

**Introduction to Women's Studies**  
**50:988:201**  
**Fall 2011**  
**T/Th 11:00-12:20 CS 213**  
**Office hrs. T/Th 12:30-1:30 & by appointment**

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### **Course Description**

This interdisciplinary course is designed as an introduction to the basic concepts and issues central to women's studies. Topics include: race and social class, gender roles, sexuality, body image, reproductive rights, families, labor, violence against women, civil rights, and feminist activism.

### **Texts\***

- *Women's Voices, Feminist Visions (WVFW)*, eds. Susan Shaw and Janet Lee, McGraw-Hill, fourth edition, 2009
- Barbara Ehrenreich, *Nickel and Dimed*, Henry Holt, 2008

### **Requirements and Grading**

- Bi-weekly quizzes 40%
- Oral Presentation 5%
- Gender List 5%
- Participation & Attendance 20%
- 6-8 Page Paper 15%
- Final Exam 15%

### **Quizzes**

On alternating Thursdays we will have a quiz on the most recent reading. It will cover everything since the last quiz. The questions will be "objective" types: multiple choice, short answer, matching, fill-in-the-blank, etc.

### **Oral Presentation**

Students will be divided into roughly eight groups (depending on class size). Each group will show and analyze a current television commercial's content with regard to race, class, or gender. Full assignment details can be found on Sakai.

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\* I allow students to use an earlier addition of the anthology and/or *Nickel and Dimed*. If you do so, however, it is your responsibility to figure out corresponding page numbers to keep up with the reading and to follow along in class.

## **Gender List**

Between September 1st and 8th students will keep a list of their experiences and thoughts on gender. The list, which must contain a minimum of 20 relevant items, should be type-written and submitted in class on Tuesday September 13th.

## **Participation**

The participation portion of this class is enormous. For that reason, you are allowed to miss class only one time without it affecting your grade. To receive an “A” for the participation portion, you must be both present and actively engaged with the class during discussion. Part of the participation grade will depend on you having completed the reading assignments. *Notice that the reading load is heavy for the first 6 weeks before group presentations start and plan accordingly.* I define “active engagement” as the following: answering and/or asking questions, responding to your classmates’ ideas, and volunteering to read passages.

## **Paper**

You will write one academic paper in response to posted questions about Barbara Ehrenreich’s *Nickel and Dimed*. The required length is a minimum of six and a maximum of eight pages. *Please note that 5% of your grade will depend on having a complete rough draft for the paper workshop on November 17th.* Full assignment details can be found on Sakai.

## **Exam**

The exam will be cumulative (covering the entire semester). It will be composed of a combination of objective and essay questions. We will have a formal review session in which we’ll discuss the topic and format in detail.

## **Academic Integrity and General Rules**

### *Plagiarism*

Refraining from plagiarism or cheating in any form fosters an environment of fairness vital to your academic success and that of your peers. Because “grey areas” can appear in a variety of situations, please review the Rutgers Camden academic integrity policy: <http://www.camden.rutgers.edu/RUCAM/Academic-Integrity-Policy.php>. You will be held accountable to this standard. If you have any questions about citations, group work, or exam preparation, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am happy to help you steer through these perilous waters.

### *Late assignments*

Late papers are subject to a reduction of 1/3 of a letter grade for each calendar day past the due date. For example, if the paper is due Monday and the student turns it in on Tuesday, the paper that would have been an A would now earn an A-. On Wednesday it would become a B+, on Thursday a B, and so on.

*Cell phones*

Cell phones should be turned off or on silent mode during class. Texting is not permitted at any time.

**Assignments**

WEEK 1

**Introduction to the course**

Thursday 09.01.11

- Begin keeping a list of your personal experiences with gender. Final list will have at least 20 type-written entries.

WEEK 2

**“Women’s Studies: Perspectives and Practices”**

Tuesday, 09.06.11

- Chapter one in *WVFW* (pp. 1-57)

Thursday, 09.08.11

- NO CLASS TODAY; “MONDAY” CLASSES MEET

WEEK 3

**“Systems of Privilege and Inequality in Women’s Lives”**

Tuesday, 09.13.11

- **“Gender List” due**
- Chapter two in *WVFW* (pp. 59-122)

***Nickel and Dimed*, pt. 1**

Thursday, 09.15.11

- **Quiz #1**
- “Introduction” and “Serving in Florida” in *Nickel and Dimed* (pp. 1-50)

WEEK 4

**“Learning Gender in a Diverse Society”**

Tuesday, 09.20.11

- Chapter three in *WVFW* (pp. 124-169)

***Nickel and Dimed*, pt. 2**

Thursday, 09.22.11

- **Quiz #2**
- “Scrubbing in Maine” in *Nickel and Dimed* (pp. 51-120)

WEEK 5

**“Sex, Power, and Intimacy”**

Tuesday, 09.27.11

- Chapter four in *WVFW* (pp. 170-222)

**“Inscribing Gender on the Body”**

Thursday, 09.29.11

- **Quiz #3**
- Chapter five in *WVFW* (pp. 223-295)

WEEK 6

***Nickel and Dimed*, pt. 3**

Tuesday, 10.04.11

- “Selling in Minnesota” in *Nickel and Dimed* (pp. 121-222)

**“Health and Reproductive Rights”**

Thursday, 10.06.11

- **Quiz #4**
- Chapter six in *WVFW* (pp. 296-376)

WEEK 7

**“Family Systems, Family Lives”**

Tuesday, 10.11.11

- First half of chapter seven in *WVFW* (pp. 378-401)

Thursday, 10.13.11

- **Quiz #5**
- Second half of chapter seven in *WVFW* (pp. 402-424)

WEEK 8

**“Women’s Work Inside and Outside the Home”**

Tuesday, 10.18.11

- **Presentation Group 1**
- First half of chapter eight in *WVFW* (pp. 426-463)

Thursday, 10.20.11

- **Quiz #6**
- Second half of chapter eight in *WVFW* (pp. 464-497)

WEEK 9

**“Women Confronting and Creating Culture”**

Tuesday, 10.25.11

- **Presentation Group 2**
- First half of chapter nine in *WVFW* (pp. 498-527)

Thursday, 10.27.11

- **Quiz #7**
- Second half of chapter nine in *WVFW* (pp. 528-554)

WEEK 10

**“Resisting Violence Against Women”**

Tuesday, 11.01.11

- **Presentation Group 3**
- First half of chapter ten in *WVFW* (pp. 555-588)

Thursday, 11.03.11

- **Quiz #8**
- Second half of chapter ten in *WVFW* (pp. 590-610)

WEEK 11

**“State, Law, and Social Policy”**

Tuesday, 11.08.11

- **Presentation Group 4**
- First half of chapter eleven in *WVFW* (pp. 611-633)

Thursday, 11.10.11

- **NO CLASS MEETING TODAY**
- **Please take Quiz #9 online through Sakai**
- **Please review Powerpoint on second half of chapter eleven in *WVFW* (pp. 634-667) under resources on Sakai**

WEEK 12

**“Religion and Spirituality in Women’s Lives”**

Tuesday, 11.15.11

- **Presentation Group 5**
- First half of chapter twelve in *WVFW* (pp. 669-683)

Thursday, 11.17.11

- **NO QUIZ TODAY**
- **PAPER WORKSHOP: Bring rough draft to class**

WEEK 13

**“Religion and Spirituality in Women’s Lives” (continued)**

Tuesday 11.22.11

- **Presentation Group 6**
- Second half of chapter twelve in *WVFW* (pp. 684-705)

Thursday, 11.24.11

- NO CLASS; THANKSGIVING RECESS

WEEK 14

**“Activism, Change, and Feminist Futures”**

Tuesday, 11.29.11

- **Presentation Group 7**
- First half of chapter thirteen in *WVFW* (pp. 707-732)

Thursday, 12.01.11

- **PAPER DUE**
- NO QUIZ OR READING DUE TODAY

WEEK 15

**“Activism, Change, and Feminist Futures” (continued)**

Tuesday, 12.06.11

- **Presentation Group 8**
- Second half of chapter thirteen in *WVFW* (pp. 733-755)

Thursday, 12.08.11

- **Quiz #10**
- NO READING DUE TODAY

WEEK 16

Tuesday, 12.13.11

- Final Exam Review

**FINAL EXAM: MONDAY DECEMBER 19TH 2-5PM IN CS 213**