

**Women's Studies 375**  
**Sex, Power, and Politics**  
San Diego State University

Fall 2005  
MWF 10:00-10:50  
220 West Commons  
Schedule #: 37925

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Office Hours: Mon: 11:30-12:30, 3:00-3:45  
Tues: 1:30-2:30, Fri. 9:00-9:30,  
or by appointment.

Issues of gender, sexuality, and women's status are part of the contemporary political scene, both nationally and internationally. This course is designed to help you to understand and even play a role in these political and cultural struggles. Because mainstream (non-feminist) approaches to politics are well represented in the media and in other courses, this class focuses on feminist politics and political analyses. It will help you to understand the roles of women in local, national, and global politics, the goals and tactics of feminists and anti-feminists, and the issues of agreement and dissent among feminists and their allies.

The course will cover the two most significant international social movements addressing women's place: feminism and religious fundamentalism. In both cases we will look in depth at the US case, and then draw comparisons with other countries.

The course is controversial and full of material designed to incite, excite, and enrage. Remember, you don't have to agree with any of it to get A, but everyone benefits if we all keep open minds. Hopefully we can create an environment where you will be able to explore new ideas, learn new perspectives on sex, power, and politics, and get involved with issues and organizations that matter to you.

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*Thinking about a Major or Minor in Women's Studies? The program offers exciting courses, is committed to women's issues and social justice, and is adaptable to your interests and concerns. Women's Studies is **not** impacted! For more information contact: **Dr. Doreen Mattingly, 594-8033, [mattingl@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:mattingl@mail.sdsu.edu)***

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**Instructor Policies**

I expect you to attend class regularly and participate in class discussions. I do not, however, take roll or give participation points. Class will be a combination of lecture, discussion, guest speakers, films, and anything else I can think of. **All activities during class time, including guest speakers, films, and discussions of the day's news, are part of the class and may be part of your exams or assignments.** I do not put lecture notes on blackboard – if you miss class you will have to get them from a classmate.

You are also expected to do all of the assigned reading for the week before class on Wednesday. The SDSU catalog states that students “Should expect to spend a total of three hours per week, in class and

study time, for each unit of college work attempted” (2001, 421). For a three-unit class during the regular term, this translates 9 hours per week (including 3 hours of class). To encourage you to keep up with the reading, there will be weekly reading quizzes on Blackboard.

**Office hours, appointments, and messages:** You are welcome to visit or call my office during scheduled office hours; no appointment is necessary. If you want to meet with me at another time, please make an appointment (594-8033). If you need to leave some written work, put it in the envelope on my office door (AH 3182). You may also contact me via e-mail ([mattingl@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:mattingl@mail.sdsu.edu)), but DO NOT turn in assignments via email unless you have asked for and received permission from me.

**Make-up exams and quizzes:** Students can take make-up exams only if they have received Dr. Mattingly’s permission BEFORE the class period when the test is given. You **cannot** make up the reading quizzes.

**Late assignments:** Late assignments will be dropped one letter grade for each day they are late. Assignments are always due at the beginning of class. Assignments received 30 minutes or more after the class period begins will be considered one day late.

**Classroom behavior:** I come to class on time, awake, and prepared, and I expect you to do the same. It makes me crazy when people sleep in class, so if you’re too tired stay home. You are welcome to bring coffee or other beverages to class.

**Discussion and Questions:** You are welcome to ask me questions during lecture. Because of the size of the class there will not be too much opportunity for discussion, but we will monitor the “Discussion Board” section of Blackboard. It is a good forum for having questions answered, venting, sharing opinions, etc. We will respond regularly. This forum is offered as a resource; you are not required to participate and will not receive points.

**Using Blackboard:** Most handouts given in class, as well as weekly quizzes, grades, and some assigned readings will be posted on Blackboard. If this is your first time using Blackboard, go to the Blackboard login page at <http://blackboard.sdsu.edu> and enter your username and password. Your username and password are the same ones you use for GradeLine and WebLine. If you have questions, visit the SDSU e-Services page at <http://www.sdsu.edu/e-services>.

### **Books**

Rosen, Ruth. 2000. *The World Split Open: How the Modern Women’s Movement Changed America*. Penguin Press

Flanders, Laura. ed. 2004. *The W Effect: Bush’s War on Women*. The Feminist Press

Reed, Betsey. ed. 2002. *Nothing Sacred: Women Respond to Religious Fundamentalism and Terror*. Thunder’s Mouth Press/Nation Books.

*Ms. Magazine*, Summer 2005

## Assignments

**Exams:** There will be three exams in this class; the dates are shown on the schedule below. All will be a combination of multiple choice/true-false and short answer. Each will cover lectures and assigned readings. The final will not be cumulative. Each exam is worth 20% of your grade in the class (60%).

**Blackboard Reading Quizzes:** Each week there will be a reading quiz posted on Blackboard. You must log on and take the quiz by **the start of class on Wednesday of each week**. The quizzes will not be available after Wednesday at 10 am. The first Quiz will be on the readings assigned for Weeks 1 and 2. A total of 14 quizzes will be given; your top 11 scores will count toward your final grade. Each quiz is worth 2% of your final grade (22%).

**Homework:** You will complete three homework assignments, each of which involve looking at some real-life examples of things we will be discussing in class and answering some questions about the link between the documents and the readings. During the section on US Feminism you will go to the SDSU Love Library and look at copies of newsletters and magazines created by women's organizations in the 1970s. During the middle section of the class, you will visit websites for some of the conservative Christian organizations we will be discussing. In the final third, you will collect and analyze newspaper articles that portray Islamic women. Each assignment is worth 5% of your final grade (for a total of 15%).

**Homework Alternative: Volunteer on Proposition 73:** You may replace one homework assignment with 2-3 hours of volunteering with an organization working for or against Proposition 73, and answering some questions about your volunteering experience. If passed, the initiative will require health care providers to notify the parents of young women under 18 before providing abortions. We will provide links to local organizations working on the Proposition.

**Movies and Events:** Throughout the semester there will be a number of events on and off campus relevant to the course. We will also suggest several movies to watch. You will attend two events or view two movies (or one of each) and write 1-2 pages in addressing the points below. All Movie/Event write ups are due on or before December 9 (last day of class). I encourage you to get them done at the start of the semester. **If you plagiarize any part of an existing movie review you will lose all 3 points** and earn my eternal disrespect. Each is worth 1.5% of your final grade (3% total)

Points to address in your write up:

- Briefly (no more than 1/3 of your write-up) describe the movie or event
- Explain how the event or movie relates to class material. Are there certain ideas that it illustrates? Any arguments it supports or contradicts?
- Given what you have learned in the class, critique (positively and/or negatively) the movie/event. We are looking here for an *informed* opinion.

### **Grade Breakdown**

Exams (3@20%) =	60%
Quizzes (11 at 2%) =	22%
Homework (3@ 5%) =	15%
<u>Movies and Events (2@1.5%) =</u>	<u>3%</u>
Total =	100%

Wk	Dates	Topic	Readings	Assignments
1	8/31-9/2	Introduction First Wave Feminism	Wheeler, "One Woman, One Vote," ON BLACKBOARD – under Weekly Handouts/Links	
2	Monday holiday 9/5-9/9	U.S. Mainstream Feminism	<i>World Split Open</i> Ch 1, 3	Quiz A
3	9/12-9/16	U.S. Radical Feminism	<i>World Split Open</i> Ch 4, pp. 94-110, 124-140 Ch 6, all	Quiz B
4	9/19-9/23	Politicizing Sex	<i>World Split Open</i> Ch 5  Cahill, "Why We Need Same Sex Marriage," pp. 96-101 in <i>The W Effect</i>	Quiz C
5	9/26-9/30	Feminism Expands	<i>World Split Open</i> Ch 8, 9  Pollitt, "US Feminism Lite," pp. 280-284 in <i>The W Effect</i>	Quiz D Feminist Press analysis due Monday
6	10/3-10/7	Social Policies and women	St. John, "Working Women's Lives," pp. 138- 145 in <i>The W Effect</i>  Kumbier, "Wedding Bells and Welfare Bucks," in <i>The W Effect</i>	Quiz E Exam 1 on Monday
7	10/10- 10/14	Losing Ground	Berkowitz, TeamBush to Abused Women, p. 11-15 in <i>The W Effect</i>  Sanders, "Hardly Sporting," p. 15-19 in <i>The W Effect</i>  National Women's Law Center, "Women's Priorities Would Be Sacrificed," pp. 158-165 in <i>The W Effect</i>	Quiz F
8	10/17- 10/21	Fundament- alism in Global Perspective	Ruether, "The War on Women," <i>Nothing Sacred</i>  Armstrong, "Fundamentalism," <i>Nothing Sacred</i>  Baldwin, "Gujarat's Gendered Violence," pp. 185-188 in <i>Nothing Sacred</i>  Tax, "World Culture War," pp. 23-30 in <i>Nothing Sacred</i>	Quiz G

9	10/24-10/28	Christian Fundamentalism and Women	<p>Easton, "The Power and the Glory," p. 5-10 in <i>The W Effect</i></p> <p>Benen, "Strange Bedfellows," pp. 121-128 in <i>The W Effect</i></p> <p>Harding, "The Pro-Life Gospel" <i>Nothing Sacred</i></p> <p>Zink-Sawyer, "From Preachers to Suffragists" ON BLACKBOARD</p>	Quiz H
10	10/31-11/4	Abortion	<p>Baumgardner, "Roe in Rough Waters," pp. 65-70 in <i>The W Effect</i></p> <p>Voss, "My Late Term Abortion," pp. 81-85 in <i>The W Effect</i></p> <p>Kort, "Global Sex Rules," pp. 114-121 in <i>The W Effect</i></p> <p>Articles in Ms. TBA</p>	<p>Quiz I</p> <p>Christian Right Website analysis due Monday</p>
11	11/7-11/11	Reproductive Rights	<p>*Block, "Sex, Lies and Abstinence," pp. 85-91 in <i>The W Effect</i></p> <p>Ireland, "Bush's War on the Condom," pp. 91-94 in <i>The W Effect</i></p> <p>Bass, "Unconscionable Care," pp. 167-127 in <i>The W Effect</i></p> <p>Flanders, "Building a Movement," pp. 273-280 in <i>The W Effect</i></p>	<p>Quiz J</p> <p>Exam 2 Friday</p>
12	11/14-11/18	Islamic Fundamentalism and Women	<p>Mernissi, "Muslim Women and Fundamentalism," pp. 141-148 in <i>Nothing Sacred</i></p> <p>Afary, "The War Against Feminism," pp. 45-74 in <i>Nothing Sacred</i></p> <p>Muhammad, "The Thong vs. the Veil," pp. 180-182 in <i>The W Effect</i></p> <p>Talvi, "Women of the Promised Land," pp. 223-228 in <i>The W Effect</i></p> <p>Riverbend weblogger, "Baghdad Burning," pp. 56-62 in <i>The W Effect</i></p>	Quiz K

13	11/21 Happy T-day	Feminism in Muslim Countries	Sunder, "A Culture of One's Own," pp. 149-164 in <i>Nothing Sacred</i>  Darraj, "Understanding the Other Sister," pp. 165-178 in <i>Nothing Sacred</i>	
14	11/29-12/2	Gender, War, and Peace	Gonzales, "Upstanding Native Women," pp. 45-47 in <i>The W Effect</i>  Elliston and Lutz, "Hidden Casualties," pp. 47-56 in <i>The W Effect</i>  Klein, "Rescuing Private Lynch and Forgetting Rachel Corrie" pp. 182-184 in <i>The W Effect</i>  Pozner, "Whatever Happened to the Gender Gap," pp. 198-203 in <i>The W Effect</i>  Houppert, "Against the War but Married to It," pp. 214-220 in <i>The W Effect</i>  Berkman, Celebrating the Many Roles of Women," pp. 185-187 in <i>The W Effect</i>  Featherstone, "Mighty in Pink," pp. 244-249.  Bunch, "Women's Human Rights and Security," pp. 413-420 in <i>Nothing Sacred</i>	Quiz L  Islamic Women Media Analysis due Monday
15	12/2-12/9	Afghan Women and US Policy	St. John, "Raising the Voices of Afghan Women," p. 29-36 in <i>The W Effect</i>  Raha, "Veiled Intentions," pp. 177-180 in <i>The W Effect</i>	Quiz M
Final	Mon 12/12	Final exam (in class, 10 am)		