

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF THE FRASER VALLEY

COURSE INFORMATION

DISCIPLINE/DEPARTMENT: SCMS **IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** Fall 1997

Revised: _____

<u>WMST 101</u>	Introduction to Women's Studies I	3
SUBJECT/NUMBER OF COURSE	DESCRIPTIVE TITLE	UCFV CREDITS

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: This course uses a multidisciplinary approach to introduce students to the study of women in society and academia. It explores the development of feminist theories and methodologies, and the construction and meaning of gender. It examines women's experiences within the context of class, race, age, and sexual orientation.

RATIONALE: The growing visibility of women on campus, and their growing demand for an education appropriate to women's specific needs, aspirations and realities, provides the impetus for the development of Women's Studies as an intellectually fertile discipline. This course provides students with an overview of some of the key issues in Women's Studies.

COURSE PREREQUISITES: None

COURSE COREQUISITES: None

HOURS PER TERM FOR EACH STUDENT	Lecture		hrs	Student Directed Learning		hrs
	Laboratory		hrs	Other - specify:		hrs
	Seminar	45	hrs			
	Field Experience		hrs			hrs
				TOTAL	<u>45</u>	HRS

MAXIMUM ENROLMENT: 35

Is transfer credit requested? Yes No

AUTHORIZATION SIGNATURES:

Course Designer(s): <u>J. Ballard</u>	Chairperson: <u>D. Gibson</u>
	Curriculum Committee
Department Head: <u>K. Busswood</u>	Dean: <u>J.D. Tunstall</u>
PAC: Approval in Principle _____	PAC: Final Approval: <u>February 25, 1997</u>
(Date)	(Date)

WMST 101

NAME & NUMBER OF COURSE

SYNONYMOUS COURSES:

- (a) replaces _____
(course #)
- (b) cannot take _____ for further credit
(course #)

SUPPLIES/MATERIALS:

TEXTBOOKS, REFERENCES, MATERIALS (List reading resources elsewhere)

Hoy, Schor, DiYanni (eds.): Women's Voices: Visions and Perspectives

Ruth: Issues in Feminism: An Introduction to Women's Studies

Coursepack of selected articles

OBJECTIVES:

This course will enable the student to:

- a) develop an understanding of key issues in Women's Studies including the social construction of gender, the politics of women's lives, and feminist perspectives on the development of theory and knowledge
- b) use a multidisciplinary approach to explore questions concerning the status and experiences of women
- c) explore, using a multidisciplinary approach, the intersection of issues of gender, race, class, age and sexual orientation
- d) approach the question of women's roles from the perspective of critical thinking

METHODS:

The course will use a seminar format in which students (in small and large group discussions) explore and critically analyse issues. The catalyst for discussions will be assigned readings, videos, guest speakers, personal and academic experience, group presentations, and issues in the news.

WMST 101

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STUDENT EVALUATION PROCEDURE:

Group presentation	25%
Post-presentation report	10%
One of: Journal with critical commentary or Two critical analyses of selected articles	30%
Class participation	15%
Final exam	20%

COURSE CONTENT

The course will consist of four sections, each being the focus of study for three weeks.

1. Women's Studies: The Creation of Women-centred Knowledge

This section will examine: the feminist critique of the scientific method; the social construction of knowledge; and the politics and practice of women's organizing.

2. The Politics of Identity

This section explores: the social construction of gender; the social construction of women's bodies; compulsory heterosexuality and lesbian experience; and racism in the women's movement.

3. Colonization and Imperialism

This section explores the intersection of patriarchy, capitalism and colonization with particular emphasis on First Nations women, global inequities, and systems of oppression.

4. Hearing Women's Voices

This section looks at: speech and silence; writing the history of women; and women and the arts. We then return to the initial topic of the creation of women-centred knowledge.