

Common Course Outline
WMST 101
Introduction to Women's Studies
3 Credits

The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

WMST 101 – 3 credits –Introduction to Women's Studies is an interdisciplinary introduction to the status, achievements, and experiences of women in society. Past and current theories of gender, power, and equity are analyzed. Women's experiences in societal institutions such as the arts, education, the labor force, law and politics, marriage and family life, and religion are critically examined. A multicultural approach is taken to present the contributions of under-represented groups of women. Students are expected to attend one co-curricular activity.

3 credits

Prerequisites: (ENGL 052 or RDNG 052) or ACLT 052

Overall Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. define feminism, gender socialization, and other theoretical concepts related to the study of gender;
2. analyze the nature and effects of gender and how they intersect with other social hierarchies in modern American society;
3. discuss the issues related to social, political and economic forces that shape the sexual division of labor;
4. identify key historical and cultural world events in women's struggle for equality;
5. compare and contrast gender roles of men and women worldwide;
6. summarize the social, political, economic, and intellectual contributions that culturally diverse and under-represented populations have made;
7. discuss social, economic, and workforce public policy issues that affect gender;
8. explain one's personal assumptions about gender relations in a variety of cultures, classes, races, and sexual orientations;
9. research ethical issues related to gender equity among culturally diverse populations;
10. evaluate the impact that digital, print, and social-media technology has in the shaping of gender relations;
11. use popular technologies to research gender equity;
12. find, evaluate, use and cite academic resources to analyze and examine gender issues, and
13. interpret global statistics related to gender inequities.

Major Topics

- I. Introduction to the discipline of Women and Gender Studies
 1. History of Women Rights Movement
 2. Feminism defined
- II. The social construction of gender
 1. Privilege and power
 - A. Gender socialization
 - B. Gender equity
 - C. Division of labor
 - D. Economics
 2. Sexuality
 - A. Gender roles
 - B. Sexual orientation
 - C. Relationships
 3. Gender and popular culture
 - A. Technology
 - B. Internet and social media
 - C. Advertising
- III. Gender and public policy
 1. Workforce
 2. Government
- IV. Gender and health care & reproductive rights
 1. Ethical issues in gender research
 2. History of the women's health movement
- V. Gender violence
- VI. Global feminism

Course Requirements

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member, but will include the following:

- **Written assignments:** At least two written assignments (including a 5 page research paper) will infuse CCBC General Education Program objectives; at least one assignment worth a minimum of 10% of the total course grade will allow students to demonstrate at least 5 of the 7 General Education Program outcomes.
- At least one exam (mid-term or final) with an essay component.
- At least one oral report/presentation.

Attendance at one co-curricular activity is a requirement of the course.

Students are required to utilize appropriate academic resources.

Other Course Information

This course is an approved General Education course in the Social and Behavioral Sciences. This course is also an approved General Education Diversity course.

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