

Department: Women's Studies

Course: WS 4994W

Title: Senior Seminar

Credits: 3

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Catalog Copy:

4994W. Senior Seminar

(289W) Second semester. Three credits. Prerequisite: ENGL 1010 or 1011 or 3800. Recommended preparation: WS 3265W and PHIL 3218 or instructor consent. For majors only.

Capstone course integrating and analyzing Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies theory and substance through research on a common topic and discussion of advanced texts.

This seminar is a capstone course for women's studies majors and minors which will draw together their experiences in courses, internships, and other engagements they have had during your time as a feminist student at UConn. The course is designed to highlight "generations" - of feminist thought, feminist histories, and feminist movements, concluding with your own contributions to these shifting "stories." Students read a wide range of literature that cover different "moments" in feminist thought and feminist movements.

W Criteria

This course is an intensive writing course with a number of writing assignments include a final paper. The paper goes through a series of steps from proposal stage, to outline, two rounds of reviews before the final version is submitted. Here is an excerpt from one of the course outlines:

Course Assignments and Grading

Response papers and Class Participation: You should come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings. In addition to reading the assignments for each week, you will complete a summary and review of each assignment that includes an summary of the key points you identified from the reading and your own reflections on the book or article. Response papers should be send via email by Tuesday, 6:00PM. Response papers should include at least three questions that can be used for class discussion. (30 points).

Assignment #1 -- Participant Observation of a "Feminist" Event: Identify a self-defined "feminist organization" and participate in one of their events. In addition to observing who attends the event and how they interact, you may also conduct brief interviews with those in attendance to get a sense of the extent of their involvement in the organization, and other feminist activities in which they have been involved over the years. We will discuss the specific kinds of strategies that you may want to employ as

you conduct this assignment. You will then write up your observations and any other information you have gathered from this event and analyze it using relevant readings from this course or any other courses you have taken to fulfill your women's studies course requirements. Final Version Due: February 23 (20 points).

Assignment #2 -- Interview With a Feminist of Another "Generation": For the mid-term grade will involve identifying a self-identified feminist who is at least 20 years older than yourself and conduct an interview. As a group, we will identify the questions that will become part of the open-ended interview. You will pilot test the interview schedule on another member of the class before conducting it with your chosen informant. You will then transcribe the interview and write an "oral narrative" that you will submit for your mid-term grade. Final Version Due: March 30 (20 points).

Final Assignment -- Seminar Paper: Drawing together your own experiences, the observations you made during your first assignment, the analysis of the interview, as well as relevant readings, internship experiences, and other activities you have been involved with as a "feminist," write a paper that presents your analysis of what it means to be a feminist in the first part of the 21st century. I will review a draft of the paper and you will also get feedback from at least one other student for peer comments. The paper should be at least 15 pages and include a bibliography of the references you use. Final Version Due: April 27 (30 points).

PLEASE NOTE: Each of these written assignments will be first handed in as a draft. After editing and revising the draft, you will submit the final product for your grade. In order to further develop your skill as an editor and improve your ability to revise your written work, you will each serve as a "reviewer" of two other students work. They will share their comments with you during class so that all of us may be involved in helping you find ways to respond effectively to their queries and suggestions.