



School of Arts & Science
SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT

GSWS 110: Women, Knowledge, Sex and Power
Quarter 2/Winter 2012 (Jan-April)

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	Helen Lansdowne		
(b)	Office Hours:	TBA		
(c)	Location:	Paul 230		
(d)	Phone:	250-370-3369	Alternative Phone:	250-721-7021
(e)	Email:	hlansdow@camosun.bc.ca		
(f)	Website:			

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Describe gender as a category of analysis.
2. Identify key concepts, themes, theories and debates in Women's Studies.
3. Outline Feminist Theory, particularly as it pertains to a transnational world.
4. Incorporate the workings of privilege, power and transformation in social and historical life.
5. Intersect sexuality, ethnicity, class, nationality, religion and age with respect to gender identity.

3. Required Materials

- (a) Grewal, Inderpal and Caren Kaplan (2006). *An Introduction to Women's Studies: Gender in a Transnational World*. (2nd ed.) New York: McGraw-Hill Publishers.
- (b) Reserve Readings

4. Course Description

This course is an interdisciplinary critique of "gender" and its intersection with socially constructed relations of power (e.g., sexuality, class, religion, age). The processes and mechanisms that construct and institutionalize gender will be considered in a variety of contexts; language, culture, the media, violence, and resistance are addressed within our global world. The course analyzes key concepts, theories, questions and debates in Women's Studies of privilege, power and transformation.

5. Course Content

SECTION ONE: Key Concepts, Theories and Debates

January 9th, 2012

Introduction to the Course: Transnational Feminisms

Readings:

Grewal and Kaplan: pp. xx-xxvi, 1-5,

January 16th, 2012

Debunking the Myths of Gender

Readings:

Grewal and Kaplan: pp. 6-15, 21-29;

Judith Butler, Chapter One from *Gender Trouble* (On Reserve).

Allan Johnson, "Patriarchy, the System: An It, Not a He, a Them or an Us" from Johnson, Allan (2005). *Gender Knot: Unravelling Our Patriarchal Legacy* Philadelphia: Temple University Press. (electronic copy through Library).

January 23rd, 2012

Social, Historical and Political Constructions of Gender

Readings:

Grewal and Kaplan: pp. 29-32, 155-160, 167-173, 269-273;

bell hooks, "Feminism: A Transformational Politic" from *Feminisms and Womanisms A Women's Studies Reader*. (On Reserve)

January 30th, 2012

Identity, Difference and Intersectionality

Readings:

Grewal and Kaplan: pp. 195-197, 200-206, 321-323

Test One

SECTION TWO: Power, Privilege and Oppression

February 6th, 2012

White Privilege, White Feminism, Colonization and the Production of the Other

Readings:

Grewal and Kaplan: pp. 52-57; pp. 114-118, 415-419

McIntosh, Peggy, "White privilege: Unpacking the invisible knapsack", *Independent School*, Winter 90, Vol. 49, Issue 2, pp. 31-36. (online through Ebsco Host);

Mohanty, Chandra, "Towards an Anti-Imperialist Politics: Reflections of a desi feminist", *South Asian Popular Culture*, Apr 2004, Vol. 2, Issue 1, pp. 69-73.

February 13th, 2012

Privilege and Heterosexuality/Privilege and Class

Readings:

Grewal and Kaplan: pp. 47-51, 211-215;

Fausto-Sterling, Anne, "The Five Sexes, Revisited" *Sciences*, 0036861X, July/August 2000, Vol. 40, Issue 4 (online through Ebsco Host);

Pat Armstrong and Hugh Armstrong, "Class is a Feminist Issue" (On Reserve);

SECTION THREE: Body Politics and Consumerism

February 20th, 2012

What Consumer Culture Teaches Us: Standards of Beauty, the Constructions of Beauty and Consuming Violence

Film: "Thin"

Readings:

Grewal and Kaplan: pp. 265-268, 271-275, 314-316, 345-360, 491-495.

February 27th, 2012

Corporate Consumer Culture and Consuming "the Exotic Other": Tourism

Film: "No Logo"

Readings: Grewal and Kaplan: pp. 317-321, 329-331, 331-338, 342-344, 388-395, 406-409

Test Two

SECTION FOUR: Global Capitalism and Post-Modernity

March 5th, 2012

Power of Walmart

Film: "China Blues"

Readings: Grewal and Kaplan: pp. 463-466/467-468, 479-480, 481-483, 363-368

March 12th, 2012

Migration, Eco-Systems and Patriarchy

Readings: Maria Mies and Vandana Shiva, "Ecofeminism" from *Feminisms and Womanisms A Women's Studies Reader* (On Reserve)

March 19th, 2012

Gender Equality and Social Justice: Power, Politics and the Law

Readings: TBA

March 26th, 2012

Feminisms in the 21st Century: Constancy and Change

Readings: TBA

April 2nd, 2012

Test Three

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

(a) Test One (January 30)	15%
(b) Test Two (February 27)	15%
(c) Test Three (April 2)	20%
(d) Group Research Project	25%
(e) Ethnographic Paper	25%

Group Research Project: At the beginning of February each student will be assigned to a group that will work collaboratively on a research project. The project will consist of choosing an item from a list provided and research the history of the item from a feminist perspective. The history that each group will develop will be based on the social, economic and political histories of that item, specifically with respect to how those histories affect women. Each group will present their findings in class during the month of March. The research must culminate in written report that will be handed into the instructor March 5th.

Critical Ethnographic Reflections: This assignment consists of choosing one of the specified sections of your text book (tba) and addressing the material with the question, "How do these writings pertain to your life from a feminist perspective?" Your 4-5 page paper will consist of an overall understanding of the materials assigned as well as an analysis of how the writings can be used to explain your life.

6. Grading System

Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D	Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite.	1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy E-1.5 at camosun.ca for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
I	<i>Incomplete</i> : A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.
IP	<i>In progress</i> : A temporary grade assigned for courses that, due to design may require a further enrollment in the same course. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course. (For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3 rd course attempt or at the point of course completion.)
CW	<i>Compulsory Withdrawal</i> : A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.

7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College calendar, at Student Services, or the College web site at camosun.ca.

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is a Student Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services, and the College web site in the Policy Section.