Women’s Studies 263S
Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies
Tuesday/Thursday 12:40-2:00
LA 337
Fall 2008

Professor Elizabeth Hubble
Office: LA 138A
Office Hours: MW 11:10-1:00, F 11:10-12:00, and by app’t
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Course Description: The course is designed to introduce students to the broad fields of women’s and gender studies through an overview of a number of the theoretical and experiential perspectives of those fields. Students will analyze the history of feminism, women’s studies, gender studies, and the growing field of queer studies; biological and psychological theories of gender; the social construction of gender as a product of history and culture; the relationship between gender and other categories of difference (race, sexual orientation, class, ethnicity); family and work; gender-based violence; the relationship between politics, economics, and gender; the representation of gender in popular culture; health and reproduction; and embodiment.

This course is one of the core requirements for the Minor in Women’s and Gender Studies, which may be combined with any major. It may also be used toward the Liberal Studies Major with an Emphasis in Women’s Studies. If you enjoy this course and would like to know more about the Women’s and Gender Studies Program, please contact me or drop by the Women’s Studies Office, LA 138A-B, or visit the website at www.cas.umt.edu/wsprog.

Required Texts:

Coursepack available on electronic reserve. (ERES—password “hubble”)

Assessment:

Preparation and Participation (inc. quizzes and attendance) 20%
Reading Journal 20%
Research Essay/Project 20%
Media Literacy Presentation 10%
Midterm Exam 15%
Final Exam 15%

Preparation and Participation: This is not a lecture course. It is a course which requires your active participation. Coming to class prepared, i.e. having read all material, written your reading journal and questions and ready to participate in discussions, is essential and counts for a large percentage of your final grade. Participation does not merely mean responding when called upon but showing a willingness to raise your hand and enter discussions. Classroom work will include both general discussions and small group discussions. Quizzes on the readings and discussions may be given at the beginning of class as necessary. Attendance is required. You will be allowed two unexcused absences. Your final grade will be dropped one notch for each subsequent absence.
**Reading Journal:** This course will raise many questions in your minds. It may challenge your personal opinions. Your reading journal is a place to share the questions, thoughts, and reactions you have to the readings. It will give you an outlet to express your personal opinions about the readings and discussions. You should write ½ page for each class session and include at least three questions raised in the readings for that session. The questions you write will guide our discussions. Entries must be typed. No electronic submissions. Journals will be collected approximately bi-weekly (see schedule for dates). The first journal topic is assigned. The rest of the topics are your choice.

**Research Essay/Project:** The research project may take many forms. For example, you may want to design an oral history project; you may develop a creative project in dance, art, music, theater, or writing; you may want to perform original research such as a survey of dorm residents or Missoula agencies working with gender issues; you may also write a traditional essay on a topic in history or literature. I will provide you with a more detailed list from which you may choose your topic. You will turn in a one-page research proposal for my approval. Final projects should be 5-7 typed pages. For creative projects your paper should describe the process and product and its connection to women’s or gender studies. Formatting and citation information will be provided.

**Media Literacy Presentation:** One of the topics we will explore this semester is media literacy. You will be required to independently analyze either a selection of print/tv advertising OR a movie/tv show. You will write a two-page analysis which you will present to the class. Your analysis should focus on how your selection either upholds or subverts dominant discourses of gender, class, race, sexual orientation, etc.

**Exams:** The Midterm and Final Exams will be comprised of a combination of identifications and short essays. The Final Exam will not be cumulative.

**Extra Credit:** You may choose one of the following exercises for extra credit (up to 5% of your final grade depending on the quality of your work). You should submit a 2-page essay describing your experience:

- write a letter to a congress person on one of the issues now of concern to women— you should turn in the letter along with an explanation of why you chose this issue and this congress person.
- carry a book or wear a pin which openly proclaims your allegiance to a group that some might find objectionable or uncomfortable to be around (absolutely no racist, anti-semitic, homophobic, or other hate alliances allowed!). Describe your experiences, i.e. how people respond to you and what your feelings are about those responses.
- track down the conditions under which an item of clothing you wear or some other material item in your daily life was manufactured.
- attend a women-centered cultural or political event and describe your experience.
- volunteer with a University or Missoula agency working with issues related to class.
Reading/Assignment Schedule (Subject to Change)

Women’s Voices, Feminist Visions – WV – each chapter of the textbook includes a selection of readings related to the topic of the chapter. The readings are numbered. You should concentrate on the readings specifically listed.

Electronic Coursepack – CP – ERES under WS 263, password “hubble”

August 26  Introduction to Course  
List of important terms and concepts

August 28  History of Feminism and Women’s Studies  
WV Chapter 1 + Readings 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8

Journal topic: why are you taking a Women’s Studies course? How do your friends, families, and acquaintances react when you tell them you are taking this class? What do you hope to get out of this class?

Turn in first journal and questions

September 2  Discourses of Power  
WV Chapters 2 and 11  
Learning Activities

September 4  Discourses of Power  
WV Readings 9, 10, 11, 13, 18 + two of your choice from Chapter 2  
Learning Activities

September 9  Discourses of Power  
WV Readings 88, 89, 90

September 11  Constructing Gender in Our Society  
WV Chapter 3 + Readings 21, 22, 24

Turn in journals and questions

September 16  Constructing Gender in Our Society–The Science of Gender  
WV Reading 19  
CP – Kimmel’s chapter on science and gender + chapter from Our Bodies, Ourselves

September 18  Sex and Sexuality  
WV Chapter 4

September 23  Sex and Sexuality  
WV Readings 27, 28, 29, 32, 33
September 25  Sex and Sexuality  
   WV Reading 34  
   CP – excerpt from Reviving Ophelia

Media Literacy Presentations

September 30  Gender and Violence  
   WV Chapter 10

October 2  Gender and Violence  
   WV All readings from Chapter 10  
   October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

   Turn in journals and questions

October 7  Gender and Violence  
   Activities related to DV Awareness Month

October 9  The Body  
   WV Chapter 5 + Readings 37, 41, 42, 43

   Proposals for major projects due

October 14  The Body  
   WV Readings 35, 44  
   CP – OBOS on genital circumcision and SI article

October 16  Health and Reproductive Rights  
   WV Chapter 6

   Turn in journals and questions

October 21  Health and Reproductive Rights  
   WV Readings 46-52

October 23  MIDTERM EXAM

October 28  Families  
   WV Chapter 7 + Readings 53, 55, 56, 60

October 30  Work  
   WV Chapter 8 + Readings 61, 63, 65, 66, 67

   Turn in journals and questions

November 4  Holiday—Election Day
November 6  Culture  
   WV Chapter 9

November 11  Holiday—Veteran’s Day

November 13  Culture  
   WV Readings 70, 72, 73, 75
   Turn in journals and questions

November 18  Culture  
   Ursula LeGuin, *Left Hand of Darkness*

November 20  Culture  
   Ursula LeGuin, *Left Hand of Darkness*

November 25  Activism  
   WV Chapter 13 + Readings 103, 104, 107, 108
   Major Project/Essay Due

November 27  Thanksgiving

December 2  Religion  
   WV Chapter 12
   CP – Books of *Genesis* and *Judith* from the Hebrew Bible
   Turn in journals and questions
   Last day to submit extra credit

December 4  Religion  
   WV Readings 94, 95, 96, 97, 99, 101
   Review

December 8  Final Exam 10:10-12:10 (Monday)