

**A RIGHT TO WORK IN THE WORLD:  
FROM GENDER EQUITY & WOMEN'S RIGHTS TO EMPOWERMENT**

*A Global Humanities Course*

SPRING N FALL 2016

Montgomery College

Takoma Park-Silver Spring Campus

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| <b>WMST 101:<br/>Introduction to Women's Studies<br/>CRN</b>  |
| Tues & Thurs: 12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.<br>[Building, Classroom #]<br>Tara L. Tetrault, M.A.<br><b><u>North Pavilion, Floor 2 (mailbox)</u></b><br>Office Hours: By appointment; after class<br><a href="mailto:tara.tetrault@montgomerycollege.edu">tara.tetrault@montgomerycollege.edu</a><br>301.807.9248 |

### Course Description

The Introduction to Women's Studies Course focuses on women's experiences across cultures. To understand this, you need to establish some understanding of what women and the women's movement have achieved in the past. Therefore, I begin this course by providing some background history on the women's movement; on the issues women raised over time and on gains they achieved as the women's movement changed course over time. By reviewing the history of the women's movement this course provides a foundation for how and when women gained political strength and empowerment, challenging people to accept women's participation in any role.

From this foundation, we turn our focus to what women have done in different cultures around the world. In the global world, their experience is shaped by their socio-economic position. Topics discussed include: history, ethnicity, age, roles, sexual orientation and age. Students bring their own experience and perspective to class discussion through reading about issues and responding to issues through written assignments, group work and class discussion. At the end of the course you may get the opportunity to draw on your own experiences and lessons learned to create a lesson you think is important to communicate to future generations.

### Learning Community Objectives

- Learn the social problems and women's studies course content.
- Learn proper research, data gathering, analysis and interpretation methods
- Connections to experience: Designing and applying creative solutions to real world problems;

- Give students interdisciplinary assignments to learn content and methods;
- Understanding the historical forces that have shaped the current world: bridging past to the present;
- Learn and apply critical thinking skills (orally and written);
- Enhance student's ability to research and unpack topics thoroughly, analyze data; and interpret human problems. Apply these skills to your long-term course project.
- Develop and apply creative and effective ways to communicate by presenting information and knowledge;
- Accept and understand that diversity of experience, thoughts, beliefs, and attitudes exists and should be welcomed and appreciated; and
- Gain an awareness and self-awareness of one's own and others' perspectives regarding labor-related gender inequality.

### Required Texts & Readings

#### WMST 101

The following textbooks are required for this course:

- *Women Across Cultures: A Global Perspective* by Shawn Meghan Burn (7<sup>th</sup> ed., McGraw-Hill Corporation, NY); and
- *Field Methods Readings and Women's history readings.*
- **NEW ISSUE BOOK in the Fall 2016**

Other resources: Articles will be printed for discussion. Please use the Society for Historical Archaeology Journal issues ([www.sha.org](http://www.sha.org)); and the National Museum for Women's History (NMWH) website online exhibits to augment reading. The following topics are possible: Women in film; Chinese women; suffragist movement; WWII women; Clandestine Women; Women in industry; Colonial Women and more. Also see: National Museum of Air and Space/ Women's exhibits; Sewall Belmont House Website; or Clara Barton House website.

Some recommended readings include (for a complete list, please refer to the website):

- Dangarembga, T. (1988). *Nervous conditions*. London: The Women's Press.
- Falk, Erika (2010) *Women Running for President: Media Bias in 9 Campaigns*. Chicago: University of Illinois Press.
- Karanika, A. (2014). *Voices at work: Women, performance, and labor in ancient Greece*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Kearn, Holly (2013) *50 Stories about stopping Street Harrassers*. Holly Kearn Copyright.
- Lahiri, J. (2003). *The namesake*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company.
- Rabinowitz, P. (1991). *Labor & desire: Women's revolutionary fiction in depression America*. Chapel Hill: UNC Press.
- Seiffert, Donna (2005) *Sin City: Tracing the Archaeology of Prostitution across the U.S.* Frederick: Society for Historical Archaeology Journal.
- Sinclair, U. (1906). *The jungle*. New York: Doubleday, Doubleday, Jabber & Company.
- Wollstonecraft, M. (1790). *A vindication of the rights of men, in a Letter to the right Honourable Edmund Burke, occasioned by his reflections on the revolution in France* (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.). London: J. Johnson.
- Wollstonecraft, M. (1792). *A vindication of the rights of woman*. Boston: Peter Edes.
- Wright, T. L. (2008). *River of innocents*. London: Written Leaves.

## WMST 101 Assignments, Evaluation, & Grading

Students will be evaluated on the following items to obtain credit for the women's studies course. Students are required to complete two exams (2x20% each=40%); a research, participant observation & ethnographic interview final field project (20%); a Research & Analysis paper on women from any culture worldwide or a life history on a female political leader (20%); and a brief 2 page issues & response paper (10 %); active class participation (10%). Class participation means contributing to the discussion going on in class.

The standard grading scale, as recognized by Montgomery College, will be applied as follows:

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| 100-90% | A |
| 89-80%  | B |
| 79-70%  | C |
| 69-60%  | D |

**Policies:** The following policies are outlined in the current *Montgomery College Student Handbook* as well as the current *Montgomery College Catalog*. There are certain policies we would like to reiterate that we think would be helpful to you.

**Please be respectful of others, no cell phone texting while class is going on. Turn cell sound off during class.**

### Tests and Assignments

**You are expected to take tests and do all assignments on time. If you think you need more time on a paper you need to consult with me first, before the assignment is due.** If your work is late, it will be dropped a letter grade and will not be accepted 2 weeks after it is due. If you need a special accommodate for work due, contact me in a timely manner; the responsibility is yours for asking for extensions and completing the work. Your assignments should be delivered as a **hard copy**. There are plenty of places on campus to print papers.

**Peer-Reviewed Research Paper:** The goal of this project is to learn to use the research tools in the library and to analyze 4 peer-reviewed articles on the choice topics listed below. The assignment is 4 pages long. You will have a choice of topics in this research project:

**You may 1) complete a life history research paper on any female leader in any part of the world.** A life history covers all known data about that person. *This is a great assignment to try if you have never done a life history before.* In 4 pages you will tell the story of her life focusing 50% of the paper on her leadership goals, achievements and challenges. You must include at least 4 sources in the bibliography from peer-reviewed journals. You must cite the data and ideas you use in this paper to receive credit for this paper. Include an introduction, methods, life history and an analysis and interpretation at the end. 20% of grade.

2) Alternatively, you may choose to research women and their lives to from any culture worldwide. In this paper you will be including 4 peer-reviewed articles that discuss women and their access and freedom to gain an education and work and what women do in their daily lives.

**Ethnographic Fieldwork:** You will be conducting **ethnographic fieldwork at a local agency on women.** You may choose a woman's issue (like abortion or homelessness, or women in medicine, women in politics, female police etc. **You will be volunteering or observing for 3-4 hours two separate times.** You will record these observations, write about them and separate out cultural themes to discuss in your analysis. **You will add to that data from an interview you will conduct.** I suggest you interview the organization head. Please discuss your topic early and often in class for ideas. **Do not do this in a vacuum. I can help you decide who to interview once I know your topic. This is a FUN project so enjoy it. You might select a topic like a career you want to work in --- see what it is like if you can find a female theme in it. 20 % grade.**

**Participant Observation Sample.** You must hand in a copy of your observation (DUE WEEK 6 of semester). Highlight or list below the observation 3 possible cultural themes you are considering using in your analysis. You should also list your questions on the project below. This is only a draft but I want to know you are thinking about topic and how to break it down. Note the time and date of the observation and the place on top. 2-3 pages long 10% of grade.

**3) Short Issues & Response paper:** You will be reading about issues that affect women around the world. You will form work groups of 3 on an issue of interest (see sign up day 2 of class). You will all read the article in the reader. One of you will write about this at length and analyze it and give your reaction to the issues discussed. The other members will select a related article from a peer-reviewed or notes news source and write your papers on it, noting first how your article relates to the article in the reader. All of you will attend class on your Discussion Group (DG) day and present a brief over view of your paper you read. Then one by one you will each pitch a discussion question to the class to get the class involved in talking about your topic. 10 % of grade.

### **Class Attendance**

As noted in the current college catalog, you are **expected to attend all class sessions.** By coming to class prepared and participating when you are there, you will achieve success in this class. **Attend and be on time!!!** You need to explain to me why you have been absent, as I may drop you from the class after 3 absences or give you an "F" for the course.

If you are having trouble getting to the class and have numerous absences, please talk with me. If you can no longer attend the class or intend to drop the course, please let me know. If you do want to withdraw, you must also file a withdrawal form by the withdrawal date as noted in the current schedule of classes. **Please come to class even if you have not completed an assignment so that you do not miss out on the content of that class. If you are late please enter the classroom quietly.**

### **Academic Honesty**

The department supports the College's commitment to academic honesty as found in the current student handbook. We would like to emphasize the importance of your own intellectual growth achieved by creating your own, original work.

**Plagiarism is a serious offense that can result in a grade of "F" for the assignment or for the entire course.** You can avoid all forms of academic dishonesty as plagiarism, cheating on exams or other academic exercises; intentional falsification such as buying

and selling papers, copying others' papers and presenting them as your own or falsifying citations or helping anyone else do any of these things.

### Incompletes

If you cannot complete the requirements of the course on time, please discuss your situation with me. If I agree that you can, take a grade of "I", you must finish the course work one month after the beginning of the next semester.

### Student E-mail

Student e-mail (montgomerycollege.edu) is an official means of communication for the College. It is expected that you check your student e-mail regularly, as you are responsible for information and announcements that will be sent to you from the College. For this class, student e-mail will be used to augment class and office hour questions, discussions, and personal communications.

### For Women's Studies:

Most information is discussed in class and **all assignments should be turned in as hard copy on the day that the assignment is due. You may contact me by either e-mail or phone (301-807-9248) in case of an emergency.** If you need help with email call 240-567-7222 the helpdesk.

Finally, ***do not assume your emails have successfully been sent through the system.*** ALWAYS double check that the person you sent the email to received it. Also you need to alert me if an issue is time sensitive or if you are having a problem. Otherwise I may not know.

### *Important Student Information Link*

*In addition to course requirements and objectives that are in this syllabus, Montgomery College has information on its web site (see link below) to assist you in having a successful experience both inside and outside of the classroom. It is important that you read and understand this information. The link below provides information and other resources to areas that pertain to the following: student behavior (student code of conduct), student e-mail, the tobacco free policy, withdraw and refund dates, disability support services, veteran services, how to access information on delayed openings and closings, how to register for the Montgomery College alert System, and finally, how closings and delays can impact your classes. If you have any questions please bring them to your professor. As rules and regulations change they will be updated and you will be able to access them through the link. If any student would like a written copy of these policies and procedures, the professor would be happy to provide them. By registering for this class and staying in this class, you are indicating that you acknowledge and accept these policies.*

<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/mcsyllabus/>

**Fall 2016**  
**Weekly Schedule revised**

*Discussion Group (DG in your weekly schedule) Topics will change with new book this fall*

| <b>Week/Theme</b>  | <b>Date</b>                | <b>Course</b> | <b>Topic(s)</b>   | <b>Readings</b>   | <b>Assignments</b>                                    |
|--|----------------------------|---------------|---|---|---|
| <b>Week 1</b><br><i>Introductions &amp; Theories</i>             | <b>Tuesday, 8/30/2016</b>  | WMST 101      | Intro. to Women's Studies<br>Methods: Field Research paper & Projects       | CH 1 Burns: Introduction to Women's Studies (i.e., public/private sphere; cultural relativism, etc)   |   |
|  | <b>Thursday, 9/1/2016</b>  | WMST 101      | Intro. to Women's Studies   | CH 1 Burns: Introduction to Women's Studies (i.e., public/private sphere; cultural relativism, etc)   | Project: how will you research non-dominant cultures  |
| <b>Week 2</b><br><i>Foundations of Inequality</i>                | <b>Tuesday, 9/6/2016</b>   | WMST 101      | Women's Status begins with understanding lineage & marriage; women s roles) | CH 2 Burns: Women's Low Status Power  | Project: how will you research non-dominant cultures  |
|  | <b>Thursday, 9/8/2016</b>  | WMST 101      | Women's Status begins with understanding lineage & marriage; women s roles) | CH 2 Burns: Women's Low Status Power  |   |
| <b>Week 3</b><br><i>Evolution of Poverty, Wealth &amp; Power</i> | <b>Tuesday, 9/13/2016</b>  | WMST 101      | Women's Movement 19 <sup>th</sup> Century                                   | Assigned Reading on Political history Nat Museum for Women's History.org - early to mid 19 <sup>th</sup> Century, how did the women's movement begin? |   |
|  | <b>Thursday, 9/15/2015</b> | WMST 101      | Women's Movement 19 <sup>th</sup> Century                                   | WS: Same as above.NMWH Pages on women's rights leaders 1840-1895  |   |
| <b>Week 4</b><br><i>Health Care Paper 1 Due</i>                  | <b>Tuesday, 9/20/2016</b>  | WMST 101      | Reproductive Health   | CH 3 Burns: Reproductive Health & Rights  |   |
|  | <b>Thursday, 9/22/2016</b> | WMST 101      | Reproductive Health   | CH 3 Burns: Reproductive Health<br><b>9/24 DISCUSSION PAPER DUE</b><br><b>DG 2 REPRO RIGHTS GROUP</b>   | <a href="#"><u>WRITTEN DISCUSSION PAPER 1 DUE</u></a> |
| <b>Week 5</b>  | <b>Tuesday,</b>            | WMST 101      |   | CH 5 Burns: Women's work and  |   |

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| <i>Intersections of inequality in the Workplace</i>                     | 9/27/2016            |          | Women's work gender issues/ pay gap/ glass ceiling                                 | the gender issues that arise. Selected chapters from Sandberg   |   |
|   | Thursday, 9/29/2016  | WMST 101 | Women's work, gender issues/ pay gap/ glass ceiling                                | CH 5: Women's work and the gender issues that arise. Selected chapters from Sandberg<br><br>DG 3: Sandberg DG | DG 3: Each member to Highlight points Sandberg discusses.         |
| <b>Week 6 WORKSHOP</b>  | Tuesday, 10/4/2016   | WMST 101 | Museum Exhibits & material culture   | DG 4: WHY WORRY ABOUT THE PRESS   |   |
|   | Thursday, 10/6/2016  | WMST 101 | <b>Workshop your Final Research Project</b>  | Workshop: How do we move from data gathering to analysis & interpretation?                                    | Bring 2 clean working draft copies of your project ideas thus far |
| <b>Week 7</b><br><i>Activism &amp; Movements for Social Change</i>      | Tuesday, 10/11/2016  | WMST 101 | Late 19 <sup>th</sup> Movements & Presidential attempts.                           | Woodson and Lockwood  | DG 9: Domestic and public sphere                                  |
|   | Thursday, 10/13/2016 | WMST 101 | <b>EXAM 1 of 2</b>   | <b>EXAM 1of 2</b>   |   |
| <b>Week 8</b><br><i>Gender Identity</i>                                 | Tuesday, 10/18/2016  | WMST 101 | Women's Sexuality & Rights (i.e., gender identity, lesbian, bisexual, transgender) | CH 4 Burns: Women & Sexual Rights   | Film: Transgender   |
|   | Thursday, 10/20/2016 | WMST 101 | Women's Sexuality & Rights (i.e., gender identity, lesbian, bisexual, transgender) | CH 4 Burns: Women & Sexual rights<br><br>DG DOWERY GROUP  |   |
| <b>Week 9</b><br><i>The Global World: disparities &amp; empowerment</i> | Tuesday, 10/25/2016  | WMST 101 | Women & Development  | CH 6 Burns: Women & Development   | DG 6: Nugood BOOK   |
|   | Thursday, 10/27/2016 | WMST 101 | Women & Development  | CH 6 Burns: Women & Development   | Whole class Nugood BOOK   |
| <b>Week 10</b><br><i>Politics/ Glass Ceiling/PAPER DUE</i>              | Tuesday, 11/1/2016   | WMST 101 | Globalization for women can mean trafficking, sweatshops, factories                | CH 7 Burns: Women & Globalization --- Trafficking People  | <b>FILM: KAT TRAFFICKING</b>                                      |
|   | Thursday, 11/3/2016  | WMST 101 | Globalization for women can mean trafficking, sweatshops, factories                | CH 7 Burns: Women & Globalization Global & Local Women's AID & Cultural Heritage                              |   |
| <b>Week 11</b>  | Tuesday,             | WMST 101 | Major & undocumented   | CH 8 Burns: Women & Religion  |   |

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| <i>Religion/<br/>WORKSHOP</i>   | 11/8/2016               |                 | religions; feminist spirituality  |   |  |
|   | Thursday,<br>11/10/2016 | WMST 101        | Major & undocumented religions; feminist spirituality   | CH 8 Burns: Women & Religion  | <b>WORKSHOP interpreting your research</b>                   |
| <b>Week 12</b><br><i>Governance,<br/>Politics &amp; Power</i>                         | Tuesday,<br>11/15/2016  | WMST 101        | Women in Politics – the Iron Jawed Angels - 1920  | CH 9 Burns: Women in Politics<br>DG 1: 20 <sup>th</sup> C WOMENS EQUALITY TEXT<br>DG 7: IS AMERICA READY? |  |
|   | Thursday,<br>11/17/2016 | WMST 101        | A Woman for President (1952-90s)  | CH 9 Burns: Women in Politics   | <b>INDEPENDENT ASSIGNMENT ON OWN. No Class Meeting today</b> |
| <b>Week 13</b><br><i>Media Reaches locally &amp; globally</i>                         | Tuesday,<br>11/22/2016  | WMST 101        | Gender Equality Movements – where are we today? Report on women in the media                      | CH 10 Burns: National & Local Women’s Movements   | DG 9 Yoruba Women<br>DG 10: DO TENTS MATTER MALI & NIGER     |
|   | Thursday,<br>11/24/2016 | <b>WMST 101</b> | <b>HAPPY</b>  | <b>THANKSGIVING</b>   | <b>Or enjoy your day off and finish up projects</b>          |
| <b>Week 14</b><br><i>Human Rights &amp; Social Justice in Arab World &amp; Beyond</i> | Tuesday,<br>11/29/2016  | WMST 101        | Women’s – Movements in Restrictive Countries  | CH 10 Burns: National & Local Women’s Movements   | DISCUSSION/QUESTIONS   |
|   | Thursday<br>12/1/2016   | WMST 101        | Women’s Networks to Action  | CH 11 Burns Transnational Women’s Movement  | Film Beyond Borders Arab Women talk about their lives        |
| <b>Week 15</b><br><i>Global World</i>   | Tuesday,<br>6/6/2016    | WMST 101        | Project Presentations   | Reporting on our projects   |  |
|   | Thursday,<br>6/8/2015   | WMST 101        | Project Presentations/ Review Exam  | Reporting on your project   |  |
|   |                         | WMST 101        | <b>Final Exam: _____ p.m. - _____ p.m.; Final typed paper required before exam is distributed</b> |   |  |