

**AMST 5800 INDEPENDENT STUDY
FEMINIST THEORY AND PRACTICE
SPRING 2015**

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Kristin Jacobson

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Over the course of the semester you will develop a portfolio to demonstrate what you have learned and accomplished through your independent reading in feminist theory and practice and responsibilities at the Women's Center in Linwood, NJ. Special attention will be paid to the application of feminist theory.

EVALUATION

The final portfolio as well as your supervisor's confirmation of the completion of 60-70 hours will determine your grade in the course.

GRADING SCALE

100-95: A	89.9-87: B+	79.9-77: C+	69.9-67: D+
94.9-90: A-	86.9-83: B	76.9-73: C	66.9-63: D
	82.9-80: B-	72.9-70: C-	62.9-60: D-
			59.9 & below: F

PORTFOLIO ASSIGNMENTS

At the end of the semester you will assemble final versions of the four assignments listed below into a final portfolio and upload it to Blackboard. The final versions of your assignments should be revised to reflect feedback you received on your drafts.

1) TIMESHEET (10%)

Evidence of the completion of 60-70 hours at the Women's Center in Linwood, NJ. Supervisor's signature/email approval of timesheet hours.

2) INDEPENDENT STUDY PLAN (10%)

Write a 1-2 page plan describing your internship position and the weekly independent readings for your independent study. In your plan include:

1. The goals you plan to achieve through your experience and independent reading: what do you want to learn? What do you want to achieve? How do you plan to reach your goals?
2. A description of the institution and its mission;
3. A description of your supervisor and his/her position as well as your own responsibilities;
4. Independent Reading weekly syllabus: outline the set of reading topics/assignments

Submit a **draft** of this assignment by **2/13** on Blackboard.

3) WEEKLY JOURNAL (40%)

Keep a weekly journal of your reading reflections and your activities and assignments as an intern. Submit your journal on Blackboard three times over the semester (**2/26, 3/27, and 4/24**).

During the course of the semester, you may wish to reflect on one or more of the following questions in your journal:

- What is the organizational structure of your organization? Is it a feminist structure? How so? Why not? What makes this organization feminist? What definition of feminism are you applying?

- What are your responsibilities? How do these responsibilities advance the goal of feminism?
- What new (feminist) skills have you learned? How are you applying them in the internship, in your profession life, and/or in your coursework in American studies?
- What have you learned about the professional world? What does it mean to look at the professional world through a feminist lens? What does it mean to be a “professional feminist” or a “feminist professional”?
- How does your academic knowledge in American Studies and feminist theory and practice relate to your work as an intern? To your work as a teacher? To other aspects of your life?
- How does the specific week’s reading apply (or not) to your work at the Women’s Center?
- Has your experience been what you expected?
- What have you learned about yourself? About feminist theory and practice?
- Can you see yourself working at or volunteering at your organization in the future? Why or why not?
- How do you see yourself applying feminist theory and practice in the future?

4) PORTFOLIO EVIDENCE AND PROJECTS (40%)

Complete the informational interview and include work samples or complete more than one interview to include in the final portfolio (**due 1 May**).

INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEW

Interview a grant writer and/or professional that identifies as a feminist. You may interview your internship supervisor or anyone who works with you at your organization. You should not interview a Stockton professor, close friends, or family members. Interviews must be conducted in person. After you have completed the informational interview, write a 2-3 page reflection of the meeting. Submit **draft** by **4/13**.

Your reflection should address the following topics and questions:

- Who you interviewed (including the interviewee’s name, title, organization, and full contact information).
- Why you chose this person.
- How the interview has helped guide your knowledge of grant writing and/or feminist theory/practice.
- The interviewee’s general biographical background.
- What were you trying to accomplish with your interview and how did you formulate questions to achieve your goal?
- Was there anything particularly surprising about the individual’s professional career path?
- What were some of the most interesting things you learned from the interview?
- How would you evaluate the interviewee’s ability to serve as a leader in his/her field?
- Did the interview confirm or challenge your ideas about grant writing/feminism?
- How would you rate the way you conducted yourself in the interview? What would you improve in your next opportunity?

WORK SAMPLES

This section of the portfolio provides you with an opportunity to showcase your knowledge, skills, and abilities gained through the internship. For each work sample, include a cover page that explains the nature and context of each work sample.

In your cover page, identify the following:

- What did you do in each work sample? What was your contribution to it (if it was the product of a team effort)?
- What skills did you employ in producing this product?
- To what extent, if any, does this work sample demonstrate progress toward specific goals of your organization?
- To what extent, if any, does this work sample demonstrate progress toward your professional goals?