

# HUM 150 American Women's Studies

## COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Prerequisites: ENG 090 and RED 090 or DRE 098; or satisfactory score on placement test

Corequisites: None

This course provides an inter-disciplinary study of the history, literature, and social roles of American women from Colonial times to the present. Emphasis is placed on women's roles as reflected in American language usage, education, law, the workplace, and mainstream culture. Upon completion, students should be able to identify and analyze the roles of women as reflected in various cultural forms.

*This course has been approved to satisfy the Comprehensive Articulation Agreement general education core requirement in humanities/fine arts.*

Course Hours Per Week: Class, 3. Semester Hours Credit, 3.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES:

The student will be able to:

1. Rationally discuss the core concepts and theories in Women's Studies, including feminist history, women's political activism and concepts of social justice and equality.
2. Evaluate the meaning and significance of the social concepts of gender and difference in the United States.
3. Evaluate how the concepts of gender affect women in society and articulate their ideas about how to change the ways these concepts are defined.
4. Critically think, read and write about gender issues in American Society.

## OUTLINE OF INSTRUCTION:

- I. Introduction
  - A. Feminist terms and concepts.
  - B. History of women's studies programs.
- II. Privilege and Inequality
  - A. Challenging assumptions.
  - B. Hidden biases.
- III. Gender Issues
  - A. Biology and culture of gender.
  - B. Inscribing gender on the body.
- IV. Sex, Power and Intimacy
  - A. Social construction of sexuality.
  - B. Heteronormativity.
- V. Health and Reproductive Rights
  - A. Women's health issues.
  - B. Abortion, birth control, choice and women's health.
- VI. Family
  - A. Definitions of family and family relationships.
  - B. Divorce.
- VII. Women's Work Inside and Outside the Home.
  - A. Women's occupations and unpaid labor in the home.
  - B. Sexual harassment.

- VIII. Resisting Violence Against Women.
  - A. Pornography and sexual violence.
  - B. Violence Against Women Act.
  
- IX. State, Law and Social Policy
  - A. Women in leadership roles.
  - B. Women in elective office.
  
- X. Religion and Spirituality in Women's Lives.
  - A. Women of faith.
  - B. Women in religious leadership roles.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:**

To be selected by instructor.

**STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:**

Students who require academic accommodations due to any physical, psychological, or learning disability are encouraged to request assistance from a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Likewise, students who potentially require emergency medical attention due to any chronic health condition are encouraged to disclose this information to a disability services counselor within the first two weeks of class. Counselors can be contacted by calling 919-536-7207, ext. 1413 or by visiting the Student Development Office in the Phail Wynn Jr. Student Services Center, room 1209.

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