

Women's Studies 197

Spring 2008

Senior Seminar: Research Paper

Instructor: Inderpal Grewal

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Office Hours: Wednesday 11 AM-12 noon and by Appointment (email me)

Course Description:

This course is designed to enable you to bring together the ideas and information that you have acquired in your previous Women's Studies courses through developing and completing a research project on a subject of your choosing. This seminar is designed to strengthen your research and presentation skills. However, this is not a sink or swim situation. We will go through all the steps required to produce a research paper and you will work together with other students in the class. We will work collaboratively and collectively so that your projects gain strength and complexity through our collective efforts. At the end of the semester, you will present your research at the Women's Studies graduation event to your fellow students, faculty, friends and family.

In terms of reading materials, you will be doing quite a bit of library work during the quarter. Please be prepared to work on your own to seek a topic and to research it in the library. During the course of the library work, you will be reading a lot of essays and books to do the research for your topic; thus expect to read and synthesize a lot of material really quickly. Consequently you are going to read a lot of scholarly literature to prepare for our meetings. This seminar is the culmination of your undergraduate experience and thus both an opportunity to show what you have learned and also a chance to work on your own on something that you feel passionately about. Our goal is a exciting, unique, original research paper on a topic that you care about using the skills and knowledge you have gained as a Women's studies major.

Goals of the Course:

- Writing a research paper.
- Ability to undertake independent research through library and web sources.
- Synthesizing and analyzing research and organizing a topic and thesis for the paper.
- Ability to write a 10-15 page paper.
- Ability to present your research to an audience.

Disability accommodation

Any student who feels he or she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss his or her specific needs. Also contact the Disability Services Center at (949) 824-7494 as soon as possible to better ensure that such accommodations are implemented in a timely fashion.

ADD/Drop policy

Current policy in the School of Humanities is to allow adds and drops through the end of the second week of classes with the permission of the instructor of record. I will permit drops between the second and sixth weeks of the quarter only for extremely exceptional circumstances.

Plagiarism.

Since you will be working on your own topics, it is very important that you seek to do something original and unique. Hence, using someone else's ideas or work and not citing them is a violation of the kind of community that feminist scholarship creates. So please make sure you cite scrupulously.

Please read the university policy on plagiarism printed in the course schedule booklet. Submitting a paper that includes researched information that is not cited is grounds for failure in the course. All information borrowed from print sources or the internet must be identified. Failure to do so is theft. Plagiarists fail the course and have their offense recorded in their School and in the School of Humanities. Violations of academic honesty can affect a student's graduation, financial aid, and eligibility for honors. The Women's Studies Program deals with plagiarism cases every quarter, even though most people do not hear about them. No matter how pressured you feel, do not plagiarize; it is not worth it. [Note: submitting the same work for more than one class without notifying the instructor is considered plagiarism at UCI..

We will cover this issue and will discuss rules of plagiarism as well as citation. Since this is a feminist course, our emphasis is on your original research and the ways in which you join a conversation and be part of a debate.

Assignments and Requirements:

First of all, please be aware that this class will require a time commitment from you. Please do not think that because we have little reading, that you do not need to devote time to this class. In fact, it might need a lot of time from you some weeks, but we try to spread out the work through the quarter.

The major assignments for the course are listed below; due dates are indicated in the schedule. Please be aware that your contribution to our discussions is essential and expected, as is class attendance. Excessive absence will certainly affect your performance in the class and may well lead to a lower grade than you would otherwise receive.

The steps for your research project are as follows and we will go through these steps over the course of the quarter.

- 1) proposal – finding a subject and topic. (10% of grade)
- 2) bibliography (at least ten sources for your final bibliography) (10% of grade)
- 3) Outline (10%) of grade
- 4) rough draft and drafts #1 and #2 (10% of grade for Draft #2)
- 5) final paper (15 pp., double-spaced, typed or word-processed in a 12-point font) (50% of grade)

You will also receive 10% of your grade for your participation in class in responding to the work of your seminar participants.

Syllabus

April 2

Our first class has several parts.

1) First of all, introductions.

2) Second: please bring to class a short paragraph that describes the most interesting reading you did for any women's studies course and why you found that interesting. In another short paragraph, write down a preliminary subject you wish to work on and why you find that important or interesting.

3) Third part is discussion of our department mission and how your experience connected with that. So please read the two pieces below:

- Please read the description of our department at the website: <http://www.humanities.uci.edu/womensstudies/about/>. Does it reflect what you have learned during your time at UCI?
- Also read the following interview with Arjun Appadurai, who first articulated “transnational” as a theoretical concept tied to new manifestations of globalization: http://www.appadurai.com/interviews_baldauf.html. Lets discuss how much this version of the “transnational” aligns with what you have learned in your courses. How is Appadurai’s version different?

We will work off these paragraphs to figure out a broad subject area for you to work on. Once you have your preliminary (these can be tentative –but you can change them later also) broad subject areas, please email these to me by Monday morning, April 7, by 9 AM, so that I can send them to Christina Woo, WS librarian, for class next week.

4) Fourth part of our meeting:

- For the last 50 minutes of the class, we will have a visitor from the Career center who will discuss careers in Women’s Studies. Do come prepared with questions for the presenter.

April 9

Meet in the library (Location TBA) Christina Woo, Women’s Studies Reference Librarian will help us with research tools. Your research today will try to move us from subject to topic. We will discuss the difference between subject and topic and how to move from subject to topic.

April 16

More library research today. We will meet with Christina Woo in the Library (Location TBA). During the second half of the class, we will move from topic to creating a bibliography. You will also get organized to do your homework assignment which is completing readings for your bibliography and getting the bibliography together.

April 23**Bibliography due**

Bring your completed bibliography with at least 20 books or essays listed. Annotate (in one or two sentences) each entry by mentioning the thesis of each reading. We will work on creating a thesis and abstract of your paper today.

April 30

Post your completed thesis and abstract on our class Noteboard by April 28, 5 PM. Please read all theses and abstracts before coming to class

You may find that you need to do a little more research and add or delete items from your bibliography.

May 7**Draft outline due**

Post your outlines on class Noteboard by May 5, 5 PM. Please read all outlines before coming to class. We will work on these outlines so that you can start drafting your paper.

May 14 Writing introduction and rough drafts. **Post your introductory paragraphs on class Noteboard by May 12, 5 PM.**

May 21 **Send your Full Draft #1 to your assigned writing partner and to me by May 19 5 PM,** in order to work on the drafts. Please read over your and your peer's draft before coming to class. We will discuss all question, queries, problems.

May 28 **Send your full Draft #2 to your second assigned writing partner and to me by May 26th 5 PM. Also begin planning your presentation and your images or posterboard.** Please read over your second draft and your partner's draft before coming to class. Also think about the difference between a research paper and a presentation. Today we will work on how to turn your paper into a presentation.

June 4 **Rehearsal and run-through of presentations --**

June 5 Presentations and Graduation party 5-7 Pm (Please ask your friends and family to mark that date and time on their calenders)

Final Paper is due June 12 by 5 PM in my mailbox in Krieger 300 or under my office door.