

Minnesota State University Moorhead

WS 324: Feminist Theory

A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: *.*

OJT Hours/Week: *.*

Prerequisites:

- WS 100 - Women Today: Contemporary Women's Issues

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 06 - Humanities/Fine Arts, Goal 07 - Human Diversity

This course is an examination of feminist theories that analyze women's experiences and women's oppression. Throughout the course we will explore how knowledge, power, gender, and difference are interwoven and how feminist approaches seek to disrupt and reshape systems of inequality on multiple levels. Specific attention will focus on theorizing the intersections of gender-based oppression with racism, classism, and other forms of oppression. MnTC Goal 6 and 7.

B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES: 05/15/2011 - Present

C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. Background Concepts: Oppression, Social Construction and Epistemic Positions Humanist Feminism, Theory and Practice.
2. Difference Feminism: Theory and Practice.
3. Dominance and Power: Theory and Practice
4. Postmodern Feminism: Theory and Practice.
5. Feminist Identity Politics: Theory and Practice, Feminist Allies.

D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. To understand what feminist theory is, its breadth and depth, and its variety.
2. To learn to use feminist theories to engage with pressing social issues.
3. To understand the ways in which multiculturalism, global, postmodern and third wave feminisms challenge and enrich the notion of feminist theory.
4. To *do theory*, i.e. to achieve the ability to participate thoughtfully in discussions of the issues at stake, to learn to critically evaluate theoretical assumptions, and to use theoretical tools in written and oral course-related activities.

E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies

Goal 06 - Humanities/Fine Arts

1. Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works in the arts and humanities.
2. Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within an historical and social context.
3. Respond critically to works in the arts and humanities.
4. Articulate an informed personal reaction to works in the arts and humanities.

Goal 07 - Human Diversity

1. Understand the development of and the changing meanings of group identities in the United States' history and culture.
2. Demonstrate an awareness of the individual and institutional dynamics of unequal power relations between groups in contemporary society.
3. Analyze their own attitudes, behaviors, concepts and beliefs regarding diversity, racism, and bigotry.
4. Describe and discuss the experience and contributions (political, social, economic, etc.) of the many groups that shape American society and culture, in particular those groups that have suffered discrimination and exclusion.
5. Demonstrate communication skills necessary for living and working effectively in a society with great population diversity.

F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

As noted on course syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION

None noted