

### **T. Travis WST5933, Proseminar in Women's Studies**

This class is an introduction to scholarship and service in the field of Women's and Gender Studies. It offers an overview of the development of Women's and Gender Studies within the university, with attention to the evolving relationship between academic and community-based feminisms. Surveying the signal questions and resources of the field, as well as its distinctive institutions, it aims to familiarize students with the methodological and theoretical tools used by feminist researchers across the disciplines as well as within "Women's Studies" proper. A second focus is professional development: students will assess the range of women's and gender-focused journals, professional organizations, and conferences in their sub-fields/disciplines. Finally, the class serves as a writing workshop, as students work with the instructor and collaboratively to develop writing and editing skills. Students early in their careers will create working bibliographies of the sub-field-specific knowledge necessary to map out a thesis topic; those who are more advanced may use the class to revise a seminar paper or exam essay into an article, draft a portion of a dissertation chapter, etc. The class is recommended for students from all disciplines whose work deals with gender or sexuality issues, and for students interested in interdisciplinary scholarship on any topic.

**Course Objectives--** By the end of the semester, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of the evolution of North American Women's/Gender Studies scholarship and institutions
- Identify, explain, and apply basic forms of feminist theory and methodology
- Analyze the structure of a scholarly article in terms of its argument, use of primary and secondary sources, and intended disciplinary intervention
- Navigate the tensions between personal, activist commitments and professional, academic comportment and productivity norms
- Use library and internet resources to develop comprehensive, up-to-date bibliographies in their sub-fields
- Work consistently, independently, and professionally on lengthy writing projects

**Reading:** Books for this class have been ordered through the UF bookstore. Because cognitive science [research shows \(Links to an external site.\)](#) that reading (and taking notes) on paper improves cognition and retention, you are expected to bring hard copies of the assigned readings to class each week.

- Mann. *Doing Feminist Theory: From Modernity to Postmodernity*
- Messer-Davidow. *Disciplining Feminism: From Social Activism to Academic Discourse*
- Silvia. *How to Write a Lot: A Practical Guide to Productive Academic Writing*
- plus articles available through links in the online syllabus

**For Policies and Schedule of Assignments, Grading Scale, etc., see the class site in Canvas.**

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Readings and Assignment Sheets are available through the links below or, if marked "CR," through the Canvas Course Reserves link at left. Bring HARD COPY of all readings to class. Assignments are due in class, at the start of class unless otherwise noted (ignore the time stamp in the "assignments summary").

### **Unit One: Introduction**

#### 23 Aug: Week One-- Introductions

- Mann, *Doing Feminist Theory* (Sections 1 and 2)
  - **Due:** [Writing Sample and Cover Letter](#)

#### 29 Aug: Week Two-- Practice Writing/Writing Practice

- Silvia, *How to Write a Lot*
- Booth, "Thinking In Print" (2008, CR)
- Lamott, "Shitty First Drafts" (1994, CR)
- Rockquemore, "[The Sunday Meeting](#)"
  - **Due:** [Weekly Assignment #1: Writing Practice Paper & Completed Writing Calendar, 23-29 Aug](#) (click on "Weekly Writing Work Plan Calendar")

#### 5 Sept: Week Three—No Class—Labor Day

### **Unit Two: Histories and Theories**

#### 12 Sept, Week Four: Historicizing Women's Studies I

- Messer-Davidow, *Disciplining Feminism* (2002), Introduction, Chpts 3 and 4
- hooks, "Feminist Education for Critical Consciousness" (2002, CR)
- Morgan, "The Proper Story of Womankind: on Women's Studies" (1973, CR)
- Pheterson, "The Struggle of an Academic Feminist" (1982, CR)
  - **Due:** [Weekly Assignment #2: Create Reading Questions](#)
    - 12:50- 2:30, class discussion
    - 2:40-3:50, MA students early dismissal!
    - Phd students meet with tt to discuss research agendas!

#### 19 Sept, Week Five: tt out of town

- Bibliographic workshop with library subject specialist Paul McDonough, BRING LAPTOPS to Library West, room 211.
  - **\*\* Due via Canvas\*\* by 12:50 pm:** [Weekly Assignment #3, Report on Local Resources](#)

#### 26 Sept, Week Six: the Pre-Problematized World

- Background on Readings
- Arnold, from *Culture and Anarchy* (1867-8, CR)
- Bierstedt, "Sociology and General Education" (1970, CR)
- Appelby et al, "The Heroic Model of Science" (1995, CR)
  - **Due:** [Weekly Assignment #4: Comparative Note-Taking](#)
  - [Generic Note-Taking Form](#)

#### 3 Oct, Week Seven: Historicizing Women's Studies II

- Messer-Davidow, *Disciplining Feminism*, chpts 1 and 5
- *Feminist Studies* Forum, "Doing Feminism in Interdisciplinary Contexts"
  - Introduction by Anke and Rosner, articles by Friedman, Dimock, Wiegman, Katz, and Subramanian (CR)
  - **Due:** [Weekly Assignment #5: Journal Report](#)

#### 10 Oct., Week Eight: Women's Studies at UF: State of the Field: A Panel discussion by CWSGR Advanced Graduate Students/Alums

- Booth, sections on "Planning" from *The Craft of Research* (CR)

- **Due:** Weekly Assignment #6: Mid-Term Self-Assessment & Final Project Proposal

17 Oct, Week Nine: Work Week: No Formal Class Meeting

- Meet individually with instructor to discuss and troubleshoot final projects
- **Due at meeting:** Final Project Workplan

**Unit Three: Disciplines, Methods, Discourses**

24 Oct, Week Ten: Feminist "Standpoint" and the Revolt against Positivism

- Smith, "Women's Perspectives as a Radical Critique of Sociology" (1974, CR)
- Harraway, "Situated Knowledges: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspective" (1988, CR)
- Collins, "The Social Construction of Black Feminist Thought" (1989, CR)
  - **Due:** Weekly Assignments #7: Numbered Paragraph List

31 Oct. Week Eleven: CWSGR Guest Speaker/Grad Symposium, [Paul Grzanka](#), Title TBA

- Readings TBA

7 Nov, Week Twelve: "Standpoint" in the Humanities

- Welter, "The Cult of True Womanhood" (1966, CR)
- Smith-Rosenberg, "The Female World of Love and Ritual" (1975, CR)
- Carby, "Slave and Mistress: Ideologies of Women under Slavery" (1987, CR)
  - **Due:** Weekly Assignment #8: Reverse Outline

14 Nov: Week Thirteen: multicultural communication

- hooks, "Talking Back" & "When I was a Young Soldier for the Revolution: Coming to Voice" (1989, CR)
- Halberstam "You are Triggering Me! The Neoliberal Rhetoric of Harm, Danger, and Trauma"

21 Nov: Week Fourteen: Work Week

- Meet individually with instructor to discuss and troubleshoot final projects
- **Due via email 24 hours before meeting:** final project status report

28 Nov: Week Fifteen- Feminist Pedagogy

- Henderson, [Feminist Pedagogy](#) (2013; this is a nice overview with bibliography)
- Belenky, "Toward an Education for Women" from *Women's Ways of Knowing* (1986, CR)
- hooks, "Building a Teaching Community" (1994, CR)
- Broad, "FemiQueer Pedagogies" (2001, CR)
- Ludlow, "From Safe Space to Contested Space" (2004, CR)

**Unit Four: The Present State of the Field**

5 Dec: Week Sixteen-- Conclusions

- Research Presentations

**Final Projects Due in CWSGR office by Noon, Monday, 12 December**