

Syllabus: WMST 30095 – Special Topics – Global Feminisms: A world and century of activism Summer 2019

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Delivery: Face-to-Face, Merrill Hall, 105; Wednesday nights, 7-9:30pm

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Course Information

Course Introduction

There are many ways to conduct a study of women-centric, women-driven phenomena and likely no single best one. There's never been a historical moment wherein the application of the term *feminist* has not drawn fire or meant fission. There's something, however, especially challenging when tackling a subject marked "global" with the necessary breadth and depth implied. All the while, the term "global" indicates that altogether, the whole-thing is *something definable*, too. Global feminisms, a century, a world: we're intimating a staggering amount of available ground to cover. We want to, in this course, within that deep, wide range, allow you to choose distinct directions and make unique lines of inquiry. Karen Barad's masterwork posited the project of *Meeting the Universe halfway*. Such daring engagement is the essence of the best feminist inquiry. We must meet "the world" halfway; we'd like to meet you halfway, too.

Course Description

The course is squeezed into FIVE weeks; it'll feel at times a bit jampacked—but not (we hope) in a bad way. There'll be plenty of assistance available to you if you need it. Email me anytime with questions or concerns—as soon as they hit.

This course is an inquiry into women's traditions of struggle and progress IN CONTEXT—contexts embedded in time and in space—situations, locations. Context matters as much as our subject, possibly more. It's easy to forget that feminism and feminists emerged where and when, how and why they did. Feminisms over a century and globe do not conform to our expectations of feminism. This is so vitally important, it should be said ten times or more. Feminisms over a century and globe do not conform to our expectations of feminism. (We'll just repeat it once.) Neither do feminists; and, at some point, feminists will benefit greatly from "getting *that*."

Course Aims

This course, by design, refuses to hold court on feminists and feminisms here or elsewhere, present or past. Instead, this course aims to see women-activists clearly and understand them thoroughly and well.

In saying this, I am not decrying the importance of critical judgment nor of fair-minded assessment. Rather, I'm suggesting, popular culture is easy and heavy with prosecutorial zeal, quick and ready to issue verdicts. And ... nowhere more than in the realm of feminism(s). It's becoming a kind of *de facto* first language. There's a course in that; but this is not that course.

Our course aims to provide an informative, illuminating LOOK at a century and at a world wherein multiple feminisms have actively engaged socio-political and cultural conversations, all the while making undeniable impact, compelling allegiance, resistance, thought-and-theory, changes. Implicit in feminisms have always been "the future" and the "wider world." It's a rare feminist incursion that has not set sights on others—aiming somehow to serve them (whether others, in fact, want such service or not ☺).

Program Aims

This course fits readily into Kent State's Women's Studies Program. Our declared mission is to "re-consider it all"—with women included as fundamental, integral and real. In service to that end, we'll do our darnedest to provide you a range of useful tools to open and explicate vital subjects that lead to more vital subjects, all of which invite a sustained "second look."

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course. And this course does not presume you have prior knowledge of the scholarship or frameworks you'll discover in the ensuing materials/modules.

Course Goals

By the end of this course, you should be able to do the following:

- Place and process feminism and feminists in context--many contexts, complex contexts.
- Conceptualize and frame feminist landmarks (anchors) and movement in fresh, expansive ways.
- Analyze and critically appraise accounts of feminisms.
- Meet conversation-partners halfway, problem-solving beyond easy given answers, balancing commitments/values with the realpolitik of real-world, actual people, living contexts and volatile dynamics (You'll gain experience in class).
- Move from observation to understanding (Test hypotheses, develop theoretical lenses, for example)

Learning Materials

The vast majority of the learning materials can be found within each module folder. Modules will not close, but, as a library for further consultation, they'll remain open.

Five Module—IdeaStream

Introduction to Global Feminisms

Reality Check on Now

Landmarks Worldwide/Feminism's Endeavors and Effects

A Closer Look at Feminisms' Challenges in Context

Visitations

Because we use Blackboard to deliver Materials and Assignments, you'll need the following.

Technology Requirements and Skills

Computer Hardware and Software

Students new to Kent State University should review Information Service's Technology Viewbook (link available in the Preparing your computer section of the Getting Started in Your Online Course link within the Start Here folder). A personal computer with consistent, reliable Internet access is required:

1. A DSL or cable connection to the Internet; dial-up is not sufficient.
2. Laptop or desktop computer with a minimum of a 2 GHz processor and 2 GB of RAM

You should have one of the following computer operating systems and additional software applications installed on your computer:

1. Windows 7 system operating software or newer for PC computers OR Mac OS X 10.6 or newer for Apple Mac computers.
2. Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint) discounts available at The Microsoft Store, link available in the Preparing your computer section of the Getting Started in Your Online Course link within the Start Here folder.
3. A free version of Microsoft Office is available for students. Instructions and information can be found on support.kent.edu.
4. Antivirus for Windows OS, Microsoft Security Essentials OR Antivirus for Mac OS, Sophos
5. A Blackboard Learn compatible browser, such as the latest version of Mozilla Firefox. Blackboard also supports Chrome and Safari. **Internet Explorer is NOT a supported browser and should not be used.**

Technology Skills

The following fundamental technological skills are necessary for your success in this course: navigating a computer operating system, launching and quitting applications, connecting to the Internet, using a web browser to search the World Wide Web, downloading, saving, and uploading files, and sending and replying to email. You will also need to be proficient in using MS Word and working with files in various formats.

Blackboard (Bb) Learn

This class will use Blackboard (Bb) Learn, the official learning management system (LMS) used by Kent State University to deliver course materials to university students. ALL course materials and activities will take place in Bb Learn.

In order to login to the online Bb Learn LMS, students will need a Kent State FlashLine User Name ID and password. Students can login to Bb Learn either through a student FlashLine account or via a direct link to the login page: <https://learn.kent.edu>

For help using the Blackboard (Bb) Learn system use the "Bb Learn Tutorials for Students" link in the main navigation of your course. In general, Bb Learn works best using the latest version of most major web browsers, including Firefox, Chrome, and Safari.

Technology Help Guidelines

- A. **30-Minute Rule:** When you encounter struggles with technology, give yourself 30 minutes to 'figure it out.' If you cannot, then post a message to the discussion board; your peers may have suggestions to assist you. You are also directed to contact the KSU Helpdesk 24/7. As a last resort, contact me. However, do not expect an immediate reply, and I cannot guarantee that I will be able to help with any and all technology issues.
- B. When posting or sending email requesting help with technology issues, whether to the Helpdesk or me, use the following guidelines:
 1. Include a descriptive title for the subject field that includes 1) the name of course 2) the issue. Do NOT just simply type "Help" into the subject field or leave it blank.
 2. List the steps or describe the circumstance that preceded the technical issue or error. Include the exact wording of the error message.
 3. When possible, always include a screenshot(s) demonstrating the technical issue or error message.
 4. Also include what you have already tried to do to remedy the issue (rebooting, trying a different browser, etc.).

Policies and Expectations

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance is expected and required.

Students who anticipate an absence due to technical or medical reasons should consult with the instructor individually. An absence due to illness or injury requires verification from a medical professional and should be presented to the instructor.

Communication Policy

1. Email course questions and personal concerns, including grading questions, to me privately using your @kent.edu email. Do NOT submit posts of a personal nature to the discussion board.
2. Email will be checked at least twice per day Monday through Friday; Saturday and Sunday, email is checked once per day. During the week, I will respond to all emails within 24 hours; on weekends and holidays, allow up to 48 hours. If there are special circumstances that will delay my response, I will make an announcement to the class.
3. General Course Questions discussion boards will be checked once per day Monday through Friday; Saturday and Sunday, these discussion boards will be checked once per day.
4. For questions related to technology, please contact: 330-672-HELP for 24/7 support.

Face to face and online Student Conduct and (N)etiquette

Communicating appropriately in both LIVE, face-to-face classrooms and in the online classroom can be challenging. In order to minimize this challenge, it is important to remember several points of collegial etiquette as well as "internet etiquette" that will smooth communication for both students and instructors: In the LIVE face-to-face classroom, no phones. No profanity. Please observe start-and finish times (If you need to come late, leave early, please notify me.)

1. **Read first, Write later.** Read the ENTIRE set of posts/comments on a discussion board before posting your reply, in order to prevent repeating commentary or asking questions that have already been answered.
2. **Avoid language that may come across as strong or offensive.** Language can be easily misinterpreted in written electronic communication. Review email and discussion board posts BEFORE submitting. Humor and sarcasm may be easily misinterpreted by your reader(s). Try to be as matter-of-fact and professional as possible.
3. **Follow the language rules of the Internet.** Do not write using all capital letters, because it will appear as shouting. Also, the use of emoticons can be helpful when used to convey nonverbal feelings. ☺
4. **Consider the privacy of others.** Ask permission prior to giving out a classmate's email address or other information.
5. **Keep attachments small.** If it is necessary to send pictures, change the size to an acceptable 250kb or less (there are several programs you can use to do this such as: Photoshop, Paint, GIMP, and picresize.com).
6. **No inappropriate material.** Do not forward virus warnings, chain letters, jokes, etc. to classmates or instructors. The sharing of pornographic material is forbidden.

NOTE: *The instructor reserves the right to remove posts that are not collegial in nature and/or do not meet the Online Student Conduct and Etiquette guidelines listed above.*

University Use of Electronic Email

A university-assigned student e-mail account is the official university means of communication with all students at Kent State University. Students are responsible for all information sent to them via their university-assigned e-mail account. If a student chooses to forward information in their university e-mail account, he or she is responsible for all information, including attachments, sent to any other e-mail account. To stay current with university information, students are expected to check their official university e-mail account and other electronic communications on a frequent and consistent basis. Recognizing that some communications may be time-critical, the university recommends that electronic communications be checked minimally twice a week.

Assignments and Grades

Attendance and Participation/Discussion.

A rubric for the discussion board initial post and replies has been provided in the course.

Discussions and Panels

Notebooks

Each of the 5 modules will contain a notebook that will include a prompt for contemplation and reflection – for your eyes only, as if in a private notebook, diary or journal. Your entry should

provide an articulate and pertinent answer to the provided topic. It should be at least two well-developed paragraphs (approximately 6-8 sentences or more per paragraph).

Final Essay

Your final “project” will be a personal essay.

Assessment and Grading Feedback

Grades and feedback on notebook entries will generally be available in the Grade Center within 3-4 days upon their completion.

The Final Essay will be graded during at the end of our term.

Late and Make-up Work Policy

Late work will only be accepted with instructor approval. Circumstances that warrant consideration for late work include university recognized absences such as illness and injury, or a death in the immediate family. **DO ASK ME.** Any work submitted late with instructor consultation or under university absence policy will be assigned full or partial credit.

I'll use my considerable discretion ☺

Grading

Scale.....

Work is assessed as follows: Attendance (or, for online-ers, participation on BB) 20% Notebook 40% Final Essay 40%

Percentage of Earned Points	Earned Points	Grade
94% - 100%	1692-1800	A
90% - less than 94%	1620-1691	A-
87% - less than 90%	1566-1619	B+
84% - less than 87%	1512-1565	B
80% - less than 84%	1440-1511	B-
77% - less than 80%	1386-1439	C+
74% - less than 77%	1332-1385	C
70% - less than 74%	1260-1331	C-
67% - less than 70%	1206-1259	D+
64% - less than 67%	1152-1205	D
Under 64%	1151 and under	F

University Policies

Students are required to be aware of and follow all general and academic policies established by Kent State University. A list of the general academic policies is listed on the Kent State University Policy Register, which can be found in the University policies section of the Getting Started in Your Online Course link within the Start Here folder. Specific policies related to the successful completion of this online course can be located and reviewed in your Blackboard Learn course.

University policies are located in the University policies section of the Getting Started in Your Online Course link within the Start Here folder in your Blackboard Learn course.

Students with Disabilities

University policy 3342-3-01.3 requires that students with disabilities be provided reasonable accommodations to ensure their equal access to course content. If you have a documented disability and require accommodations, please contact the instructor at the beginning of the semester to make arrangements for necessary classroom adjustments. Please note, you must first verify your eligibility for these through Student Accessibility Services (contact 330-672-3391 or visit www.kent.edu/sas for more information on registration procedures).

The Blackboard accessibility statement can be found in the University policies section of the Getting Started in Your Online Course link within the Start Here folder.

Course Enrollment and Withdrawal

University policy requires all students to be officially registered in each class they are attending. Students who are not officially registered for a course by published deadlines should not be attending classes and will not receive credit or a grade for the course. Each student must confirm enrollment by checking his/her class schedule (using Student Tools in FlashLine) prior to the deadline indicated.

If registration errors are not corrected by this date and you continue to attend and participate in classes for which you are not officially enrolled, you are advised now that you will not receive a grade at the conclusion of the semester for any class in which you are not properly registered. Also, it is your responsibility to check the withdrawal dates for each semester.

Every class has its own schedule of deadlines and considerations. To view the add/drop schedule and other important dates for this class, go to Student > Resources > Courses and Registration in FlashLine. Choose View or Print Course Schedule and Purchase Textbooks. To see the deadlines for this course, click on the CRN. The add/drop schedule and important dates may also be found on the Drop or Add a Course link. Click on the green clock next to the course under Registration Deadlines.

Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

Students enrolled in the university, at all its campuses, are to perform their academic work according to standards set by faculty members, departments, schools and colleges of the university; and cheating and plagiarism constitute fraudulent misrepresentation for which no credit can be given and for which appropriate sanctions are warranted and will be applied.

For more information see the Kent State policy on plagiarism in the University policies section of the Getting Started in Your Online Course link within the Start Here folder.

Subject to Change Statement

The syllabus and course schedule may be subject to change. Changes will be communicated via email or the Blackboard Learn announcement tool. It is the responsibility of students to check email messages and course announcements to stay current in their online courses.

YOU CAN FIND OUR ***COURSE'S IDEASTREAM*** in its entirety, fully developed in detail on Blackboard—along with lectures and materials that enable our quest(s). Our topics change each week, new leading questions under inquiry with them.

You might call this our course narrative.