This syllabus is subject to change. Please note that additional assignments will be given out during class and via email throughout the semester. It is your responsibility to get these assignments from me if you are not in class.

Course Description:
This course is designed to introduce students to the field of Women’s and Gender Studies. Using a thematic, historically based approach, this course will familiarize students with the issues and debates that have shaped women’s studies and feminist scholarship. The primary focus will be on revealing how ideas about sex and gender operate to shape society, politics, culture, and individual experience. This course will also introduce students to the tools that scholars have developed to read for sex and gender historically and will require that students practice using these tools to analyze how ideas about sex and gender operate in contemporary society. In addition, a major focus of this course will be how systems of oppression (including sexism, racism, homophobia/heterosexism, classism, etc...) operate together. Lastly, the assigned reading and discussions will encourage the students to think about the issues raised in this course from a more global perspective.

This course is run as a seminar. Student preparation and participation are essential to creating a successful learning environment and to ensure that students exit the course with the knowledge and skills outlined by this syllabus.

Course Structure:
This course makes use of MOODLE. Please make sure that you upload all of your assignments on MOODLE. You will find the syllabus, weekly assignments, grades, and comments via MOODLE. Please see me with any questions.

Required Texts:
Susan Shaw and Janet Lee, Women’s Voices, Feminist Visions: Classic and Contemporary Readings, Fourth Edition
Lynn Peril, Pink Think
Jean P. Sasson, Princess: A True Story of Life Behind the Veil in Saudi Arabia
Jeannette Walls, The Glass Castle
Additional required readings will be added (via email and in-class handouts) throughout the semester.

Assignments:
1. Class attendance, active participation and in-class presentations on individual topics are worth 35% of your grade.
2. Bi-weekly writing assignments are worth 30% of your grade. Your overall grade on this 30% is based on the average of the grades you receive on 7 writing assignments (if you complete more than 7, I will take the top 10 grades—These are to be uploaded on MOODLE no later than 3:00 on Fridays)
3. A final (written) project of 12-15 pages is worth 25% of your grade.
4. A presentation on your final project is worth 10% of your grade.

FOR UP TO 10% EXTRA CREDIT YOU MAY SEEK OUT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT A LOCAL WOMEN’S ORGANIZATION OR AN INSTITUTION THAT FOCUSES ON GENDER AND SEXUALITY ISSUES. YOU MUST VOLUNTEER AT LEAST 10 HOURS DURING THE SEMESTER AND PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF THAT PROOF.

A NOTE ON PLAGIARISM:
If you are caught plagiarizing (presenting someone else’s work or ideas as your own) in this course you will receive a failing grade. In addition, if you receive a failing grade due to academic dishonesty, I am required to write a letter to your academic dean notifying them of the circumstances that led to the failing grade.

Classroom Policies:
• Collegiality is a basic requirement of this course. Disrespectful comments and classroom behavior will not be tolerated.
• Please feel free to contact me with any issues that may arise during this course. It is best to make an appointment with me and plan that each appointment will last for 15 minutes.
• Out of respect for the learning environment, please arrive to class on time and if you need to leave class early, you must let me know at the beginning of class.
• Please do not come to class sick. If you are sick, please email me and let me know. I will be happy to help you make up whatever work you missed.
• All work needs to be uploaded on Moodle on the day that they are due—no later than 3:00 p.m.
• No Late Papers Accepted

Course Schedule

WEEK ONE (August 31st): INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

WEEK TWO (September 7th): SEX AND GENDER (Show Transgeneration, last episode)
Read: “John and Joan” Available online
Selection from Chapter 3 in Feminist Visions (#19, #20, #24)
You should also begin reading Pink Think

WEEK THREE (September 14th): TEACHING GENDER (Show Free to Be You and Me)
Read: Lynn Peril, Pink Think

***September 15th: Census Date***

WEEK FOUR (September 21st): GENDER AND POPULAR CULTURE
Read: Selections from Chapter 9 in Feminist Visions
Prepare individual topics for in-class presentations

WEEK FIVE (September 28th): SEX AND MEDICINE
Read: Anne Fausto-Sterling, “Hormonal Hurricanes” (will be provided)
Barbara Ehrenreich, “Welcome to Cancerland” (available on-line)
Selections from Chapter 6 in Feminist Visions (intro to this chapter, pp. 290-307)

WEEK SIX (October 5th): REPRODUCTION AND BIRTH CONTROL (Show A Walk to Beautiful and The first part of The Business of Being Born, discuss Octuplet births/fertility)
Read: Selections from Chapter 6 in Feminist Visions (307-326, #46, #50, #51)
Handouts from Guttmacher Institute
You should also begin reading Glass Castles

WEEK SEVEN (October 12th): SEXUALITY
Read: Selections from Chapter 4 in Feminist Visions (pp. 170-186, #26, #27, #28)
"Myth of the Vaginal Orgasm" (available online)
Continue reading Glass Castles

WEEK EIGHT (October 19th): WOMEN AND THE FAMILY
Read: Glass Castles
Selections from Chapter 7 in Feminist Visions
Stephanie Coontz "Leave it to Beaver..." (available online)

WEEK NINE (October 26th): Bodies (You- Tube Thinspiration Videos, Pics of Disembodied Women)
Read: Selections from Chapter 5 in Feminist Visions

WEEK TEN (November 2nd): VIOLENCE AND OPPRESSION, Part I (Born into Brothels)
Read: Selections from Chapter 10 in Feminist Visions
Gloria Steinem, “Supremacy Crimes” (available online)
Also start reading Princess: A True Story of Life Behind the Veil
WEEK ELEVEN (November 9th): VIOLENCE AND OPPRESSION, Part II
Read:  *Princess: A True Story of Life Behind the Veil*

WEEK TWELVE (November 16th): WOMEN AND WORK
Read:  Selections from Chapter 8 in *Feminist Visions*

WEEK THIRTEEN: November 23-27 NO CLASSES: THANKSGIVING BREAK

WEEK FOURTEEN (November 30th) FEMINIST ACTIVISM (#2, #3, #7, #8, #100)
Read:  Selections from Chapter 1 and Chapter 13 in *Feminist Visions*

WEEK FIFTEEN (DECEMBER 7th) Research Presentations

WEEK SIXTEEN (DECEMBER 14th) Final Exam Week: Research Presentations