

University of Denver, The Women's College
ADM 2510: Critical Thinking
Summer Quarter 2008

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Office Hours: By appointment only. Please e-mail.

Required Text: Judith Lorber's Gender Inequality: Feminist Theories and Politics (3rd Ed)

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course introduces students to critical thinking and writing through a feminist perspective. Students will engage the material at a college level, and analyze, synthesize, and generate thoughtful conclusions based in substantiated reasoning. In doing so, students will uncover the construction of gender inequality as they explore the three waves of feminism in the U.S. Students will determine whether a new type of feminism is needed or whether feminism –as we understand it-- is irrelevant in the 21st Century.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

- A. Read and synthesize the material from a critical thinking perspective
- B. Apply critical thinking skills when writing and presenting on the topics
- C. Craft a cogent, well-substantiated paper(s)
- D. Understand the various feminists' perspectives and theories.

III. COURSE COMPONENTS

- A. Class Attendance and Participation
- B. Assignments (2)
- C. Paper (1)
- D. Presentation (1)

IV. OVERALL CLASS GRADING

- A. You may accrue a total of 100 points.
- B. Each assignment is worth 20% of your overall grade.
- C. The final paper is worth 45% of final grade.
- D. Ten-minute presentation is worth 15% of final grade.

V. ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

Class attendance and class participation are mandatory. Only emergencies due to circumstances beyond your control are considered excused absences, and/or observed religious holidays provided the student gave advanced, written notice to the instructor.

VI. CRITERIA FOR GRADING PRESENTATIONS

You will present on the topic of your paper. The purpose of the presentation is to give you an opportunity to fine-tune and further develop your paper. In helping you to do

so, your colleagues will provide feedback. Your presentation will be 15 minutes in length. You must include a handout. You will be graded on cohesiveness, clarity, timeliness, understanding of the material, and your presentation handout. You should allow for 5 minutes for questions and comments from your colleagues.

VII. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The Women's College fully endorses the University of Denver's Honor Code and the procedures put forth by the Office of Citizenship and Community Standards. Academic dishonesty – including plagiarism, cheating, and falsification of data and research – is in violation of the code and will result in a failing grade for the assignment or for the course. As student members of a community committed to academic integrity and honesty, it is your responsibility to become familiar with the DU Honor Code and its procedures (www.du.edu/honorcode).

VIII. ADA ACCOMMODATIONS

Students who require accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act must contact the instructor immediately to discuss their needs. Failure to notify the instructor immediately may hinder the College's ability to accommodate accordingly. The instructor will also provide accommodations for students with learning disabilities. Students with learning disabilities must also notify the instructor immediately so that accommodations can be provided.

IX. OBSERVATION OF RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Students wishing to observe a religious holiday not celebrated on the academic calendar may do so provided advanced written notice is given the instructor during the first two weeks of the quarter. With advanced, written notice, the absence will be considered an excused absence.

X. CRITERIA FOR GRADING PAPERS

- A. Grammar
- B. Presentation of both sides of argument
- C. Critical review/analysis
- D. Original ideas or critiques
- E. Discuss practical, real-world application and/or implications
- F. "Tightness" of discussion; good presentation and construction of ideas

XI. ACCESSING ASSIGNMENTS AND COURSE INFORMATION

BLACKBOARD: You will be responsible for checking Blackboard for class announcements, participation in discussion boards, and non-text readings.

XII. FINAL PAPER DESCRIPTION

1. Answering the following question by providing substantiated research: Is Feminism Irrelevant in the 21st Century?
2. Explore in writing at least two feminist theories (e.g. capitalism and patriarchy, gender construction, or gender rebellion) discussed in Lorber's text.

3. Select at least 2 *academic* sources, one of which is your textbook. **You must choose the other source on your own.** Academic sources do not include information pulled from advocacy organization's web sites, Wikipedia, etc. Books and journal articles are considered *academic*. Visit <http://library.du.edu/FindIt/EResources/index.cfm> for online *academic* databases.
4. Avoid sweeping generalizations and commentary; instead, analyze your paper based upon the supporting evidence you've collected/chosen. Please note that analysis is different from commentary.
5. Present both sides of the issue.
6. Use MLA style guide for citations.

XIII. ASSIGNMENTS

CLASS ONE

The Variety of Feminism and the Contribution to Gender Inequality

Readings: (a) Preface (b) Part I of the text

CLASS TWO

Gender Reform Feminists

Readings: Part II in its entirety

CLASS THREE

Gender Resistant Feminism

Readings: Chapters 5 & 6

Assignment: Select 2 types of feminism covered thus far; compare and contrast their strengths and weaknesses. **Submit a 3-page paper** prior to class. Cite your work.

CLASS FOUR

Gender Resistant Feminism continued

Readings: Chapters 7 & 8

Assignment: **Submit a 3-page paper** discussing the unconscious sources of masculinity and femininity. Cite your work.

CLASS FIVE

Gender Rebellion Feminists

Readings: Part IV. Chapters 9-11.

Assignment: Small group **presentations**. Present on your final paper.

CLASS SIX

Gender Rebellion Feminists continued

Readings: Ch. 12 & 13

Assignment: Small group **presentations**. Present on your final paper.

CLASS SEVEN

Do We Need a New Feminism?

Readings: Part V

Assignment: **Final Paper Due-5 pages in length**