20434 Mayfield  Introduction to Women’s Studies  
English 2213  
Spring, 2012  
Dr. Sandra Mayfield  
Professor of English  
Office:  LA 105A  
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Classroom and Time of class meeting:  9-9:50 MWF, CTL 106

Requirements of the course:  Each student should read and reread the assigned material, either in the textbook or in handouts or in articles or books from the library. There will be occasional pop quizzes on the reading material. These quizzes will be worth 10% each in evaluating a student for a final grade.

Each student is expected to come to class each day ready to participate in the discussions of articles read or subjects assigned. Participation in class discussion contributes 10% to the final grade.

There will be two major exams (fourth and eighth weeks) each worth 25% of the total grade. The final exam is at the end of the course.

Each student is expected to participate in group work on projects assigned below. This participation constitutes 10% of the final grade.

Each student will write a research paper on an aspect of women’s issues. There will be a list of possible topics distributed from which a student can select a topic meaningful to him or to her. This research paper constitutes 10% of the final grade.

The final exam constitutes 10% of the final grade. The final exam in this class is scheduled for Wednesday, May 2, 2012, from 9-10:50 a.m.

Student Information Link:  http://www.uco.edu/academic-affairs/files/aa-forms/StudentInfo_Sheet.pdf

Policy on Plagiarism:  The use of plagiarism, that is, the use of someone’s work as your own which is not your own, is grounds for a failing grade in the course and for dismissal from the University.

Policy on Absences:  Students are expected to be in class 100% of the time. For every five unexcused absences, a student’s grade will be lowered by one letter. Legitimate
reasons for not being in class are illness, a death in the immediate family, inclement weather conditions.

Outline of Course

First Week: January 9-13
M: Introduction to course, get acquainted with class members, become familiar with the subject matter of this course.
W: Class discussion of Anna Quindlen’s article, “Still Needing the F Word,” pages 39 and following
F: Discussion of Adrienne Rich’s article, “Claiming an Education,” page 23 and following. Assignment for next Wednesday: Write a 3-4 page paper summarizing and analyzing the article “Forty Years of Women’s Studies: Origins and Intersections,” page 40 and following.

Second Week: January 17-20
Monday: Martin Luther King holiday.
Wednesday and Friday: In-depth discussions of all of Chapter 1 of the text.

Third Week: January 23-27
The Women’s Suffrage Movement and its impact on women’s rights in a contemporary setting.
Assignment: Google the “National Women’s Hall of Fame,” and write a 1-2 page evaluation of one woman described in this document.

Fourth Week: January 30-February 2
Review for first exam.
Exam One on Friday of this week.

Fifth Week: February 6-10
Begin discussion of Chapter Two, “Systems of Privilege and Inequality”
Write a paper discussing the ways that you as an individual are privileged in the society of today. Due Friday.
Write a paper in which you discuss the assumptions hidden in the statements on page 48. Divide into groups to discuss Suzanne Pharr’s article on “Homophobia” on page 71.
Write a brief paper for Monday in which you itemize the ways that you are privileged in our culture.

Sixth Week: February 13-17
Begin a study of Chapter Three, “Learning Gender” and Chapter Four, “Sex, Power, and Intimacy”
Conduct on paper the most basic issues and/or challenges for women in these areas.
(Group work)
Submit a paper analyzing and evaluating Jessica Valenti’s article on page 181, “The Cult of Virginity.”
Seventh Week: February 20-24
Begin work in groups on a class presentation on one of the following significant challenges for women:

- The effect on women of societal pressures for “compulsory heterosexuality.”
- Women of color and the particular issues which they face in American culture
- Challenges for working women
- Equal pay for equal work, or the inequities in pay for women in the workforce
- The pressure on women to have “perfect” bodies
- Eating disorders and women
- The health issues/problems confronting women
- Women’s sports: funding, inequities, possible areas of improvement
- Women and families: balancing the challenges that women face in contributing to the building of a home and family and the need or desire to work outside the home
- Women and politics: should women run for political office, and what place do women have in the political systems of today?
- Women and the movies. In what ways do films of today reinforce stereotypes of women?
- Women and artists: what challenges does the woman who is an artist confront in our culture?

Eighth Week: (February 27-March 2)
Exam Two.
Begin class presentations.

Ninth Week: (March 5-9)
Class presentations.

Tenth Week: (March 12-16)
Class presentations.

Eleventh Week: (19-23)
Spring Break.

Twelfth Week: (March 26-30)
Research Paper Due.

Thirteenth Week: (April 2-6)
Chapter 9, “Women Confronting and Creating Culture”

Fourteenth Week: (April 9-13)
Chapter 9, “Women Confronting and Creating Culture”

Fifteenth Week (16-20)
Begin review for final exam.

Sixteenth Week (April 23-27)
Review for final exam.