Women’s Studies – Senior Thesis II
WMST 452

Instructor:
Office Hours:
Office:
Phone:
Email:

Course Description
The thesis gives Women’s Studies majors the opportunity to engage with and apply feminist theoretical insights from a range of disciplines that they have learned throughout their course of study. With the guidance of a faculty advisor, students will write a thesis about a topic related to their studies in the major, with a particular focus on gender, sexuality, race, class, and other forms of identity. In consultation with the faculty advisor, students will design and implement a research project that will culminate in written work appropriate to the student’s interests and relevant disciplinary frames.

Prerequisites
Students enrolled in the course must be junior or senior standing and must have completed all General Education courses that build Core Objectives 1-3 and satisfy Core Objectives 4-8. Students must complete WMST 451 (Senior Thesis I) prior to enrolling in WMST 452 (Senior Thesis II).

Core Objectives
This class satisfies Core Objective 14 of the Silver Core Curriculum:

• CO14 – Application
Students will be able to demonstrate their knowledge and skills developed in previous Core and major classes by completing a project or structured experience of practical significance.

In completing the thesis, students will demonstrate and integrate knowledge and skills from the following Core Objectives: Effective Composition and Communication (CO1), Critical Analysis and Use of Information (CO3), Cultures, Societies, and Individuals (CO6), and Diversity and Equity (CO10).

Student Learning Outcomes
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

• Apply critical thinking skills to issues related to gender and sexuality. (CO3, CO14)
• Develop and articulate an original research question to pursue in a research project. (CO3, CO14)

• Design, develop, and complete appropriate steps and tasks to conduct the research project. (CO1, CO3, CO14)

• Write the results of the research study in a format appropriate to the academic discipline(s) that inform the student's project. (CO1, CO3, CO6, CO14)

Required Coursework

Meetings with Faculty Advisor: The student and faculty advisor will meet every two weeks throughout the semester to discuss the student's progress and any challenges that may arise.

Annotated Bibliography: A final annotated bibliography, developed in WMST 451 (Senior Thesis I), will be submitted at the beginning of the semester.

Abstract, Outline, and Timeline: During Week 2, the student will submit a preliminary abstract, outline, and timeline for the thesis. The student will use these materials to direct writing throughout the semester.

Thesis: A complete draft of the thesis will be due during Week 11 of the semester. After receiving feedback from the faculty advisor, a final draft of the thesis will be submitted during Week 14.

Oral Presentation: The student will give an oral presentation highlighting primary arguments and findings of the thesis during the final week of the semester.

Grading
The final grade will be “Satisfactory” (equivalent to “C” or better) or “Unsatisfactory.” This evaluation will be based on the quality of the submitted written work and the final presentation.

Academic Standards and Ethics
Academic integrity is our “currency” here in a university setting. Any academic dishonesty—such as plagiarism—will not be tolerated and will result in a failing grade in the course. The UNR catalog outlines the university’s policy regarding academic standards. If you have further questions or would like clarification about what constitutes academic dishonesty, please see your faculty advisor.

Statement of Disability Services
The Gender, Race, and Identity/Women’s Studies Program and the University of Nevada, Reno are committed to providing equal opportunities in education for all students. If you have a disability for which you will need to request accommodations, please contact your
faculty advisor and the Disability Resource Center (Thompson Building, Suite 101, phone: 784-6000) as soon as possible to make appropriate arrangements.

Audio and Video Recording
The Provost has asked faculty to share UNR’s policy regarding audio and video recording of university courses: “Surreptitious or covert videotaping of class or unauthorized audio recording of class is prohibited by law and by Board of Regents policy. This class may be videotaped or audio recorded only with the written permission of the instructor. In order to accommodate students with disabilities, some students may be given permission to record class lectures and discussions. Therefore, students should understand that their comments during class may be recorded.”