

**Saddleback College**  
**Intro to Women's Studies Sample Syllabus**  
**WS 10**

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**What You Need to Know**

**Required Text:** Kirk, G. & Okazawa-Rey, M. (2007). *Women's Lives Multicultural Perspectives*: 5<sup>th</sup> edition. New York: McGraw-Hill.

I will also provide required readings that will be announced and either posted on blackboard or passed out in class from week to week.

**Course Description:** An exploration of the impact of social institutions and cultural practices on the lives of women in the cotemporary United States. Focuses son the ways in which differences of race, ethnicity, class, sexuality and age define women's experiences and identities.

**Student Learning Outcomes:** After the completion of the course students will be able to:

1. Explain the role of position and intersectionality in women's lives and experiences.
2. Be able to describe and understand how gender is socially constructed.
3. Identify major theories in women's studies
4. Analyze the causes and effects of gender based violence
5. Understand how social structures impact women's lives and experiences
6. Analyze gender as a category of oppression both domestically and globally

**Course Requirements:** Students are expected to attend each lecture and have the assigned readings completed *prior* to class meetings, bring their book to class and be prepared to discuss the readings and topics in class. This also means that being on time and planning on staying the entire class session is essential for you to acquire your quiz points. In addition, although the book supplements my lectures, I do not lecture "off the book". Therefore, your attendance and careful lecture notes are very important. Moreover, your participation is critical to your success in this class and for your intellectual exploration and growth. I believe that collaborative learning is the best way to enhance your academic success in this class and understanding of the course objectives and outcomes. This course requires *active* and *engaged* learning. The good news about

this is you will have the unique opportunity to determine some of the topics covered in class through small group learning modules. In these modules, you will get to know your group members well and work weekly with one another in various peer lead facilitations and group assignments.

If you feel this course is in conflict with your schedule and you will not be able to devote the time needed each week, or you decide the course is not for you, it is your responsibility to drop this course. **I will not drop you!**

### **Student's progress in the course will be evaluated as follows:**

- **2 Exams- 200 Points (100 points each)**- a written mid-term and final consisting of true/false, short answer and essay questions.
- **Group Facilitation- 50 Points:** You will be the “educator” or facilitator in your small group twice throughout the semester as part of collaborative learning. (Details to follow in class)
- **In-Class Work and Participation- 100 Points:** You will be put into groups at the beginning of the session and will do group work each week in these groups in class. You will also get credit for actively participating in your group and completing in class assignments. (Details will be provided in class)
- **Group Project (50 Points)**  
Your group will develop and develop a presentation and paper related to 7 various themes. I must approve your topic by **Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**.

**Team 1- Women's Bodies and Beauty**

**Team 2- Women and the Environment or Women and Activism**

**Team 3- Women in a Global Context**

**Team 4- Violence Against Women**

**Team 5- Relationships, Families and Households**

**Team 6- Work, Wages and Welfare**

**Team 7- Women, Crime and Criminalization**

### **You will be evaluated as follows:**

1. Background information about assigned topic.
2. Local advocacy or human services agencies/resources. You will need to bring literature from the agency that provides services related to your topic and be prepared to discuss the organizations services.
3. Proposed grassroots action to ameliorate the related challenges
4. Web sites and research relevant to your topic. You will utilize these sites during your presentation
5. Visual aids such as PowerPoint, websites, short film clips, magazine images, posters, etc.
6. Activities for the presentation, handouts- games- skits- interactive activities

7. Handout prepared specifically for the presentation.

### **Extra Credit:**

I will give two extra credit opportunities throughout the semester. These will be announced in class and are typically due the next class session and are worth 5 each.

### **Course Policies:**

If you are not going to be in class on the days that you are facilitating, you will lose the points for that day. Due to the nature of the assignment, these points can not be made up as is the case with all in class work and quizzes.

If you will be absent when a written assignment is due, you must make sure you have the assignment in my campus mailbox or e-mail by the beginning of the start of the class despite your absence. There will be no exceptions unless there is a substantiated medical or other emergency.

Likewise, you are expected to take each exam at the time and day they are scheduled. **IMPORTANT:** Only substantiated emergencies will be given a make-up exam. You will have to have a doctor's note or other documentation.

*If you miss an exam or assignment due to an emergency, you must contact me within 48 hours after the exam or assignment was due or it will not be accepted and a make-up will not be possible.*

*Plagiarism and/or cheating will not be tolerated in this course and appropriate actions will be taken according to campus policy. If you are unclear of this policy, please refer to the Saddleback handbook at <http://www.saddleback.edu/media/pdf/handbook.pdf>*

*If I catch you cheating in any form, you will automatically receive an F for the assignment and will be asked to meet with me to discuss further action before being allowed back in the class.*

You are required and expected to be on time, courteous and respectful of both the instructor's and your fellow student's opinions- ideas and contributions. Excessive talking, texting, performing work that is not related to the class will not be tolerated and you will be asked once to cease the disruptive/rude behavior. After that, you will be asked to leave the class and arrange a meeting with me before returning.

### **Late Paper Policies**

Papers are to be turned in at the beginning of class. I do accept late work but adhere strictly to the following guidelines:

- 10 minutes after the start of class- ½ grade deduction

- Each day thereafter you will be deducted 1 full letter grade, including weekends

**Blackboard Policies:**

I will post announcements, course assignments, materials and grades on blackboard. Please make sure you check the site at least once a week. I will e-mail you with announcements as well, so make sure your blackboard e-mail is one you check regularly.

**Tentative Course Readings and Outline  
(I reserve the right to modify/alter this schedule)**

**Week 1:**

**CH 1, 2 and 3- What is Women's Studies, Theory and Social Locations**

**Week 2:**

**CH 4 and 5- Body, Beauty and Sexuality**

**Week 3:**

**CH 6- Violence Against Women**

**Week 4: Violence Against Women Cont. and Midterm Exam**

**Week 5 :**

**CH 7 and 8- Paid and Unpaid Employment and Women in a Global Context and Global Economy**

**Week 6 :**

**CH 10- Women, Crime and Criminalization**

**Week 7 :**

**CH 10 and 12- Women and the Military/ Vision and Action  
Group Project Presentation 1 and 7**

**Week 8:**

**Group Project Presentation- 2-4  
Group Project presentation- 5-6**

**Final Exam:**

**TBA Refer to Final Exam Schedule**

## **Additional Information:**

### **Learning Assistance Program (LAP)**

If you need any tutoring assistance, please contact the Learning Assistance Program at [www.saddleback.edu/library](http://www.saddleback.edu/library) or at the campus library at 114 at phone number (949) 582-4519.

### **Computing Services**

The LAP also has computers with printing capabilities available for your use.

### **Special Services**

If you should require any specialized assistance in this course, please feel free to talk to me so we can make arrangements or contact Student Services at [www.saddleback.edu/serv/couns/dsps/](http://www.saddleback.edu/serv/couns/dsps/) or at SSC113 at (949) 582-4249. If you have already made arrangements with Student Services, please discuss this with me at the beginning of the course so I may get the appropriate paperwork.