CHANGING REALITIES OF WOMEN’S LIVES  
Spring 2009

Instructor:    Jennifer H. Watson, Ph.D.  
Course No.:   WMST 3102-091  
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“A life of virtue and character is essential to the existence and growth of an academic community. Without maintenance of high standards of honesty, members of the instructional faculty are defrauded, students are unfairly treated, and society itself is poorly served. Maintaining the academic standards of honesty and integrity is ultimately the formal responsibility of the instructional faculty; and this responsibility is shared by all members of the academic community. UNC Charlotte strives to create an academic climate in which the dignity of all individuals is respected and maintained. Therefore, we celebrate diversity that includes, but is not limited to ability/disability, age, culture, ethnicity, gender, language, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status.”

Course Description: Consideration of the influence of gender, race and class stereotypes on women’s identities and choices. An examination of ideas, theories and writers in the field of women’s studies that encourages evolutionary/revolutionary thinking!

Course Objectives:
1. To increase knowledge and understanding of several themes in the field of women’s studies.
2. To practice and improve upon skills in reading, oral discussion, analysis of texts, and writing.

Texts: Reading Women’s Lives available in the UNC-Charlotte Bookstore

Grading:  
Class Preparation  25 points   Phenomenal Woman = 15 points A = 100-91
Recent Events    10 points   Experiential Paper= 10 points   B =  90-81
Final Exam       20 points   Project/Present = 20 points   C =  80-71
                          D =  70-61
                          F =  60-00

Class Participation and Attendance: The class involves primarily discussion, in-class exercises, audio/video tapes, guest speakers, and lecture. Therefore, attendance is very important. Missing all or part of a class will distract from your grade. You will be allowed one absence; thereafter, three points (3) will be deducted from the total points you have earned. Both quality and quantity of participation are important. Good participation reflects completion of the assigned readings before class as well as active listening and joining in class discussion. Behaviors that impede class discussion, such as excessively dominating the discussion, ridiculing
others, or having private conversations will detract from your grade. **All assignments are due on the dates specified per this syllabus. Late work will only be accepted as a result of documented hardship. If approved, late work may be left in Fretwell, room 235 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.**

**Schedule:**

**January 13** - Introduction and Feminism Theory

**January 20** - **NO CLASS PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION DAY!**

**January 27** - Introduction and Feminism Theory, p. 1, 3, 13, 21 Handout

**February 3** - Gender, p. 47, 75, 79. Recent Event I

**February 10** - Diversity, p. 91, 103, 111, 209. **Project Summary Due***

**February 17** - Sexuality and Beauty, p. 213, 227, 237, 251. Film.

**February 24** - Family, p. 139, 163. Recent Event II.


**March 10** - Spring Break

**March 17** - Reproductive Freedom, p. 303, 309, 321. Guest Speaker

**March 24** - Phenomenal Women Leading the Nation – Paper and Presentation

Notes and review of Women 2000+, pages 172,181,191

**March 31** - Project Presentation

**April 7** - Project Presentation

**April 14** - Project Presentation

**April 21** - Project Presentation

**April 28** - Project Presentation.

**April 30-May** - Final Examinaition

**Recent Event:** You are to identify an article from a newspaper, magazine, or journal related to any of the topics we have already discussed or will discuss on the due date. The article must be current, no more than six (6) months old. Be prepared to share (approximately 3 minutes) its relative value to one or more of the assigned readings. Attach a one page (typewritten, single-spaced) paper explaining which subject from the assigned reading you have chosen and why the article is of merit...or not...in your opinion. Each Recent Event paper must be on a different subject.

**Phenomenal Women Paper:** In honor of the many women who were elected to local, state, and national positions in the November 2008 elections, each student will be assigned one (1) woman about whom to write a paper. Relate her journey to at least five different assigned readings from January through March 24, 2009. Submit a two-page, typewritten, single-spaced paper using the format of a Recent Event. On March 31, each student will make a five minute presentation about the facts of the assigned phenomenal woman’s life. Have a picture of the woman you are assigned to show to the class as you speak. The paper is due on this date and will not be accepted thereafter, except for documented hardship.

**Experiential Project/Paper:** Each student will be assigned a chapter from a book that is in the Reserved Section of the library. Identify an individual, group, agency, or organization to which you can have physical access to that embodies and actualizes the theme of the chapter you have been assigned. This **must** be a viable and functioning enterprise where you may spend the time needed to observe and collect information [this may not be a co-worker, family member, friend or person to whom you have access but is not involved directly in the theme of the chapter you were assigned] to be memorialized in a paper, minimum three (3) pages typed, single-spaced. This paper is due on the date of your presentation and will not be accepted thereafter, except for pre-approved circumstances or documented hardship. On **February 10,** you are to submit a brief statement identifying how you will make person-to-person contact with the source of your project. On the date of your presentation, the paper* is due that should include a summary of the chapter, an explanation of your experiential method, what you learned, and the impact on your view before and after the project.

*The paper should be written integrating the material from the chapter with the findings of your one-on-one experience. Use creativity, compassion, respect and
concern for the woman/women whose life/lives you will enter as a means of expanding your knowledge of your assigned topic. And, if at all possible, leave at least as such as you take!