

**WS 299 Women in Sport
Course Syllabus – Winter 2008**

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Description:

WS 299 is an introductory course that focuses on the influence of sport, a gendered institution, on women from cultural, psychosocial, and political perspectives as well as how influential women can be in redefining sport to be more socially inclusive. Examines differences and commonalities of cultural sub-groups of women in American sport and intersects gender with age, social class, income status, race & ethnicity and politics. Explores women's role as participants, spectators, and employees of sport and sports organizations. No prerequisites.

Objectives:

Through WS 299, students should be able to communicate an understanding of sport as a gendered institution from cultural, psychosocial, and political perspectives by:

- Explaining the key theories of gender and sport.
 - Students will be introduced to the application of feminist scholarship to the study of sport and will be able to identify the hegemonic cultural and ideological underpinnings of society which have had an effect on women's access to participation in sport.
- Identifying historical developments.
 - Students will develop an understanding of historical issues for women in sport and will be able to relate them to the current status of women in sport.
- Analyzing the media and representations of women.
 - Students will examine the intersection of race, gender, social class, sexual orientation, and disability within the sport media context and develop an understanding of the impact sport media have on women's participation or lack of participation in sport.
- Communicating issues of 'race' and ethnicity for women.
 - Students will develop an understanding of the current and historical issues of women of color in sport and how social structures have had an impact on their participation.
- Identifying the influence of men and masculinities on women.
 - Students will develop an understanding of the effects of the "cult of masculinity" and the "lesbian label" for women who have chosen to participate in sports as well as for those who have not.
- Discussing sexualities.

- Students will develop an understanding of the current and historical issues of lesbian, bisexual and transgendered women in sport and how social structures have had an impact on their participation.
- Analyzing bodies, physicality, and power issues for women.
 - Students will develop an understanding of early childhood socialization and its impact on girls and women’s participation in sport, empowerment through sport, and identity as sport women.
- Explaining policies and politics.
 - Students will be able to relate Title IX to the NCAA’s Gender Equity program and will be able to identify positive and negative outcomes of both.
 - Students will be able to identify some of the specific obstacles encountered by women who work in the professions of sport.

Texts:

No textbooks are required for this course; however, students will be expected to read journal articles and book chapters posted to Blackboard.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Blackboard:

Announcements, readings, assignments, interesting website links, and grades will be posted on Blackboard. It is expected that students will check Blackboard and e-mail messages on a regular basis.

Academic Honesty:

You will be held responsible for doing your own work on assignments and exams. All forms of cheating will be considered a violation of academic honesty and will be dealt with according to the academic regulations of the University. Possible penalties include an assignment of a failing grade for the work in question or for the course, expulsion from the course or suspension from the University. For OSU Student Conduct Regulations: <http://oregonstate.edu/admin/stucon/index.htm>).

Special Accommodations:

Students with documented disabilities who may need accommodations, who have any emergency medical information the instructor should know of, or who need special arrangements in the event of evacuation, should make an appointment with the instructor as early as possible, no later than the first week of the term. Accommodations are collaborative efforts between students, faculty and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). Students with accommodations approved through SSD are responsible for contacting the faculty member in charge of the course prior to or during the first week of the term to discuss accommodations. Students who believe they are eligible for accommodations but who have not yet obtained approval through SSD should contact their office immediately at 737-4098.

Classroom Behavior:

We must treat each other with dignity and respect in order for teaching, learning, and scholarship to thrive. Please refer to the “Guidelines for Open and Safe Dialogue” as a guide for how we can build and maintain an healthy classroom community.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Weekly Writing Assignments (30%)

Writing assignments will be posted every Monday and need to be handed in during class on Thursday of that week. Students will choose to respond to one of two questions posted to Blackboard; responses will need to be typed, double-spaced, and a minimum of two pages in length. All writing assignments will be scored on a check-plus (exceptional), check (satisfactory), or check-minus (unsatisfactory) system. A check on all assignments will receive full points, while a check-minus or missing assignment will lose points; a check-plus will cancel out a check-minus ☺

Attendance (20%)

Students will be expected to attend each class meeting and participate in small group activities, free-writes, short group presentations, etc. There will be approximately 12 activities during the quarter, of which students will need to complete 10 to receive full points.

Paper (20%)

Each student will have the opportunity to research a topic we have examined in class. This paper will be 7-8 pages (double-spaced) in length. While each student has the opportunity to select her/his own topic, it is required that the students discuss their topics with the instructor prior to beginning research; topics must be approved no later than Week 5. Each paper must include at least 4 sources, all of which must be from text books or professional journal articles. All references must be cited in APA style. More information will be provided regarding the specific requirements of the research paper; the final paper is due no later than Week 9.

Midterm Exam (15%)

The midterm exam will be given in class during Week 6 and will consist of multiple choice, fill-in, and short essay questions. Review questions and sample exam items will be made available on Blackboard.

Final Exam (15%)

The final exam will be given during finals week and will be in the same format as the midterm. Review questions and sample exam items will be made available on Blackboard.

Grading Scale:

A = 90-100%	
B+ = 89-86%	B = 85-80%
C+ = 79-76%	C = 75-70%
D+ = 69-66%	D = 65-60%
F = 59% and below	

Women in Sport Outline of Topics

	Topic	Readings
Week 1	<p><i>Monday:</i> Introductions; Feminism, Feminist Theory, and the Feminist Classroom</p> <p><i>Wednesday:</i> Overview of Sport, Gender, and Systems of Oppression</p>	<p>To be announced</p> <p>Writing Assignment #1</p>
Week 2	<p><i>Monday:</i> Sport Ideology</p> <p><i>Wednesday:</i> Ideology (continued)</p>	<p>To be announced</p> <p>Writing Assignment #2</p>
Week 3	<p><i>Monday:</i> History of Women in Sport in the United States</p> <p><i>Wednesday:</i> Girls & Youth Sport</p>	<p>To be announced</p> <p>Writing Assignment #3</p>
Week 4	<p><i>Monday:</i> Current Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Politics of Sexuality • The Lesbian Label <p><i>Wednesday:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experiences of Women in Sport 	<p>To be announced</p> <p>Writing Assignment #4</p>
Week 5	<p><i>Monday:</i> Title IX: Historical Issues</p> <p><i>Wednesday:</i> Title IX: Contemporary Issues</p> <p>Research Topic Due!</p>	<p>To be announced</p> <p>Writing Assignment #5</p>
Week 6	<p><i>Monday:</i> Midterm Examination</p> <p><i>Wednesday:</i> To be announced</p>	<p>To be announced</p> <p>Writing Assignment #6</p>

Week 7	<i>Monday:</i> Women & Sport Media <i>Wednesday:</i> Women, Sport, & the Capitalist Market	To be announced Writing Assignment #7
Week 8	<i>Monday:</i> Professional Athletes & Coaches <i>Wednesday:</i> Women in the Sports Media and Sports Administration	To be announced Writing Assignment #8
Week 9	<i>Monday:</i> Women & College Athletics <i>Wednesday:</i> Special Issues for Women of Color in Sport Research Paper Duel	To be announced Writing Assignment #9
Week 10	<i>Monday:</i> Special Issues for Women with Disabilities in Sport <i>Wednesday:</i> Conclusions & Future Directions	To be announced Writing Assignment #10