

COURSE OUTLINE **Women and Society**

Course Description:

BS107. Women and Society. 3 hours credit. The student will be able to understand the various roles of women in society and the interrelatedness of issues. The student will be able to discuss topics; such as, social construction of gender, patriarchy, and media influence, as well as women's experience with health, education, family, work, and violence.

Course Relevance:

The concepts learned in this course will give the student skills and knowledge to identify the myriad of issues relevant to women, as well as the interconnected value of those issues.

Required Materials:

Online Materials:

Kirk, Gwyn and Okazawa-Rey, Margo, (2004). *Women's Lives*. McGraw-Hill.

Cantarow, Ellen, (1980). *Moving the Mountain*. Feminist Press.

Atwood, Margaret (1998). *The Handmaid's Tale*. Anchor Books

Learning Outcomes:

The intention is for the student to be able to:

1. Assess the various ways in which one can effect positive social change.
2. Understand the diversity of women's experiences.

Primary Learning PACT Skills that will be DEVELOPED and/or documented in this course:

Through the student's involvement in this course, he/she will develop his/her ability in the following primary PACT skill areas:

1. Critical Thinking
 - Through dialogue relevant to assigned readings, students will discuss the interconnectedness of women's issues.
2. Valuing Diversity
 - Through reading and written assignments, students will recognize commonalities, as well as differences, among women.

Secondary skills (developed but not documented):

- Problem-solving
- Non-verbal communication
- Effective citizenship
- Historical interpretation
- Reading

Major Summative Assessment Task(s):

These learning outcomes and primary Learning PACT skills will be demonstrated by:

1. Demonstration of the student's knowledge of women's diverse experiences by completing extended learning activities (ie., oral history, agency interviews)

Course Content:

- I. Themes – Key recurring concepts that run throughout this course:
 - A. Interconnectedness of race, class, and gender
 - B. Feminism and social activism
- II. Issues – Key issues that will be addressed in this course: areas of conflict that must be understood in order to achieve the intended outcome:
 - A. One's own background and experience with a particular issue as it is situated within a certain period of time
 - B. The development of personal skills to use in addressing social concerns.
- III. Concepts – Key concepts that must be understood to address the issues:
 - A. Empowerment of individuals to address the issues.
 - B. Situated knowledge
- IV. Skills/Competencies – Actions that are essential to achieve the course outcomes:
 - A. Examine the interrelatedness of women's issues
 - B. Differentiate between various theories of feminism
 - C. Formulate action to take in creating change
 - D. Develop a personal resume for a possible job

Learning Units:

- I. Identify the focus of women's studies
 - A. Oppression of women
 - B. Collective action for change
- II. Apply frameworks for understanding theories
 - A. Dominant perspective
 - B. Alternative perspective
 - C. Feminist perspective
- III. Explain identities and social location
 - A. Micro level
 - B. Meso level
 - C. Macro and global level
- IV. Discuss women's body images
 - A. Resisting stereotypes

- B. Feminist theories about body image
 - C. Body politics
- V. Identify impact of religion on women's status
- A. Oppression
 - B. Liberation
- VI. Analyze women's sexuality
- A. Stereotypes and double standards
 - B. Activism for social change
 - C. Evaluation factors
- VII. Assess women's role in the family
- A. Women defined through relationships
 - B. Feminist perspective on marriage and motherhood
 - C. Redefining family values
- VIII. Describe violence against women
- A. Ending violence against women
 - B. Women's rights as human rights
- IX. Explain ways to live in a global economy
- A. Implications of inequalities
 - B. A new global economy
- X. Define women's work
- A. U.S. workforce illustrated
 - B. Feminist approaches to work and income
 - C. Promoting greater economic security for women
- XI. Analyze the condition of women's health
- A. Effects of race and class
 - B. Reproductive health
 - C. Aging
 - D. Mental and emotional health
- XII. Examine impact of crime on women
- A. Women in the criminal justice system
 - B. Women as political prisoners
- XIII. Appraise women's role in the military
- A. Limitations
 - B. Service overseas
 - C. Opposition to the military
- XIV. Define women's role in the environment
- A. Activist perspectives

B. Sustainability

XV. Establishing a framework to create change

- A. Women in politics
- B. Building alliances

Learning Activities:

Classroom: Learning activities will extend beyond traditional assignments to include interaction and observations of the community within which the students identify, as well as those they don't. Text readings, online class discussions, and examination of professional journals will provide opportunities for analysis of women's status in various societal institutions.

Grade Determination:

The student will be graded on satisfactory completion of assessment tasks, extended learning activities, learning profile, and acceptable participation in online discussions.