Administrative Unit: History and Social Sciences Department

Course Prefix and Number: WMST 310

Course Title: Women and Society

Number of Credit Hours: 3 Lecture Hours: 3 Laboratory Hours: 0

Catalog Description: Analysis of the social and cultural forces that shape women's position in society; explanations and critical analysis of the gendered nature of our reality. Cross-listed as SOCI 310. Offered even Fall.

Prerequisite(s)/Corequisite(s): None.

Text(s): It is encouraged that instructors require both the use of a primary text and a supplemental reader or additional text (see the following lists for suggestions).

Most current editions of the following:


Lindsey, Linda. *Gender Roles*. Prentice Hall.


Supplemental Texts:


**Course Objectives:**
- To sensitize students to the position of women in American society as well as cross culturally.
- To understand this position in relation to larger social and cultural forces.
- To understand how gender oppression is structured into society.
- To apply the major sociological theories and feminist theories to this subject matter.
- To think critically and analyze, instead of simply accepting socially constructed realities, and to begin to question why things are the way they are.

**Measurable Learning Outcomes**
- Understand the difference between sex and gender and the significance of this difference.
- Understand the history of and current status of the feminist movement in the U.S.
- Explain the emergence of Women’s Studies as an academic discipline.
- Identify the influence of gender on women’s lived realities: in the workplace, the home, within educational institutions, gendered media images, within the political sphere, and religious institutions.
- Understand the notion of intersectionality: race/gender/class/sexuality/disability
- Recognize gender at work in men’s lives.

**Topical Outline (major areas of coverage):**
- History of the American Feminist Movement
- Theoretical Perspectives
  - sociological perspectives on gender inequality
  - feminist perspectives on gender inequality
- Intersectionality: gender/race/class/sexuality
- Gendered Worlds: Cross-cultural Perspectives
- Gendered Institutions
  - gender and the workplace
  - gender and educational institutions
  - gender and the law-violence against women
bullet gender and the political system
bullet gender and religion
bullet gender and the media-women and body images

Recommended maximum class size for this course: 20

Library Resources: Online databases are available at http://www.ccis.edu/offices/library/resources.asp. You may access them from off-campus using your eServices login and password when prompted.

Prepared by: Kathleen Fitzgerald

Name
Signature

Date: May 13, 2005

NOTE: The intention of the master syllabus is to provide an outline of the contents of this course, as specified by the faculty of Columbia College, regardless of who teaches the course, when it is taught or where it is taught. Faculty members teaching this course for Columbia College are expected to facilitate learning pursuant to the course objectives and cover the subjects listed in the topical outline. However, instructors are also encouraged to cover additional topics of interest so long as those topics are relevant to the course’s subject. The master syllabus is, therefore, prescriptive in nature but also allows for a diversity of individual approaches to course material.

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