

MIAMI-DADE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Social Science Discipline

SOP 2991 – Introduction to Women’s Studies

COURSE JUSTIFICATION:

Introduction to Women’s Studies is offered as an individual course and/or as an entire program of study at various institutions in the State and across the country. Generally these courses and programs examine women’s experiences throughout history, across cultures, races and classes. At Miami Dade Community College, providing such a course will enhance the elective opportunities for our students and provide them a transferable social science option applicable to psychology, sociology, and social work majors to name but a few.

A sample of institutions offering this course includes: Stanford University, Bradley University, University of Arizona, and University of Wisconsin. Within the state, the University of South Florida, Florida International University and Florida Atlantic University offer this course. Central Florida, Daytona, and Tallahassee Community Colleges are among those currently offering it as well. Clearly, it meets both interests and needs for students and makes a good addition to our course offerings at the College.

CATALOG DESCRIPTION:

SOP 2991 – Introduction to Women’s Studies 3 credits

No Pre or Co-Requisite. This course emphasizes the role of gender and social class in understanding the female experience drawing on psychological, sociological, literary, historical, and philosophical perspectives. Contemporary issues and problems that influence the role of women today are explored.

MIAMI DADE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Social Science Discipline
SOP 2991 – INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN’S STUDIES

Course Description: this course emphasizes the role of gender and social class in understanding the female experience drawing on psychological, sociological, literary, historical and philosophical perspectives. Contemporary issues and problems that influence the role of women today are explored.

Prerequisites and Corequisites: None

3 credits

Course Competencies:

Competency 1: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the developmental frameworks for the study of gender and society by:

- a. Examining women’s studies as a field of study.
- b. Assessing societal level approaches to understanding women’s lives such as marriage, education, economics and politics.
- c. Describing individual-level approaches to understanding women’s lives including biological, psychoanalytic, cognitive-developmental, learning and institutional theories.
- d. Exploring commonality and difference among women with emphasis on the various models of oppression.

Competency 2: The student will examine gender–defining institutions by:

- a. Studying education of women from historical and contemporary perspectives.
- b. Examining traditional gender roles as it relates to health, fitness and beauty.
- c. Describing religious teachings about women and gender as well as religious activities and influences.
- d. Identifying mass media, commercial media and the cultural and artistic media as defining institutions.
- e. Assessing law and policy as it pertains to governmental views of women, crime, justice and political participation.

Competency 3: The student will examine choice and control in personal life, the family and work by:

- a. Understanding gender, communication and self-expression.
- b. Examining personal and sexual relationships.

- c. Assessing reproduction, parenthood and childcare as defining elements in women's lives.
- d. Evaluating work, employment and the economics of gender as influential in the lives of women.

Competency 4: The student will explore feminism and the global context by:

- a. Considering the development of feminism and women's movements in the United States.
- b. Describing historical and feminist perspectives on women in the Caribbean and African cultures.
- c. Comparing and contrasting transcultural perspectives of women in selected regions of the world.
- d. Evaluating the future of feminism.

Revised 01/06/01