WST 3015: Introduction to Women’s Studies  
TTh 5-6:15 p.m.  
GL 166

Dr. Beverly Yuen Thompson  
Email- bevyuen@gmail.com  
Office Phone: (305) 348-1201  
Office Hours: by appointment in DM 210

Francesca Menes, Teaching Assistant  
fmene001@fiu.edu

Course Description:

In this Introduction to Women’s Studies course, students will read, analyze, and discuss diverse socialization processes of constructing identity based upon gender, race/ethnicity, sexuality, class, and so on. We will study the impact of social processes and institutional power upon the position, treatment, and beliefs of women in American society. Using an interdisciplinary approach, this course encompasses women in politics, literature, history, art, anthropology, sociology, and psychology. Students will learn techniques of critical thinking, reading, and writing, as well as argument development.

Classroom behavior:

Students are expected to read assigned texts prior to the session and attend all classes. Students must report to class on time. Excessive tardiness will be penalized. Use respectful language in the classroom and when addressing classmates. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. The use of cell phones, lap tops, and any text messaging devices will not be tolerated. Shut your cell phones off before entering the classroom. If you need to make a phone call or send a text message, leave the classroom to do it. If caught using such devices, you will be asked to leave the classroom. Raise hands and speak in turn. Be conscience of the amount you speak in relation to the rest of the class. This class will be based on a great deal of discussion, so everyone should participate equally.

Requirements:

40% (2) Exams  
20% (12) Quizzes  
20% (1) Activity Paper/Presentation (2-5 pages)  
20% (1) Research Paper/Presentation (2-5 pages)
Exams — There will be two exams given in class. Each exam will have twenty short-answer questions, plus one bonus question. The questions will cover the assigned reading material, movies, and guest speakers. A study guide will be provided about a week before the exam. The study guide will provide an example of the type of questions that will be asked. However, the study guide does not include all of the exam questions; therefore, it should only provide the initial direction for exam review. Continue to review all material covered since the last exam for each test. The exams are not cumulative.

Quizzes — We will have twelve (12) in-class, pop quizzes. These quizzes are short answer and essay, and you will have ten minutes to complete them in class. They will cover the material assigned for that day, or it might cover the last class period if a movie was shown or a guest speaker presented. Each quiz is graded from 0-10. The lowest two scores are dropped. Keep your quizzes as study guides when reviewing for exams, similar questions could appear.

Research Paper and Presentation— Select a topic from those covered in class, write a research paper and present it at the end of the semester. This is a research paper, not an opinion paper. While you can incorporate your opinion, all information should be based on sources including: academic articles, books, magazine, and newspaper articles; however, no online sources will be accepted. This paper should be 3-5 pages long, and include four sources, two from the text book and two from outside sources. Include your sources in a reference list written according to the Chicago Manual of Style. The paper should not have a title page, but rather include a heading on the upper left with your name, Panther ID, class, Professor, and assignment name and Times New Roman 12 point font. You will present your paper in a very brief, two-minute timed presentation delivered to the class. Write up a few brief points on note cards and visual aids are desirably but not necessary.

Activity Paper — In order to apply your women’s studies learning to the real world, attending a feminist activity is required. We will have guest speakers from Service Learning, Women’s Studies Student Association, Tri-lota, the Women’s Center, and others, present a list of activities that will be taking place during the semester. You may also supplement other events as well, with approval. Check out http://www.fiu.edu/~wstudies/comingevents.htm for a list of events.

The paper should be 3-5 pages in length, cite three readings from the textbook and include a reference list in the Chicago Manual of Style. If your paper does not have a reference list, it will not be accepted. Cite the articles in the textbook, and include a full citation, with the name of the textbook, editors, etc. The paper should not have a title page, but rather include a heading on the upper left with your name, Panther ID, class, Professor, and assignment name and Times New Roman 12 point font. The paper should include the following: what event you attended, the date of the event, why this is related to women’s studies, a description of the event, the three sources cited from the book should relate to the event and reinforce your argument, and a conclusion on the social significance of this event.
Papers are due one week after you have attended your activity. You can submit them to me via e-mail. If your paper is late, it will lose one full letter grade. All papers must be received before the student presentations begin. You will present your paper to the class during the end of the semester in a 2-5 minute speech.

**Grades:**
94-100 = A  
90-93  = A-
87-89  = B+  
84-86  = B  
80-83  = B-  
77-79  = C+  
74-76  = C  
70-73  = C-  
60-69  = D  
59-0   = F

**Textbook:**

---

**Schedule:**

**Tuesday, January 8** (week 1)
- Introduction to course and syllabus

**Thursday, January 10**
- *Movie: I Was A Teenage Feminist*

(1/14 Monday last day to withdraw without financial liability)

**Tuesday, January 15** (week 2)
- Guest Speakers: Women’s Center, Women’s Studies Student Association, Iota Iota Iota, National Organization for Women (FIU student branch)

**Thursday, January 17**
- Chapter One: Women’s Studies P. 1-21
Tuesday, January 22 (week 3)

- Chapter Two: Systems of Privilege and Inequality P. 60-75

Thursday, January 24

- Chapter Three: Learning Gender P. 124-138, 139-144

Tuesday, January 29 (week 4)

- Chapter Four: Sex, Power, Intimacy P. 165-179

Thursday, January 31

- Guest Speaker: Yes Institute (GLBT issues)

(2/1 Friday last day to withdraw with 25% refund)

Tuesday, February 5 (week 5)

- Chapter Five: Gender and Body P. 229-247

Thursday, February 7

- Chapter Five: Gender and Body P. 258-268.

Tuesday, February 12 (week 6)

- Chicago Manual of Style and paper outline overview

Thursday, February 14

- Movie: Defending A Choice for Women

Tuesday, February 19 (week 7)

- Chapter Six: Reproductive Health P. 301-331.

Thursday, February 21

- Chapter Seven: Family P. 372-391

Tuesday, February 26 (week 8)

- Chapter Seven: Family P. 400-410.
- Movie: Freedom to Marry
Thursday, February 28

- Exam One Review

Tuesday, March 4 (week 9)

- Exam One

Thursday, March 6

- Guest speaker: Dr. Janet Gersham on birth control pills

Tuesday, March 11 (week 10)

- Chapter Eight: Work P. 429-450, 452-464

(last day to withdraw with a DR or WI grade)

Thursday, March 13

- Chapter Nine: Culture P. 503-517
- Movie: Still Killing Us Softly, 3

Tuesday, March 18 (week 11)

- Spring Break

Thursday, March 20

- Spring Break

Tuesday, March 25 (week 12)

- Chapter Nine: Culture P. 532-534.
- Guest Speaker: Dr. Stevens on women and hip hop

Thursday, March 27

- Chapter Ten: Violence P. 554-577

Tuesday, April 1 (week 13)

- Chapter Ten: Violence P. 593-601.
- Guest Speaker: Victim Advocacy Center’s peer educators
Thursday, April 3

- Out of town for conference

Tuesday, April 8 (week 14)

- Student presentations of research

Thursday, April 10

- Student presentations of research

Tuesday, April 15 (week 15)

- Exam Review

Thursday, April 17

- Exam Review

Final Exam Date and Time TBA