

WMST 400.001: Senior Seminar
UNC-Asheville--Spring 2007
T/Th 10:50-12:10, KH 206, Dr. Lorena Russell

Contact Information:

Email is the best way to contact me: lrussell@unca.edu. I have regular office hours MTWTh 10:00-11:00 in KH 220. If these times don't suit your schedule, please make an appointment (or try a drop-by). You can also reach me at 251-6410, or leave a message in my mailbox (Karpen Hall, 2nd floor).

I will be using Moodle to run the course, so please get in the habit of checking that site frequently for information, announcements and materials: <http://learnonline.unca.edu/>

Objectives:

This course serves as a capstone course for the Women's Studies major. As such, it intends to offer students an opportunity to engage in an intellectual project which can challenge and satisfy them during their concluding course of study. The research students produce in this course will be the primary reflection of their competence within Women's Studies.

This capstone project will entails three parts: 1) identify a significant question or issue of interest within Women's Studies; 2) explore the issue through research with an aim towards identifying the scope and/or possible solutions; and 3) communicate these findings at semester's close through a significant paper (10-15 pp. for minors, 15-20 pp. for majors) and a formal oral presentation.

Prerequisite:

Completion of 12 hours applicable to Women's Studies major or minor.

Overview:

The class will center around an extended research project as defined by each student. The first few classes will be devoted to identifying and framing your research question(s) in the form of a proposal or prospectus. Early in the semester, students will need to identify a second reader from WMST faculty at UNCA with a specialty in the area you are researching (i.e. social sciences, humanities or natural sciences).

For the majority of the semester, the class will be conducted primarily as a writing/research workshop. Class will meet regularly in a computer lab for in-class drafting and research, and students will in peer groups critiquing and developing their ideas with each other and in consultation with me. The semester will conclude with a public presentation of projects completed in the semester.

The secondary concern of the class will be to identify current issues in WMST, and to investigate the connection between forms of "academic" and "activist" feminisms. To start off the semester, students will interview one WMST faculty about feminist research in their areas of study. We'll use the findings of these interviews alongside current publications in feminism to explore the breadth of interdisciplinary writing and research in WMST. Each student will choose an academic essay to share with the group and will be responsible for leading discussion on that reading. Students will also be asked to give in-class reports on current issues of WMST journals and to join WMST listservs to monitor discussions to get a sense of what people are talking about in the field. One of the central questions of these interrogations and observations is to understand how these academic discussion might interrelate with women's lived experiences, and to speculate on the future of WMST within the academy.

Evaluation:

Participation (includes peer critiques)	20%
Presentation	10%
Proposal and annotated bib	10%
Literature Review	10%
Article facilitation	10%
Final Project	40%

Course policies:

- Because this class is a workshop, your regular attendance and active participation are required. More than two absences may result in a lowering of your final grade.
- Papers are due at the beginning of class on the assigned date, or noon if due on a non-class day (unless announced otherwise). Late papers will be penalized.
- If you hand in an assignment as an email attachment, you are responsible for confirming its successful delivery.
- Writing assignments, unless designated informal, should be word-processed and carefully edited. Use MLA style for documentation. For specifics on writing conventions, see [Academic Research Writing in the Humanities](#). Print this document and consult it when editing your essays.
- I take plagiarism seriously, and will fail students who intentionally use other's ideas as their own. This includes work submitted on the discussion forum or ideas presented in class discussion as well as more formal writing done in essays or on exams. Please see me if you have any questions about avoiding plagiarism, and review the [departmental](#) and [university](#) policies on academic honesty. Academic misconduct takes many forms and includes, but is not limited to plagiarism, submitting a product prepared in whole or in part by another person, buying or selling term papers, and submitting the same piece of work twice for academic credit.
- If you have a recognized disability that might interfere with your success in the course, please see me *at the beginning of the semester* to arrange accommodations.

Resources:

- UNCA Writing Center, Ramsey Library 136. Phone 251-6596.
- Ramsey Library Reference Desk 251-6111. See online '[Ask a Librarian](#).' Helen Wykle is the primary reference librarian for Women's Studies.

Syllabus (check Moodle for latest version)

Date	Due	Topic
Thu., 15-Jan		Introductions
Tue., 20-Jan	Dahl readings & findings	Arlene Dahl & Beyond
Thu., 22-Jan	5 research questions	Feminist scholarship
Tue., 27-Jan	Interviews due	
Thu., 29-Jan	Draft of proposal due, Second Reader due	Revision Workshop
Tue., 03-Feb	Proposal due, "Thinking Sex" by Rubin	
Thu., 05-Feb		Library & Writing Center
Tue., 10-Feb	Indiv. Conferences	
Thu., 12-Feb	Finding scholarship, Understanding scholarship	Overview Fem. Theory
Tue., 17-Feb	Articles due (for discussion)	
Thu., 19-Feb		
Tue., 24-Feb	Draft copy of Annotated Bibliography	
Thu., 26-Feb		
Tue., 03-Mar	Version Copy of Annotated Bibliography due	
Thu., 05-Mar	Annotated Bibliography Due	
Tue., 10-Mar	No class (break)	Spring Break
Thu., 12-Mar	No class (break)	Spring Break
Tue., 17-Mar	5 page Draft of Literature Review Due	
Thu., 19-Mar	Workshop Literature Review	
Tue., 24-Mar	Literature Review Due	
Thu., 26-Mar	GLBTQ Conference and URC	Academic Presentations
Tue., 31-Mar	10+ page draft due	
Thu., 02-Apr		
Tue., 07-Apr		
Thu., 09-Apr	Version copy due	Indiv. conferences
Tue., 14-Apr	Peer Reviews due	Indiv. conferences
Thu., 16-Apr	Revision Workshop (optional)	indiv. conferences
Tue., 21-Apr		
Thu., 23-Apr	Final Paper due	
Tue., 28-Apr		
Thu., 30-Apr	Summary of wmst-I	
Tue., 05-May		
Thu., 07-May		
Tue., 12-May	Final Exam (presentations) 11:30-2:00	Research Presentations