

**Course Outline**  
**WMST 101**  
**Introduction to Women's Studies**  
**3 Credit Hours**

**The Community College of Baltimore County**

**Description**

**Introduction to Women's Studies**

Provides an interdisciplinary introduction to the status, achievements, and experiences of women in society; analyzes past and current theories of gender, power, and equity; critically examines women's experiences in societal institutions such as the arts, education, the labor force, law and politics, marriage and family life, and religion; takes a multi-cultural approach; presents contributions of minority American women and women around the world.

Prerequisite: ENGL 101 or permission of instructor. ENGL 101 may be taken concurrently.

**Overall Course Objectives** (list only those objectives that will be common to all sections of the course)

Upon successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Recognize the uses of feminism as an analytic tool in a number of social science disciplines. (I, IV, V, 1, 2, 3)
2. Analyze and think clearly about the nature and effects of gender differentiation in modern American society. (I, IV, V, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10)
3. Compare and contrast gender roles of men and women of different classes, races, sexual orientations, and national origins. (I, IV, V, 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9)
4. Identify social, political and economic forces that shape the sexual division of labor between men and women in the household and in the work place. (I, IV, V, 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10)
5. Identify social, political and economic forces that have resulted in a significant alteration of the sexual division of labor and/or in the definition of gender. (I, IV, V, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 10)
6. Demonstrate an awareness of some of the key events in women's struggle for equality. (I, V, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10)
7. Recognize connections between gender roles for men and women in the USA and in the rest of the world. (I, IV, V, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10)
8. Demonstrate an awareness of contributions women have made to this country in their roles as mothers, housewives, and participants in this country's labor force. (I, IV, V, 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10)
9. Demonstrate a critical awareness of public policy issues that define gender and the sexual division of labor in the household and in the work place. (I, IV, V, 2, 4, 7, 10)
10. Demonstrate an awareness of the contributions of women who are racial or ethnic minorities in America (see especially the items in objective #8, above.). (IV, V, 1, 4, 7, 8, 9)
11. Demonstrate a critical awareness of their own assumptions about gender relations in diverse cultures, and among persons of different classes, races and sexual orientations. (IV, V, 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 9)
12. Demonstrate effective oral, written and critical thinking skills as they relate to the subject of the course. (II, III, 5, 7)
13. Identify the impact of media (print, electronic, etc.) in shaping gender relations. (II, IV, VI, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10)
14. Utilize information from the Internet in oral and written communication. (II, III, IV, V, VI, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10)

## **Major Topics**

- I. Introduction to the field of Women's Studies
- II. The social construction of gender (inclusive of an analysis of class and race).
- III. Sexuality and Relationships
- IV. Gender and the household
- V. Gender and the workforce
- VI. Gender and public policy
- VII. Comparisons of gender relations by race, country of origin and nationality.
- VII. Topics in Women's Studies (Religion & spirituality, health, reproductive rights, the military, sports, violence, politics)

## **Course Requirements** (VII)

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member, but will include the following:

- 1. The equivalent of 10 pages of writing in the form of reaction papers, term papers, and/or other papers on designated subjects.
- 2. At least one 15 minute oral report and oral presentation
- 3. At least one exam (mid-term or final) with an essay component
- 4. Collaborative work in and outside of class.
- 5. Class participation will constitute a significant percent of a student's grade.
- 6. At least one assignment will require students to use the Internet.

## **Other Course Information**

This course is a Women's Studies core course and a general education elective. It satisfies the diversity component of the Social Sciences requirement.