

# SOCIOLOGY

## Master Syllabus

### 1. Course information

**College:** College of Liberal Arts  
**Department:** Sociology  
**Course Title:** Approaches to Women's Studies  
**Course Designation/No:** WMS 200  
**GE Area(s):** III Human Behavior: Sociology  
VI College Component

**Writing Intensive:** Yes

**For WI Courses:** All sections

**Method(s) of Instruction:** Lecture  
Discussion

**Includes Lab:** No

**Prerequisites:** None

### 2. Objectives

#### **GE Program Objectives:**

...learn about the aesthetic, ethical, moral, social, and cultural dimensions of human experience needed for participation in the human community.

#### **GE Area III Objective:**

- a. use multiple approaches/perspectives to systematically analyze complex individual and institutional behavior culturally, sub culturally, and/or cross-culturally.

#### **GE Area VI Objective:**

- a. communicate with individuals who are in the student's major, in allied fields, and non-specialists.

#### **Course Objectives and GE Learning Outcomes:**

Women's Studies will introduce students to feminist thought, advocacy, and activism to acquaint students with the diversity of the subject area. It will emphasize gender as a social construction, which varies over time and across cultures, race, class ethnicity, nationality, and sexuality.

**Learning Outcomes Addressed:**

Gain a portrait of women's integration into our social system.  
Build and enlarge a blended picture of our social world.  
Develop strong writing skills to relay ideas and insights from the past into the present and future.

**Area III**

b. recognize appropriate ethical uses of social scientific knowledge.

**Area VI**

b. understand important relationships and interdependencies between the student's major and other academic disciplines, world events or life endeavors.

**For WI Courses:**

To improve students' writing proficiency-their ability to develop and transmit information for an appropriate audience in an organized, coherent fashion while writing with appropriate style and correct grammar, usage, punctuation, and spelling.

To encourage students to use writing as a learning tool to explore and structure ideas, to articulate thoughts and questions, and to discover what they know and do not know, thereby empowering students to use writing as a tool of discovery, self-discipline, and thought.

To demonstrate for students the ways in which writing is integral to all disciplines, essential to the learning and conveying of knowledge in all fields.

Students will be required to complete three writing assignments and a final descriptive project. Writing assignments will be evaluated for content, form, style, and overall writing proficiency, and grades will be calculated as a percentage of the course grade. Students must receive the letter grade of "C" to pass the writing section. The words "No Entry" on Final Grade Reports indicate you have not passed this portion of the class.

Using class readings, suggested readings and library resources, develop a continuum of women's social locations within the U.S., making sure to label each important aspect of their social integration within society. This may be accomplished by examining social, institutional, and political issues for women in the U.S., using social change and social movements in sociological perspectives.

### **3. Suggested Course Materials**

Text: The Second Wave: A Reader in Feminist Theory, by Linda Nicholson.

Text: Women in 1900: Gateway to the Political Economy of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, by Christine E. Bose.

### **4. Suggested Methods of Evaluation**

Students will be required to complete three in-class essay exams answering each of the questions listed on the first page of the syllabus (sequentially) in relation to first, second, and third wave feminism in conjunction with class assigned reading.

### **5. Grading Policy**

All GE courses are graded A-F.

WI component is graded Pass/Unsatisfactory. (Include only for WI courses.)

### **6. Suggested Weekly Course Outline Including Typical Assignments**

*Week 1            First Wave Feminist Thought: Lay the Foundation*

*Week 2            Class Reading: Bose Chapter 1 Introduction:  
                         “Understanding the Past to Interpret the Present”*

*Week 3            The Second Wave of Feminism Emerges*

*Week 4            Wendy Williams “The Comabahee River Collection: A Black  
                         Feminist Statement”  
                         Bose – Chapter 2*

*Week 5            With and Against Marx  
                         Bose – Chapter 3  
                         Short Essay Exam I*

*Week 6            Gynocentrism*

*Week 7            Patricia Hill Collins – “Defining Black Feminist Thought”  
                         Bose – Chapters 4, 5, 6*

*Week 8            Theorizing Difference and Deconstructing Identity  
                         Short Essay Exam II*

*Week 9            The Question of Essentialism*

*Week 10          Uma Narayan – Contesting Cultures “Westernization, Respect  
                         for Cultures and Third World Feminists”  
                         Women and Social Integrations Papers Due  
                         Short Essay Exam III*

**7. Other**

Syllabus distributed to students should employ the format approved by UCAP and must include:

- Instructor name, office hours, and contact information
- Office of Disability Services information
- Information on how grades will be determined
- Attendance policy