

Fall 2008 University of North Carolina at Greensboro
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HIS 342: U.S. Women and Their Bodies

This course examines the history of women and their bodies, focusing mainly on the twentieth century United States. Topics include sexuality, menstruation, birth control, abortion, HIV/AIDS, breast cancer, domestic violence, and menopause. We will examine how women's experiences with their bodies have changed over time and differed according to race, class, region, and sexual preference. We will also explore how and why women's bodies have become sites of political struggle and resistance.

Required Book:

Nancy Worcester and Mariamne Whatley *Women's Health: Readings on Social, Economic, and Political Issues* 4th edition (Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall/Hunt Publishing, 2004) (WW)

Additional readings available on e-reserve

Grading:

Attendance and participation (20%): This class depends on your participation and I expect you to attend and speak in every class. You will be graded on the quality and frequency of your participation. More than two absences will hurt your grade.

Reading Assignments (20%): You will be required to complete short assignments based on your readings, which must be turned in at the beginning of class. If you are absent you may still turn in your assignment as long as I receive it before 2pm on the day that it is due. If you miss a class and a reading assignment is distributed you are still responsible for completing it for the next class (reading assignments will be posted on blackboard). You may miss FOUR reading assignments over the course of the semester without penalty. Emergencies and illness count towards missed assignments. After missing four assignments, each subsequent missed assignments will result in a major reduction of your grade. Even if you choose not to complete the assignment, you must still read the assigned texts and contribute to class discussion.

Historical Roots of Contemporary Issues Paper (20%): Over the course of the semester you must collect newspaper and magazine articles that address women's health issues. Your paper will require you to provide a historical perspective on one of your articles. Although you may draw mainly on the materials that we discuss in class, you will also need to conduct some additional research on the topic. Papers must develop an original thesis that illustrates how history sheds light on the issue that you have chosen.

Tests (2 x 20%): You will take two short-answer tests, which will require you to demonstrate mastery of key concepts in the class.

I use the following grading scale: 93 and above A, 90-92 A-, 88-89 B+, 83-87 B, 80-82 B-, 78-79 C+, 73-77 C, 70-72 C-, 68-69 D+, 63-67 D, 60-62 D-, 59 and below F.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of others without giving them credit. Any source that you use in your work (i.e. books, documents, articles, internet sites) must be properly cited. If you use someone else's exact words they must be enclosed in quotation marks and be followed by a citation. If you put someone else's ideas into your own words, you must also use a citation.

Anyone who commits plagiarism will be penalized severely. For more information, see UNCG's academic integrity policy: <http://academicintegrity.uncg.edu/complete/>

I report all cases of plagiarism to the Dean of Students.

Technology: E-mail, Blackboard, Power Point, Laptops, and Cell Phones

E-mail is the best way to reach me. I will always confirm receipt of messages and try to respond quickly. If you do not receive a response from me within 48 hours, you should assume that I did not receive your message and try again. If you do not receive confirmation of your message, it means that I did not receive it and you will not be credited for any information that you communicated.

I will use e-mail to contact you, so you must check your UNCG email account regularly. All messages will be sent to UNCG accounts.

The course will have a blackboard website, which will have a copy of the syllabus, assignments, and links to additional readings.

I will use power point in lecture. The slides are intended to help guide your note taking. They will not provide a complete set of notes. It is imperative that you take notes to supplement the power point in order to succeed in the course.

This is an interactive class that requires your engaged attention. You may *not* use laptops in the classroom. Cell phones and any other electronic equipment must also be turned off at all times