

Spring 2009
 Dr. Lois West
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SYLLABUS for SYD 3811: Sociology of Women

Description: This course is one of the women's studies courses focusing on the lives of females from a sociological perspective. We begin with the history of women's studies, focus on girlhood, and then proceed through issues of concern to women, including relationships between mothers and daughters. Are we in a "post-feminist" age? This course will help us answer that question.

Required Readings: The following texts can be purchased at the university bookstore, local book stores or on-line and they are all in paperback:

- Lyn Mikel Brown, Girlfighting, New York University Press, 2003.
- Gwyn Kirk & Margo Okazawa-Rey, Women's Lives: Multicultural Perspectives, Fourth Edition, Mc-Graw Hill 2007.
- Deborah Tannen, You're Wearing That? Ballantine Books, 2006.

Recommended Readings:

- Guerrilla Girls, Bitches, Bimbos and Ballbreakers, Penguin Books 2003.
- Marjane Satrapi, Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood, Pantheon 2003.
- Joni Seager, Women of the World Atlas, Penguin 2005.

Requirements: Successful completion of the following assignments done **on time** (assignments turned in late will not be accepted; no make-ups):

1. In class oral **presentations of the required readings** (4 worth 5 points each, 20 points total). If you are not here the date your reading is due, you will not receive points. Students can earn extra credit with extra presentations.
 2. Essay **exam #1 on the readings** (3 questions @ ten points each, 30 points)
 3. A **research project with a research bibliography presented to the class** (20 points)
 4. Essay **exam #2** on the readings (3 questions worth ten points each, 30 points)
- Final points add up to 100 possible (20+30+20+30=100)

NOTE: I do not accept emailed assignments. You must turn in a hard copy in class or in my box in the sociology department on the due date.

Course Outline

Week 1: Introduction to the sociology of women and women's studies.

Required Reading (henceforth RR): Kirk & Obazawa-Rey (henceforth KOR), Introduction and Part I, Chapter 1

Recommended: Guerrilla Girls on stereotypes.

Week 2: Girlhood--age

RR: Brown all. Recommended: Sarapi.

Week 3: Identities—race, ethnicity, class, nation

January 21: Martin Luther King Jr. Day, no class

RR: KOR, Part 1, Chapter 2

Week 4 and Week 5: The Female Body and Mother Earth

RR: KOR, Part Two, Chapters 3,4, 5 and Part Three, Chapter 12.

Week 6 and Week 7: Relationships and Family

RR: KOR, Part Three, Chapter 7 and Tannen, all.

Week 6: Your research project topic DUE.

ESSAY EXAM #1

Week 8: Women and Work

RR: KOR, Part Three, Chapter 8.

Week 9 and Week 10: Women Globally

RR: KOR, Part Three, Chapter 9 and Seager.

Week 11: SPRING BREAK No Classes

Week 12: Women and Violence

RR: KOR, Part Two, Chapter, 6, and Part 4, Chapter 10 and 11.

Your research bibliography with 20 citations DUE.

Week 13: Feminist Social Movements

RR: KOR, Part Five, Chapter 13.

Week 14-15: Your research PRESENTATIONS.

ESSAY EXAM #2 DUE