

Feminism in Action
WGST 3850.01/ WGST 3850.H01/ POLS 3850.01

Saint Louis University
M/ W 3:10-4:25 pm
Brouster 040

Instructor: Dr. Mary Maxfield (she/they)
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COURSE DESCRIPTION This course addresses feminist activism on a wide range of issues (including domestic violence, rape, education and health care), and in a variety of forms (including writing, theater, public protests and coalition building). It gives students the opportunity to study the scholarship of activism and to participate in feminist action.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

By coming to class *prepared, curious, and prepared to contribute to our classroom community*, you will, by the end of the semester, achieve the learning objectives:

- *Understand the range of issues feminists address through activism;*

This course has a Canvas site that is available through MySLU. Canvas will be used in the following ways:

- Required readings: Articles will be posted, usually as PDF files or web links. Students should print articles and bring them to class.
- All handouts and assignments, including a copy of this syllabus, are available on Canvas.
- Written assignments will be submitted through Canvas.
- Announcements and important links will be posted on Canvas.

GRADING

PARTICIPATION (10%)

POST-IT ACTION (5%)

SHOW-AND-TELLS (10%)

REFLECTIONS (25%)

ACTIVIST PROJECT (40%)

ALLY/ COLLABORATOR/ CO-CONSPIRATOR PROJECT (10%)

Attendance: Attendance is necessary in this class. Students can miss 3 classes throughout the course of the semester, without penalty. Additional absences will lower your participation grade. Students who are having difficulty with attendance are encouraged to contact their instructors as soon as possible and remain in active communication to determine reasonable accommodations.

Participation: Attendance is key, but participation goes beyond your presence in the room. Participation means reading materials in advance

- **Stage 3: Learning from Others** [~2 page paper]
- **Stage 4: The Action**
- **Stage 5: The Final Paper [6-8 pages] & Presentation**
 - Each student will present their project in a showcase of Feminism in Action presentations that will be open to the WGS community and friends. Presentation times will vary based on the number of students, but will be announced in advance (likely about 6 minutes per person.)

Ally/ Collaborator/ Co-Conspirator Project (10%): This assignment gives you an opportunity to earn credit for work you do in support of classmate/s or other community members' activism. This could include doing graphics or photography for someone, helping set up an event, participating in a brainstorming meeting, editing a brochure, etc. The total amount of time on your ally project(s) should be 3-4 hours. A form will be provided for you to log your hours. Provide at least 2 paragraphs of reflections on being an ally/ collaborator/ co-conspirator: what does it mean to contribute to someone else's project--why, perhaps, should we do such work? What is learned about their work, about activism, and about yourself as a feminist activist?

COURSE POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS:

Late work: The post-it action, *personal* reflections, and first 3 stages for the activist project can be submitted within one week of the deadline, for credit minus a 10% late penalty. The *action* reflections and the last two stages of the activist project (action and paper/ presentation) need to be submitted by the deadline in order to earn credit. Students with concerns about submitting work on time are encouraged to contact the instructor in advance of the deadline.

Community Care Policies:

- Please prepare in advance of class. Review the assigned material, reflect on it, and bring specific thoughts and questions to create a fruitful discussion.
- Please learn and use the names of classmates, particularly when you do not know or remember their pronouns.
- Keep in mind that this course covers a variety of topics, which may elicit strong opinions or personal feelings for you and/or your classmates. Please listen closely and display respect for everyone in our community, as we explore these ideas together. You can use "ouch/ oops" or other methods to bring attention to comments that are mistaken or harmful.
- You have the right to request content warnings for specific subject matter, the use of an alternate name or personal pronouns, or other accommodations from the instructor, to improve your ability to participate in the course. You also have the right to remove yourself from class discussions when necessary and to follow-up with the instructor afterward.
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All readings/ assignments should be completed ahead of class for the day they are listed. This schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in-class and on Canvas.

Personal Reflections: 3 (of 5) required.
Action Reflections: 12 (of 17) required.

UNIT 1: FOUNDATIONS

W Aug 24 Intro to Class/ Each Other/ Community Guidelines

M Aug 29 ~~Personal Reflections~~ ~~122.66 529.39 Tm 0 g 0 G [()] T~~ ~~JJTTQQ000000813.55008012~~ ~~WBH/H3H2/HH~~

UNIT 2: INTERSECTIONS

M Sep 19 LGBTQIA+ Activism: The St. Louis Queer Support Helpline (SQSH)

- View “A Conversation with SQSH” [video], starting at 30:15 (SQSH’s Founding, Mission and Programs)

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W Oct 12

- W Nov 9 Reproductive Justice: Sex Education**
- Listen to “A Very Specific Mary Poppins” (~40 min)
 - Explore the Scarleteen website.
 - Action Reflection 14

UNIT 5: CULTURE AND LAW

- M Nov 14 Sport & Education Inequity: Title IX**
- Read “Title IX and How We Got It” (Sandler)
 - Action Reflection 15
- W Nov 16 Feminist Literacy**
- Read *The Feminist Bookstore Movement* [excerpt] (Hogan)
 - Action Reflection 16
- M Nov 21 Looking Forward**
- “A Killjoy Manifesto” and “A Killjoy Survival Kit” (Ahmed)
 - Personal Reflection 4: Your Manifesto
 - **Feminist Action: Stage 4: Action Due**

W Nov 23 NO CLASS

- M Nov 28 Culture Work: Riot Grrrl**
- Watch *The Punk Singer*
 - Action Reflection 17: Riot Grrrl
- W Nov 30 Looking Back, Looking Forward**
- Personal Reflection 5: Feminist Killjoy Survival Kit
 - Last opportunity for second show-and-tell
- M Dec 5 Student Presentations (Tentative Schedule)**
Feminist Action: Stage 5: Reflection Essay Due
- W Dec 7 Student Presentations (Tentative Schedule)**