronouns
- PDF CSU Stan 5 Common Forms of Plagiarism¹

To Do

- Carefully read the course syllabus
- Familiarize yourself with our Canvas course page and carefully read all course policies
- Take the [course survey](#) posted on Canvas
- Purchase or rent textbook

Due Sunday at 11:59pm

- [Discussion Forum 1: Introductions](#)

¹ These are just *some* examples of common forms of plagiarism that you should refresh yourself on. It is not an exhaustive list of University expectations for academic honesty. It is your responsibility to know what cheating/plagiarism is and to adhere to all course/University guidelines at all times. If you are unsure of what is expected in terms of academic honesty, please contact the instructor as soon as possible to discuss.

Week 2**Introduction**

- TXT Dicker Ch.1 - Feminism's Legacy
- PDF Brown 4 Reasons Anti-Feminist Women Hate Feminism [...]
- AV *Mrs. America* - Episode 1

Due Sunday at 11:59pm

- [Discussion Forum 2: On Feminism](#)

Week 3**Intersectionality**

- AV Crenshaw What is Intersectionality?
- PDF Hawk Intersectional Feminism: What it is and Why We Need It [...]
- PDF Suárez [...] Intersectional Chicana Feminisms (excerpt)
- AV *Mrs. America* - Episode 2

Due Sunday at 11:59pm - September 10

- [Discussion Forum 3: Intersectionality](#)

Week 4**First Wave Feminism**

- TXT Dicker Ch.2 - First Wave Feminism
- AV *One Woman, One Vote*
- AV *Mrs. America* - Episode 3

Due Sunday at 11:59pm

- [Discussion Forum 4: First Wave Feminism](#)

Week 5**Second Wave Feminism**

- TXT Dicker Ch.3 - Second Wave Feminism
- AV Warren/McConnell Nevertheless, She Persisted
- AV *She's Beautiful When She's Angry*
- AV *Mrs. America* - Episode 4

Due Sunday at 11:59pm

- [Discussion Forum 5: Second Wave Feminism](#)

Week 6**Third Wave Feminism**

- TXT Dicker Ch.4 - Third Wave Feminism
- TXT Dicker Ch.5 - Knowing Our History, Embracing Our Future
- AV *Mrs. America* - Episode 5

Due Sunday at 11:59pm

- [Discussion Forum 6: Third Wave Feminism](#)

Week 7**Radical and Women of Color Feminism**

- PDF hooks Ch.1 - Black Women Shaping Feminist Theory
- AV Blaque What Is: Womanism
- PDF Miheuah Activism and Expression as Empowerment
- AV *And She Could Be Next* Episode 1: "Building a Movement"
- AV *Mrs. America* - Episode 6

Due Sunday at 11:59pm

- [Assignment: Three Waves Paper](#)
- No forum - topic will be covered next week

Week 8**Queer Feminism | Disabled Feminist Activism**

- AV *Political Animals: Pioneering Women Who Paved the Way for LGBT Equality*
- PDF Abelson Already Feminists: Transfeminist Histories, Hurdles and Futures
- PDF Clare Sex, Celebration and Justice: Queerness and Disability [...]
- PDF Hershey Disabled Women Organize Worldwide
- AV *Mrs. America* - Episode 7

Due Sunday at 11:59pm

- [Discussion Forum 7: Radical & Women of Color Feminism](#)
[Queer Feminism | Feminist Disability Activism](#)

Week 9**Mrs. America**

- Finish watching *Mrs. America*

Due Sunday at 11:59pm

- [Discussion Forum 8: Mrs. America](#)
- [Assignment: Mrs. America Paper](#)

Week 10**Unit 10. Reproductive Justice**

Please review my content warning about course material.

- PDF hooks Ch.5 - Our Bodies, Ourselves: Reproductive Rights
- PDF Davis Contested Terrain: The Historical Struggle for Fertility Control
- PDF Roberts Reproductive Justice, Not Just Rights
- Other Hontalas Updates on abortion laws (updated during the semester as needed)

Due Sunday at 11:59pm

- [Discussion Forum 9: Reproductive Justice](#)

Week 11**Unit 11. Anti-Violence Activism**

Please review my content warning about course material.

- PDF hooks Ch.9 - The Feminist Movement to End Violence
- PDF Adetiba & Burke #MeToo Should Center Marginalized Communities
- AV Winfrey Oprah Winfrey Speaks on the Future of Women
Okay to start at minute 3:00
- PDF Whitter Activism Against Sexual Assault on Campus
- AV *Hunting Ground*

Due Sunday at 11:59pm

- [Discussion Forum 10: Anti-Violence Activism](#)

Week 12**Unit 12. Media and Art**

- PDF Grewal Representations, Cultures, Media, and Markets
- PDF Crossley Online Feminism is Just Feminism
- AV *Feminist Frequency* The Bechdel Test
- Other Pick 1 case study Description and required materials on Canvas

Due Sunday at 11:59pm

- [Discussion Forum 11: Media and Art](#)

Week 13**Unit 13. Labor**

- PDF hooks Ch.9 - Women at Work
- PDF Abramovitz Learning from [...] Poor and Working-Class Women's Activism
- PDF Marty 10 Incredible Women who Have Fought for Equal Pay
- AV *Dolores*

Due Sunday at 11:59pm

- [Assignment: Unit Paper](#)

Week 14**No Class - Fall Break**

- No new course material, forum, or assignments

Week 15**Unit 14. Ecofeminism**

- PDF Gross Ecofeminism and Climate Justice
- AV *Viceland* *Rise - Sacred Water: Standing Rock Part I*
- TBA Additional material will be posted on Canvas

Due Sunday at 11:59pm

- [Discussion Forum 12: Labor / Ecofeminism](#)

Week 16**Unit 15. Final Thoughts**

- TBA Additional material will be posted on Canvas

Due Sunday at 11:59pm

- [Discussion Forum 13: Final Thoughts](#) (Last forum!)

Final Exam Period**Final Paper**

No new readings or course material. The final paper and any optional extra-credit assignments are due by the posted deadline.

Due Sunday at 11:59pm

- No Forum
- **Assignment: Final Paper**
- [Extra Credit](#) (optional)

COURSE POLICIES & GRADING

See Canvas for additional information and links

Syllabus – You are required to read this entire syllabus thoroughly and are responsible for all information in it. This includes all material on Canvas referenced in this syllabus.

Canvas – You are required to thoroughly review all policies on Canvas and are responsible for all information posted.

Grading Policy - All scores will be entered into Canvas throughout the term as I complete grading for each assignment. Your grade will be calculated as a percentage of points earned out of points total. Your final grade will be based on the following breakdown:

A 93% - 100%	A- 90% - 92.99%	B+ 87% - 89.99%
B 83% - 86.99%	B- 80% - 82.99%	C+ 77% - 79.99%
C 73% - 76.99%	C- 70% - 72.99%	D+ 67% - 69.99%
D 63% - 66.99%	D- 60% - 62.99%	F 0% - 59.99%

Late and Missing Work Policy – All late work will be marked down by 1 full grade (10%) every day that it is late, starting the minute that it is late. For example, if it is due Sunday at 11:59pm and you submit it 30 minutes late (Monday morning at 12:29am), you will be marked down 10%. Work that is more than 10 days late will receive a “0” and be considered “missing.” See Canvas for full policies.

Incompletes - Per University policies, you must complete at least 70% of the course work with a score of at least 70% to be eligible for an Incomplete.

Grading Turnaround Time - During the regular sixteen-week semester approximately: two weeks for minor assignments (e.g., forums); 3 to 4 weeks for major assignments (e.g., midterm, final).

Assignment Policies, Student Conduct, and Academic Honesty

Unless otherwise noted, assignments must be completed independently using only approved course materials. Students must properly cite all ideas, language, and information that are not common knowledge and may not engage in plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, or other forms of academic dishonesty. Generative artificial intelligence may not be used to produce, rewrite, summarize, or substantially edit submitted work unless explicitly permitted. Students must also follow the University Student Code of Conduct and all related course and university policies.