

# UMaine Women's Studies Courses

## Spring 2012

### Interdisciplinary Core Courses in Women's Studies

#### **WST 101 Introduction to Women's Studies**

An introduction to Women's Studies, to its perspectives, and to its interdisciplinary nature. Using several disciplines, the class will examine women's positions in Western culture and will explore the genesis, the development, and the impact of our culture's assumptions about women's nature and women's roles. Satisfies the General Education requirements Eth., Soc. Cont. and Inst., and Cult. Div. & Intl. (001, Nancy Lewis, MW, 3:10-4:25, #2173; 002, Heather Lakey, TuTh. 2:00-3:15, #2174; 500, Rhea Côté Robbins, TuTh, 11:00-12:15, #2668; 501, Rhea Côté Robbins, TuTh, 12:30-1:45, #2667; 665 (Hutchinson Center-Belfast), Nicolle Littrell, W, 10:00-12:30, #8211; 860, Regina Rooney, Wed. 6:00-8:30, #8679; 990, Mary Okin, Web-based, #3988). Cr. 3.

#### **WST 103 (500) Introduction to LGBT Studies**

The class will cover a wide range of topics including the 19th century roots of gay liberation, lesbian feminism, political issues from Stonewall to the present, queer theory, the social construction of homosexuality, homophobia, anti-gay harassment in schools, LGBT family issues, the biology of sexual orientation, cultural diversity and cross-cultural research, and postmodern challenges to identity politics. This class is open to anyone interested in social change and contemporary intellectual movements. No previous knowledge of LGBT issues is required, and the prerequisite of WST 101 can be waived. Gen. Ed. = Soc. Cont., Cult. Div. & Int'l. Cr. 3. (Nancy Lewis, TuTh, 11:00-12:15, #3509)

#### **WST 201 (990) American Women's Literature = ENG 246 (Web-based)**

This survey of major writers and traditions in American women's literature spans from the colonial era to the present day. We will read and discuss stories, poems, memoirs and essays in the context of women's changing social and economic conditions. We may ask questions such as these: What forces determine women's access to the literary world? How do social expectations shape critical responses to women's writing? How do cultural ideas about femininity affect the woman writer's goals and methods? Are there common themes in the literary work of women? Has a language or voice emerged that is specific to women, and if so how could one describe it? What artistic choices did the authors make in shaping their work? Prerequisites: 3 hours of English. Gen. Ed. = West. Cult. Trad., Cult. Div. & Int'l., Ethics. Cr. 3. (Leonore Hildebrandt, WST #10578, ENG #8172)

#### **WST 230 (990) Women, Health, and the Environment (Web-based)**

This course will examine the roles of women in shaping current practices and policies of the Western healthcare system and related environmental issues. It will draw on the work of environmentalists such as Rachel Carson and modern women healers of the body and the ecosystem. Students will be encouraged to be involved transformational work at the local, personal, or more global level. Gen. Ed. = Pop. & Envir., Eth. Cr. 3. (Sandra Haggard, #3989)

#### **WST 298 Directed Study in Women's Studies (Section 001, #2180)**

**(Permission from the program director required. Call 581-1228 for an information sheet.)**

#### **WST 301 (860) Memoir: Writing of the Self in Creative Nonfiction = UST 300**

Untold stories and unrecognized resources lie in the attics and basements of almost every family. In diaries, letters, journals, bibles, photo albums, oral histories, and much more are the makings of a great book. How can you unleash the power of the untold, tell the story of your family and your culture? This creative nonfiction workshop will be a collaborative experience, a "writing inquiry" approach tailored to the students' works-in-progress, their needs and interest. Included in the course will be consideration of how gender has been a factor in the writing of the source material as well as in the stories under construction in the class. Readings include: *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros; *Silences* by Tillie Olsen; *Peyton Place* by Grace Metalious and *Creative Nonfiction* by Philip Gerard. (Rhea Côté Robbins, Wednesday, 5:30-8:00, WST #8212, UST #3821)

#### **WST 301 (990) Rachel Carson, Maine, and the Environment = MES 301 (Web-based)**

In this course, students will take a chronological approach to the study of Rachel Carson's life and work, reading her books in the order in which they were written, with attention to the role of "place," specifically the Maine coast, in fostering her achievement as a nature writer and in shaping her vision as an environmentalist. Some of the questions this course will pose and attempt to answer are: what role did the Maine coast play in enabling Carson to understand the importance of the conservation of "wild" spaces? In what ways did Carson's experience of the Maine coast contribute to her knowledge and understanding of the sea - a central theme in her work - in all its physical and metaphorical dimensions? In what ways did Carson's establishment of a permanent home on the coast of Maine facilitate her development as a science and nature writer? (Sandra Hutchison, WST #8213, MES #4077)

#### **WST 340 (001) Women and Globalization**

Constraints of geography on social and cultural arrangements are receding, a process with implications for the world's women. Topics investigated will include women's work in factories such as the maquiladoras, immigration, domestic work, and sex tourism to name a few. A graduate version of this class is available as WST 501 (001), #2193. Gen. Ed. = Cult. Div. & Int'l. Cr. 3. (Mazie Hough, TuTh, 9:30-10:45, #2183)

#### **WST 371 (001) Immigration, Women, and Society = SOC 371 (001)**

How do issues of gender, race, ethnicity, class, religion, and sexuality affect immigrant women as they adjust to life in the U.S.? In this course, immigrant women's experiences will be examined through a lens that views gender as a social system that intersects with other hierarchies and systems of domination. The interplay between human agency and social structure will be explored, and women immigrants will be viewed as active participants in the migration and settlement process. Gen. Ed. = Cult. Div. & Int'l., Pop. & Envir. Cr. 3. (Kim Huisman, Wednesday, 2:10-4:40, WST #8214; SOC #8215)

**WST 401 (860) Advanced Topics in Women's Studies: Women's Sexuality**

This course explores the nature of women's sexuality from a developmental perspective, with the intent of enhancing students' understanding of how women's sexuality is shaped, changed, and expressed throughout life. Moving beyond the traditional focus on sexual functioning, this course emphasizes the complex interaction of psychological, social, cultural, and biological influences on the creation of sexual meanings for women. Cr. 3. (Sandra Caron, Thursday, 4:00-6:30, #2184)

**WST 401 (861) Advanced Topics in Women's Studies: Interpersonal Violence = CHF 404 (861)**

This course is designed to describe interpersonal violence (specifically sexual assault, domestic violence, stalking, and harassment), discuss its causes, and examine various strategies to promote awareness and intervention of interpersonal violence through peer-to-peer education. Ultimately, this is a practice-based course that strives to give students tools to eliminate interpersonal violence in their communities. The discussion situates violence within a socio-political perspective, examines psychological issues, and explores the wide range of socially institutionalized and individually perpetuated political, social, economic, and physical events and circumstances. Through the use of experiential components, this course raises students' awareness and develops students' skills as agents of social change. Cr. 3. (Carey Nason, Tuesday, 4:10-6:40, WST #2670, CHF #1829)

**WST 480 Senior Seminar in Women's Studies: Women and Education**

The topic will be broadly interpreted to include the diversity of experience of women and girls as teachers and students, now and in the past. Beyond the common core of the course, specific emphasis will depend on the interests of the students. (Gen. Ed. = Soc. Cont. & Inst., Cult. Div. & Int'l., Writing Intensive, and Capstone.) Prerequisite: WST 101, WST 410, and senior standing or permission. Cr. 3. (Ann Schonberger, 002, TuTh, 11:00-12:15, #3510)

**WST 498 Directed Study in Women's Studies (Section 001, #2189)**

(Jr./Sr. standing and permission from the program director required. Call 581-1228 for an information sheet.) Cr. 3

**WST 510 (001) Advanced Studies in Feminist Theory**

An advanced introduction to major issues in contemporary feminist theory. The first few weeks will be an overview of major schools of feminist theory, with a particular emphasis on more recent work influenced by poststructuralist theory. After this, students will pursue their own disciplinary interests and research projects as part of an in-depth study of a common issue chosen by the class as a whole. Some readings will be common to all, some tied to each disciplinary project. (Elizabeth Neiman, Monday, 3:10-5:40, #2221)

**WST 580 (001) Feminist Pedagogy and Women's Studies Practicum**

This course will provide a history of Women's Studies as an interdiscipline, a survey of feminist teaching strategies, and an examination of the philosophies of education on which those strategies are based. A practicum applying the course material in a WST class, in a departmental course, or possibly in a K - 12 school or other workplace will be included. Permission required. (Mazie Hough, TBA, #2222)

**WST 698 (001) Independent Projects in Women's Studies**

Graduate standing and permission from the director required. Call 581-1228 for more information.

**If you have any questions about the WST courses, check the spring schedule of classes or call 581-1228.**

## Departmental Electives in Women's Studies

<b>CHF 404</b>	<b>Topics in Family Studies: Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Gender and Violence</b> Renate Klein, Web-based, Section 990, #3963
<b>CHF 451</b>	<b>Family Relationships</b> Robert Milardo, TuTh, 9:30-10:45, Section 001, #1358
<b>CHF 452</b>	<b>Violence in the Family</b> Robert Milardo, TuTh, 11:00-12:15, Section 001, #1359
<b>ENG 529</b>	<b>Studies in Literature: Mothers and Fathers of the Novel</b> Deborah Rogers, Section 001, #7764
<b>HTY 494</b>	<b>Women, History and American Society: Sexuality and the Law</b> Mazie Hough, TuTh, 2:00-3:15, Section 001, #7700
<b>PHI 236</b>	<b>Feminist Ethical, Social, and Political Theory</b> Jessica Miller, TuTh, 9:30-10:45, Section 001, #7949
<b>SOC 330</b>	<b>Perspectives on Women</b> Ann Leffler, TuTh, 9:30-10:45, Section 001, #2960

**To request an accommodation, contact Ann Smith,  
Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities, at 581-2319.**