

THE STATUS OF WOMEN: PROGRESS AND PROCESS

Social Work 366

1. Course Description

1. Overview of course: This course examines the historical, economical, social and political context of women's issues while exposing student's to current concerns such as feminization of poverty, employment, divorce, domestic violence, child care and sexual harassment. Student's will explore concepts and theories about feminism, sexism, and women's issues in contemporary America. In addition, students will have an opportunity to develop a personal awareness of their own inherent values regarding these issues. This course will conclude with a look toward the future and matters facing the new generation of women.

2. **Prerequisites** for course: none

3. Required Reading:

Davis, A. (1983). Women, Race & Class. New York: Vintage Books.

Tavris, C. (1992). Mismeasure of Woman. New York: Touchstone.

Additional Reading:

Davis, L. (Ed.). (1994). Building on women's strengths. New York: Haworth Press.

Hyde, C. & Bricker-Jenkins, M. (1995). Women's Studies or Gender Studies? A Feminist Discussion. Journal of Social Work Education. 310-321.

4. Objectives

Knowledge:

1. To develop an appreciation of women's struggle for rights by focusing on past and present contributions from women.
2. To develop an understanding of the limitations inherent in society's contemporary views of women and men and the dynamics that keep those views in place.
3. To develop an understanding of political, psychological and economic bases of women's issues.
4. To develop an understanding of current issues and problems effecting the status of women.

5. To develop an understanding of cultural diversity as it relates to the status of women.
6. To develop an understanding of the income insecurity as it specifically relates to women over the life cycle.

Skills:

1. To recognize sexist ideology and practice.
2. To demonstrate moderate skill in the use of critical thinking as it pertains to the status of women.
3. To demonstrate moderate skill in the ability to integrate class material into the lives of students and the lives of people they will choose to become involved with both personally and professionally.
4. To analyze special social concerns, such as violence against women and feminization of poverty, by recognizing the unique needs of women and utilizing knowledge developed by women.

Values:

1. To develop an understanding of various concepts pertaining to issues relating to women and the inherent values.
2. To develop an awareness of the feelings, reactions, and attitudes of the consumers of services available to women over the life cycle.
3. To develop an awareness of personal attitudes towards diverse cultural and life style groups.
4. To develop a commitment to social justice as it pertains to women.
5. To develop an understanding of professions that effect women over the life cycle with a focus on the professions values and ethics and potential for value conflicts.
6. To develop an awareness of personal beliefs, values and attitudes regarding women and the issues effecting women with an emphasis on the origin of those beliefs and what sustains them to date.

5. Requirements

Attendance:

Attend all classes on time. Attendance is required. Participation is expected. If you miss more than three classes you will be **minus 5 points for every class missed after three**. It is vital that you raise questions and discuss material. Out of respect for instructors, students and guest speakers it is

important to come to class on time.

Assignments will be minus two points each day late.

Papers will not be graded on your values. You grade will be based on the depth and extent to which you critically and thoughtfully examine this topic. Material presented in papers will be confidential.

1. **Quizzes:** there are four quizzes worth 10 points each. The structure and content will be discussed in class. (40)

2. **Project:** the main project is worth 100 points and will be described on a separate sheet. (100)

3. **Participation:**

is expected. The class is designed to enhance class participation. There are three in class projects worth 30 points. (30)

4. **Final Exam:** is worth 50 points. Here is the final exam question:

Discuss and analyze a means to improve the status of women. Support your answer with material from four different sources: 1) material from the text; 2) material from class presentation; 3) material from the movie "A Century of Women;" and 4) one additional source.

4. **Grading:** Grading is based on a total of **220 points**.

92% = A (202+ pts), 87%=B+ (191+ pts), 82% = B (180+ pts), 77% = C+(169+ pts), 72% = C (158+ pts), 62% = D (136+pts), below 62% is an F.

1/18 Th	Introductions: Why I'm here; why you're here; how to get out of here
1/23 T	A Brief History of the Women's Movement in the United States Discuss: chapters 1-4 in Davis

1/25 Th	<p>Wrestling with Gloria Steinem, Phyllis Shaffly and you</p> <p>Discuss: chapter 1 in Tavis</p> <p>Shaffly handout</p>
1/30 T	<p>Movie: The Long Walk Home</p>
2/1 Th	<p>The Long Walk Home Continued</p> <p>Discuss: chapter 5-6 in Davis</p>
2/6 T	<p>Discussion: Understanding Status - Applying Concepts</p> <p>Discuss: chapter 7-10 in Davis</p>
2/8 Th	<p>Meet the media</p> <p>Be prepared to bring: print ads; articles and; media clips for discussion on the depiction of women in the media and its impact. Bring a discussion question related to your media piece</p> <p>*worth 10 points</p>
2/13 T	<p>Group Time</p>
2/15 Th	<p>Measuring Up</p> <p>Discuss: Chapter 3-2 in Tavis</p> <p>What is Tavis' point?</p>

2/20 T	<p>Legal Rights of Women</p> <p>Speaker: The Honorable Mary Likes</p> <p>Discuss: Woman's Legal Rights Handbook</p>
2/22 Th	<p>The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Women</p> <p>The Project</p> <p>part 1 of the project due</p>
2/27 T	<p>The social health of women</p> <p>Discuss: chapter 4 in Tavis</p>
2/29 Th	<p>Presentations on the political climate for women</p> <p>Discuss: Chapter 5 - Tavis</p>
3/5 T	<p>Women and Health Care</p> <p>Discuss: chapter 11-12 in Davis</p>
3/7 Th	<p>Presentations on Health Care of Women</p>
3/11-15	<p>Spring Break ENJOY !!</p>

<p>3/19 T</p>	<p>Women and Leadership</p> <p>Speaker: Diane Lozier</p> <p>part 2 of the project due</p>
<p>3/21 Th</p>	<p>The Non-Market Value of Women's Work</p> <p>Discuss: chapter 13 in Davis</p>
<p>3/26 T</p>	<p>Presentations on the Economic Status of Women</p>
<p>3/28 Th</p>	<p>Speaker: Cris Gordon from the Commission on the Status of Women</p> <p>Topic: Current Legislation</p>
<p>4/2 T</p>	<p>Group discussion on the market and non-market value of women's work</p> <p>Discuss: Chapter 6 in Tavis</p>
<p>4/4 Th</p>	<p>Presentations on the Education of Women</p>
<p>4/9 T</p>	<p>Welfare Reform - Women</p> <p>Discuss handout on welfare reform</p> <p>Discuss: Chapter 7 in Tavis</p>
<p>4/11 Th</p>	<p>A Century of Women</p>
<p>4/16 T</p>	<p>A Century of Women</p>

4/18 Th	<p>Speaking of Gender: Are men and women different?</p> <p>Read: Tavis Chapter 8</p> <p>Read: Point/Counterpoint: Women's Studies or Gender Studies</p>
4/23 T	Wild Card Presentations
4/25 Th	<p>Sexual Harassment: What a policy means</p> <p>Speaker: Tom Marfisi</p>
4/30 T	Final Group Analysis
<p>5/1 Th</p> <p>5/7</p>	<p>Final Group Analysis - What did I learn?</p> <p>FINAL EXAM 1:00-2:40</p>

***this syllabus is subject to change**