Department of Gender and Women’s Studies  
GWS103 Women & Their Bodies in Health and Disease  

FALL 2010, M & W 12:05-12:55AM; Ingraham B10  

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Your TA is your discussion section facilitator and guide to learning the material of the course. Your TA also has the task of evaluating your work in consultation with the professor. If you have questions or concerns about your discussion section, grade, or any other important issue related to this class, PLEASE SPEAK TO YOUR TEACHING ASSISTANT FIRST. If the question is not resolved, speak to me. If the question or concern is still not resolved, speak with the Chair of the Department, Jane Collins. She will attempt to resolve the issue and inform you of the Appeals Procedure if no resolution is reached informally.  

BE AWARE: this class has 500 students and if you email me there will be a chance your message will not be answered in a timely manner. Your first line of communication in this class is your TA.  

Course Description: This course covers basic facts about the structure and functioning of the female body. Particular attention is paid to adjustments the body makes during normal physiological events—menstruation, sexuality, reproduction, and menopause—and during disease processes. We will explore women’s mental and physical health issues in relation to women’s lives and women’s roles in society. We will also study the relationship of women as consumers, practitioners, and activists to the health system and the achievements and limitations of women’s health movements. Throughout the entire course, we will discuss anti-oppression, intersectionalities, and cross-cultural perspectives for all topics covered.  

Required Books:  

Highly Recommended (not required):  
www.ourbodiesourselves.org web companion for Our Bodies Ourselves  
www.nwhn.org National Women’s Health Network
iClicker: Since this class has 500 students, one of the best methods available on campus to test students’ learning process on a daily basis is the iClicker system. For this class YOU ARE REQUIRED to use an iClicker device. The clicker unit currently costs around $35.00, but you can also buy one used. Bookstores will buy back iClicker devices at the end of each semester. For further instructions on iClicker use, registering the device, or for FAQ visit the UW Madison iClicker Support Site at http://comets.wisc.edu/clickers/ and click “students” at the bottom right of the page.

All books and the iClicker for the course are available for purchase at A Room of One's Own Bookstore, 307 W. Johnson St. Books will also be on reserve at H.C. White, the Social Science Library (8th floor), and the Steenbock Library.

Handouts and Additional Materials: Throughout the semester, we will use Learn@UW to post ALL important information (syllabi, handouts, additional readings, links to useful research and writing resources, etc.). In most cases, the information posted online will NOT be distributed in class. IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK THE SITE BEFORE YOU COME TO CLASS EACH DAY.

Course Requirements and Grading Policy: Students are expected to attend all lectures and discussion sections. If you must be absent from lecture due to illness, religious observance, or family emergency, please obtain the lecture notes from a classmate. It is your responsibility to get the notes for any lectures that you miss. If you need to be absent from discussion section, please notify your TA as soon as possible. For exams, you will be held responsible for all material covered in lectures, readings and discussion sections. All required readings must be completed BEFORE lecture and discussion (except the first assigned reading, which must be completed before the second day of class). Films shown in lecture are considered a crucial part of the class and will be included on the midterms and the final.

Failure to attend discussion sections will affect section grades as follows:
A 0-1 absences C 5 absences
AB 2 absences D 6 absences
B 3 absences F 7 or more absences
BC 4 absences

Extra Credits: During the semester we will offer some extra credit options for those students who would like to improve their grade. More information on extra credits will be posted on Learn@UW.

IMPORTANT RULES:
Lecture:
· No cell phones in lecture. NO TEXTING!!!
· Computers are allowed in lecture for note-taking purposes only. PLEASE, be aware that coming to lecture means paying attention, taking notes, and challenging your own way of thinking. If you come to class and engage in Facebook, email, online shopping and so on instead of paying attention to the lecture, you will not only be wasting your own time, but you will be showing disrespect toward your professor, the TAs, and your classmates. We retain the right to prohibit the use of computers in class for ALL GWS 103 students if we witness the disrespectful behavior of using computers during lecture for non-academic purposes.
Discussion:
· No cell phones
· No computers. There is no need for computers in discussion.

Letter Grades will be based on the following scale:
A 93-100  C 70-77
AB 88-92  D 65-69
B 83-87  F under 65
BC 78-82

General Course Grading and Important Dates:
Discussion (attendance and participation)  20% Weekly
Midterm 1  20% Mon 10/11
Midterm 2  20% Mon 11/8
Paper  20% Wed 12/1
Final Exam  20% Tue 12/21, 7:45- 9:45AM

Term Paper
A detailed handout with specific instructions for the paper will be posted at Learn@UW approximately one month before the paper is due.

Late, Missed, or Incomplete Work: Except for reasons beyond your control such as a serious illness (justified by a doctor) or emergency, your grade will be reduced each day an assignment remains incomplete or not turned in. After a week, we will not accept late, incomplete, or missed work, and you will receive an "F" for that portion of your grade.

Incomplete final grades will not be given EXCEPT in situations of serious illness or family emergency, which must be documented.

Accessibility: Please let us know if you require any alternative accommodations or if you have any accessibility concerns that may affect your performance in this course. The McBurney Resource Center (www.mcburney.wisc.edu), 1305 Linden Dr. 263-2741, TTY 263-6393, provides useful assistance and documentation for a range of needs and concerns.

Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct: Plagiarism means presenting the words or ideas of others without giving them credit. It is your responsibility to learn what constitutes plagiarism and the correct rules for citing sources. In general, if your paper implies that you are the author, the ideas and words must be your own. If you use someone else’s exact words, they should be enclosed in quotation marks with the exact source listed. Please, refer to the Dean of Students’ web page for further information: www.wisc.edu/students/amsun.htm

Examples of Academic Misconduct include but are not limited to: cutting and pasting portions of a text from the web without quotation marks or proper citation; paraphrasing from the web without crediting the source; using another person’s ideas, words, or research and presenting it as your own by not properly crediting the originator; signing another person’s name to an attendance sheet; cheating on an exam. For more details refer again to the Dean of Students’ web page: www.wisc.edu/students/amsun.htm This Website also has useful information on what do to if you are charged with academic misconduct.
CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

BW Biology of Women
WH Women’s Health: Readings on Social, Economic, and Political Issues (5th ed.)
WW Where Women Have No Doctor

Week 1
Wed 9/8 Introduction and Course Overview.
WH “If Men Could Menstruate” 262-263
WW Chapter 4 “Understanding Our Bodies”

ALL SECTIONS MEET THIS WEEK

Week 2
Mon 9/13 Anatomy of the Female Reproductive System
BW “Reproductive Anatomy” 30-52; 194-198
WH “Kegel Exercise” 500-501
WH “Made to Order Vaginas” 204-205
WH “The Truth About Your Clitoris” 454-456
WH “How to Stop Female Genital Mutilation” 205-207
WH “Cultural Practice or Reconstructive Surgery” 193-203
WW Chapter 30 “Female Genital Cutting”

Wed 9/15 The Gynecological Exam
BW Chapter 8 “Gynecological Exam”
WH “How to Tell Your Doctor” (a Classic) 20-24
WH “The Gynecological Exam” 24-27
WH “Cadavers, Dolls—Pelvic Rehearsal” 27-36
WH “Spreading My Legs” 37-38
WH “Take a Good Look” 38-40
WW Chapter 1 “Women’s Health is a Community Issue”

Week 3
Mon 9/20 Sex Differences and Intersexuality
BW “Basis of Biological Differences” 145-165
WH “Male and Female Hormones” 167-168
WH “Coming to Terms with Transgenderism” 169-172
WH “Intersexuals: Exploding Binary Sex Systems” 185-188
WH “The Five Sexes, Revisited” 189-193

Wed 9/22 Women and the Health Care System
BW Chapter 1 “Women & Their Health”
WH “Sexism in Women’s Medical Care” (a Classic) 4-8
WH “Diagnosing Gender Disparities in Health” 8-10
WH “The Women’s Health Movement” 41-46
WH “Tales Out of Medical School” 67-70
WW Chapter 2 “Solving Health Problems”
Week 4
Mon 9/27  
Inequalities in Women’s Health  
WH “Age, Race, Class, and Sex” 87-91  
WH “There is no Hierarchy of Oppression” 91-92  
WH “Racism” & “Unlearning Racism” 93-96  
WH “What are Health Disparities?” 101-102  
WH “Why Do Health Disparities Exist?” 102-103  
WW Chapter 3 “The Medical System”  

Wed 9/29  
Access to the Health Care System  
WH “Health at the Margins” 108-110  
WH “Under the Shadow of Tuskegee” 111-116  
WH “Immigrant Women’s Health” 123-126  
WH “For Us It’s Life or Death” 127-130  
WH “Financially Vulnerable” 131-134  
WH “Do Ask, Do Tell” 486-489 & “Lesbian Health” 490-492  

Week 5
Mon 10/4  
Sexuality, Culture, and Health  
BW Chapter 6 “Female Sexuality”  
WH “Education for Sexual Intimacy & Agency” 440-446  
WH “Adolescent Sexual Health” 448-453  
WH “How Being a Good Girl” 456-464  
WH “Orgasm Gap” 466-479  

Wed 10/6  
Sexuality, Culture, and Health (Cont.)  
WH “A New View of Women’s Sexual Problems” 479-483  
WH “A New Politics of Sexuality” 484-486  
WH “Contraceptive Jelly on Toast” 531-534  
WH “The Need for Intimacy” 497-498  

Week 6
Mon 10/11  
EXAM 1 (in class) The exam will cover all lectures, discussion sections, handouts, and readings assigned through 10/6  

Wed 10/13  
Sexually Transmitted Infections and HIV  
BW “Gynecological Difficulties” 251-280  
WH “Women & the Risks & Burdens of HIV” 675-676  
WH “Cervical Cancer Vaccines” 686-687  
WH “Hold Hype on HPV” 687-689  
WW Chapter 16 “Sexually Transmitted Infections”  
WW Chapter 17 “HIV/AIDS”  
WW Chapter 20 “Sex Workers”  

Week 7
Mon 10/18  
Hormones and the Endocrine System; Menstrual Cycle  
BW “Puberty, Hormones & Monthly Cycles” 81-88  
BW “Menstrual Cycle/Hormonal Interrelatioships” 63-81  
Reread WH “Male and Female Hormones” 167-168  
WH “Puberty and Growing Up” 263-269
Wed 10/20  **Issues Related to Menstruation**  
BW Chapter 4 “Menstrual Problems”  
WH “Don’t Just Go with the Flow” 270-274  
WH “The Selling of PMS” (a Classic) 274-277  
WH “To Bleed or Not to Bleed” 278-279

**Week 8**  
Mon 10/25  **Science of Conception & Contraception**  
BW “Getting Pregnant” 313-324  
WH “Eight New Nonhormonal Contraceptive Methods for Men” 544-547  
WW Chapter 13 “Family Planning”

Wed 10/27  **“The Pill”**  
BW “Oral Contraceptives” 419-459  
WH “A Dangerous Combination” 237-244  
WH “The Pill May Not Mix Well” 534-535  
WH “Acquiescence in Contraceptive Market” 538-539  
WH “Next Target: Birth Control” 539-542  
WH “Years In The Making” 547-549

**Week 9**  
Mon 11/1  **Reproductive Justice**  
WH “Introduction to Chapter 10” 503-508  
WH “The Color of Choice” 509-516  
WH “The Political Context for Women of Color” 519-528  
WH “Latina Agenda for Reproductive Justice” 529-530  
WH “For Native Women Reproductive Rights Mean” 530-531  
WH “Reproductive Issues are Essential for Asian Americans” 557-559

Wed 11/3  **Infertility and Reproductive Technologies**  
BW Chapter 12 “Problems of Infertility”  
WH “Discovering You Are Infertile” 559-564  
WH “Update to Infertility” 564-565  
WH “The Colour of Loss” 566-571  
WW Chapter 14 “Infertility”

**Week 10**  
Mon 11/8  **EXAM 2** (In class) The exam will cover all lectures, discussion sections, hand-outs, and readings assigned from 10/13 to 11/3

Wed 11/10  **Images of Women as a Health Issue**  
WH “What is a Theory of Women Smoking?” 162-164  
WH “Fatphobia” 391-392 & “Mental Health Issues” 393-395  
WH “Making A Way Outa No Way” 401-414  
WH “The Picture of Health” 217-225  
WH “Cosmetic Surgery Coopts Feminism” 442-424  
WH “Pressures of Perfectionism” 424-426
**Week 11**

**Mon 11/15**  
*Pregnancy and Childbirth*  
BW “Maternal Changes During Pregnancy” 324-333  
BW “Labor and Delivery” 353-374  
WH “Cultural Warping of Childbirth” 583-588  
WH “Routine Midwifery Care” 589-592  
WH “Overview of Maternity Care” 592-593

**Wed 11/17**  
*Pregnancy and Childbirth (Cont.)*  
WH “Ideals vs. Reality in US Births” 594  
WH “How Do Socioeconomic Factors Affect Disparities” 595-597  
WW Chapter 6 “Pregnancy and Childbirth”  
WW Chapter 7 “Breastfeeding”

**Week 12**

**Mon 11/22**  
*Abortion and Complications of Abortion*  
BW “Abortion” 472-481  
WH “Who Has Abortions?” 549-550  
WH “Shortage of Abortion Providers” 550-551  
WH “The Side Effects, Risks and Complications” 551-554  
WW Chapter 15 “Abortion and Complications of Abortion”

**Wed 11/24**  
*Violence Against Women*  
WW Chapter 18 Violence Against Women”  
WW Chapter 19 Rape and Sexual Assault”

NO SECTIONS THIS WEEK/THANKSGIVING WEEK

**Week 13**

**Mon 11/29**  
*Violence Against Women (Cont.)*  
WH “Continuum of Family Violence” 329  
WH “Power and Control” and “Equality Wheels” 330-331  
WH “Adolescent Battered Women” 332-335  
WH “Breaking the Silence” 335-336  
WH “Role Health Workers Can Play” 337-339  
WH “Battered Women of Color” 341-346  
WH “Same-Sex Battering” 348-353  
WH “Trans & Intersex DV” 353-357

**Wed 12/1**  
*Mental Health*  
WH “Women and Mental Health” 288-293  
WH “Mad Women or Mad Society: Towards a Feminist Practice with Women Survivors of Child’s Sexual Assault” 294-300  
WH “Frequency, Causes, and Risk Factors for Depression” 300-305  
WH “Depression in Wisconsin Women” 305-306  
WW Chapter 27 “Mental Health”
Week 14
Mon 12/6  Menopause & Hormone Therapy
BW Chapter 14 “Menopause”
WH “Menopause’s Milder Side” 635-637
WH “Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT)” 637-644
WH “Less Hormone Therapy, Less Breast Cancer” 649-650
WW Chapter 8 “Growing Older”

Wed 12/8  Cancer & The Politics of Prevention
BW “Breast Cancer” 207-240
WH “Breast Cancer: Power vs. Prosthesis” 660-664
WH “Breast Implants for Reconstruction: A Closer Look” 664-665
WH “Breast Cancer: The Environmental Connection” 665-670
WH “Screening Mammograms” 673-675
WH “Cervical Cancer Vaccines in Context” 686-687

Week 15
Mon 12/13  The Medicalization of Women’s Health vs. The Absolute Neglect of Women’s Health
WH “Six Steps Toward a Better Future” 255-256
WW Chapter 31 “Use of Medicines in Women’s Health”
WH “Manufacturing Knowledge” 226-228
WH “Overdosed America” 228-229
WH “Prescription Drug Ad” 249-250
WH “Health Info on the Web” 253-255

No readings for this day. Prepare for the Final Exam.

NO SECTIONS THIS WEEK

HAVE A GREAT WINTER BREAK!!!!!