

III. Statement of Course Need

- A. Courses and programs in Women's Studies have been a part of the curriculum in undergraduate programs at colleges and universities for over thirty years. In the past decade, the study of gender has evolved in partnership with preexisting women's studies, expanding the study of women to emphasize the influence of gender and sexuality in the lives of men as well as women. In this course, students will come to understand how gender shapes the way social and cultural systems are organized and affect the way they think about their experiences involving work, families, communities, and the world at large. It is also a goal of this course to enable students to connect this understanding to their experiences as students and workers, a connection that may motivate students to become more civically engaged. This course enhances the curricula and complements related courses already in place, such as the Psychology of Women and Gender, Marriage and Family, Women in Literature, Masculinity in Literature, Women and Minorities in the Criminal Justice System, and Feminist Philosophy. This interdisciplinary course will serve as the core course for the Women and Gender Studies option in the Liberal Arts major.
- B. This course does not have a Lab component.
- C. This course generally transfers as a General Education elective (Diversity Designation)

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum

- A. Free Elective
- B. This course serves as a General Education Elective (Diversity Designation) and can satisfy the Global and Cultural Awareness requirement.
- C. This course meets a program requirement for Liberal Arts Option in Women and Gender Studies. This course also satisfies a Human Services Specialization Elective requirement for the Human Services/Pre-Social Work (AS), Human Services (AAS), Human Services – Certificate and the Human Services – Certificate of Completion.
- D. To see course transferability: a) for New Jersey schools, go to the NJ Transfer website, www.njtransfer.org; b) for all other colleges and universities, go to the individual websites.

V. Outline of Course Content

- A. Histories of Feminism ~~Feminist Thought~~
- B. Feminist Theories and Practices ~~Defining Categories~~
 - 1. Gender and gender roles
 - 2. Sexuality
 - 3. Class
 - 4. Race
 - 5. Ethnicity
 - 6. Systems of oppression (patriarchy, capitalism, etc.)

- 7. Intersectionality
- C. Identities**
 - 1. Social and psychological constructs
 - 2. Attitudes towards the body
 - 3. Cultural and historical representations
 - 4. Femininities and masculinities
- D. Topics**
 - 1. Popular culture and the media
 - 2. Religion
 - 3. Politics
 - 4. Violence
 - 5. Health and ~~Reproduction~~
 - 6. Family
 - 7. Work
 - 8. Social Action

VI. General Education and Course Learning Outcomes

A. General Education Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

- 1. distinguish between lines of inquiry concerning women and gender through the lens of varied academic approaches: literary, philosophical, historical, cultural, sociological, political, psychological, and biological (G.E. 1, G.E. 5, G.E. 6, G.E. 7, G.E. 8)
- 2. identify historical, political, economic, and cultural influences as well as the intersections of gender, race, class, ethnicity, sexuality, and religion in shaping the lives of women and men across cultures (G.E. 1, G.E. 5, G.E. 6, G.E. 7, G.E. 8)
- 3. contrast different approaches to women and gender studies (G.E. 1, G.E. 5, G.E. 6)
- 4. analyze the power of language to construct meaning and shape bias (G.E. 1, G.E. 5)
- 5. examine the concepts of power and authority, as defining norms, in terms of gender and sexuality (G.E. 1, G.E. 5, G.E. 6)
- 6. analyze how gender and sexuality inform our lives and define our identities, on individual, community-based, and cultural levels (G.E. 1, G.E. 5, G.E. 6, G.E. 8)
- 7. analyze the persistence of gender inequality and discrimination against women (G.E. 1, G.E. 5, G.E. 6, G.E. 7)

B. Course Learning Outcomes:

At the completion of the course, students will be able to:

- 1. explain key moments in the history of movements dealing with women and gender
- 2. identify the social and cultural processes by which gender and sexuality are

- constructed
3. analyze scholarly texts dealing with women and gender from a variety of perspectives and disciplines
 4. recognize the intersections of identity and how they relate to larger systems
 5. demonstrate a critical perspective on cultural representations of gendered and sexual identities
 6. apply intersectional analysis to current social issues

C. Assessment Instruments

1. formal writing
2. informal writing
3. research paper
4. class discussion
5. collaborative projects
6. exams
7. discussion questions

VII. Grade Determinants

- A. essays
- B. research paper
- C. class participation
- D. journal
- E. collaborative projects
- F. exams

This course may include the following modes of teaching:

- A. lecture/discussion
- B. small-group work
- C. guest speakers
- D. student oral presentations
- E. simulation/role playing
- F. student collaboration
- G. independent study

VIII. Texts and Materials

- A. textbooks
- B. primary sources
- C. secondary sources
- D. film and video
- E. audio sources
- F. web sources

Suggested textbooks include:

Braithwaite, Ann and Catherine M. Orr, eds. *Everyday Women's and Gender Studies: Introductory Concepts*. Routledge, 2017.

Lanius, Christie and Holly Hassel. *Threshold Concepts in Women's and Gender Studies*. Routledge, 2015.

Saraswati, L. Aru, Barbara L. Shaw, and Heather Rellihan, eds. *Introduction to Women's Gender, and Sexuality Studies*. Oxford UP, 2018.

Wade, Lisa and Myra Marx Ferree. *Gender: Ideas, Interactions, Institutions*. Norton, 2015.

(Please Note: The course outline is intended only as a guide to course content and resources. Do not purchase textbooks based on this outline. The RVCC Bookstore is the sole resource for the most up-to-date information about textbooks.)

IX. Resources

The library has the resources necessary for students to study and research the material covered in this course.

X. Honors Options

There is no Honors Option for this course