

The Voices of American Women - COMM416 – Spring 2007

Course Description & Objectives: With emphasis on the feminist public sphere and gendered communication, the purpose of this course is to study U.S. history by examining the public discourse of women in the 19th and 20th centuries, and today. The course will consider how history is revealed in women's public discourse as well as how our history may have been shaped by that discourse.

By the end of the course, you will not only have a better understanding of women's history in the United States, but also of the unique situations and styles of women's rhetoric. You will be able to critically examine a text and identify the strategies employed, the obstacles faced, and perhaps the success achieved, by the speaker. And, as a Speaking Intensive course, you will be better able to present your own speeches in more effective ways.

Texts & Course Materials: Textbooks have been ordered through the SUNY Potsdam bookstore, and they are available through online retailers.

1. Campbell, K.K. (1989). *Man cannot speak for her: A critical study of early feminist rhetoric. Volume I.* *REQUIRED*
2. Flexner, E. & Fitzpatrick, E. (1996). *Century of struggle: The woman's rights movement in the United States.* *REQUIRED*
3. Campbell, K.K. (1989) *Man cannot speak for her: Key texts of the early feminists. Volume II.* *STRONGLY RECOMMENDED* [Note: I hope to put a copy of this book on reserve in the library.]
4. Voices of American Women Supplementary Reader – AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE ONLY THROUGH DR. KNOPF

You will need a notebook to use for a journal. This should be a specially designated notebook, separate from the one you use for other classes and separate from the one you may be taking notes in. You will be turning this journal in regularly. (The notebook does not have to be any special kind and I don't care what it looks like.)

Assignments and Grading: Your final grade in this class will be the weighted average of the following assignments and activities. Due dates for assignments are clearly marked in the semester calendar and late work will not be accepted.

Reading: 0% Though completion of all reading assignments is not a factor in your grade, it is a factor in your overall success in and enjoyment of this course. Readings are due on the day they are noted on the calendar (attached), and your timely completion of them will help to ensure more lively and engaging classes, and less lecturing from me. [Note: Readings are marked as KKC and F&F. KKC is the Campbell vol. 1 book. F&F is the Flexner and Fitzpatrick "Century of Struggle" book.]

Are You A Feminist? Papers 1 & 2: 10% These 2 short papers will ask you, at different times in the semester, to examine your own beliefs and to answer the question: Do you consider yourself to be a feminist? Why or why not? There is no right or wrong answer for these papers, but a thoughtful, type-written, response of 1-2 pages is expected.

Women's Issues Journal: 25% Much of this course deals with early feminism and women's issues. To help you see connections between history and present day, you are being asked to look through news sources (such as papers, magazines, TV, radio, Internet, etc.) for current events relating to gender issues (examples: the "morning after" pill being sold OTC, concerns about the status of Roe v. Wade, gender discrimination in businesses like Wal-Mart, female candidates for office or female government representatives...). You should make at least one journal entry a week, of 1-2 pages, noting the issue and responding to it. In your entries, give special consideration to the arguments being made about the issue: Can you draw any comparisons or contrasts between the nature of these modern arguments and those of the historical ones being discussed in the class?

As a Speaking Intensive class, 40% of your grade must be made up of speaking activities. These activities are as follows:

Teaching Moments: 5% You will be assigned a portion of the reading for the semester to teach to the rest of the class, and will lead class discussion on that reading. This grade will be based on effort and preparedness alone, not on the "rightness" or "wrongness" of your presentation, and I will assist you in your teaching moment. (I foresee these teaching moments lasting no more than 15 minutes. You will not be expected to teach for the entire class time.)

Speech 1: 20% You will select one of the early speeches discussed in your texts to modernize for a present-day audience, and you will present that updated version of that speech using language and arguments that would resonate with people today in 2007. (You will also get to shorten the speech.)

Speech 2: 15% You will present an original persuasive speech regarding your stance on a current gender issue (such as birth control, abortion, the "glass ceiling," Affirmative Action, or others).

Rhetorical Criticism: 25% You will do a rhetorical critique of any women's rights speech delivered from 1790 to 1920. (See attached for further details.)

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: You are expected to uphold the college's standards or academic integrity. Plagiarism of any kind is not tolerated in this class and will result in failure of the course.

Attendance: Attendance in class is mandatory, especially given the hands-on nature of the course material. (We will be making use of a variety of media sources, including a lot of pop culture movies and TV shows.) Your absence in the class is not only detrimental to your own learning and performance, but it can negatively effect your fellow classmates when we are engaging in group activities. Late arrivals and early departures are also unproductive and disruptive and will not be tolerated, except in emergency circumstances. Because this class meets twice a week, YOU ARE ALLOWED ONLY TWO (2) "FREE" ABSENCES (though any missed work will have to be made up by you); I recommend that you use it wisely, if at all. If you miss 4 classes, your final grade will be lowered by one whole letter. IF YOU MISS MORE THAN 4 CLASSES, YOU WILL FAIL THE COURSE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

In the event of an emergency or an extreme circumstance, please come to me immediately to discuss the situation, and we will consider alternatives in those events.

Semester Calendar – DUE DATES

<u>DAY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CHAPTERS</u>
Tuesday	23-Jan	
Thursday	25-Jan	Hart & Kemp - reader
Tuesday	30-Jan	Habermas & Cohen - reader
Thursday	1-Feb	Tannen & Jamieson - reader <i>{paper 1 due}</i>
Tuesday	6-Feb	Madam Pres & Images - reader
Thursday	8-Feb	F&F 1 & 2
Tuesday	13-Feb	KKC 1 & 2
Thursday	16-Feb	F&F 3 & 4
RECESS RECESS		
Thursday	22-Feb	F&F 5, KKC 3 & 4
Tuesday	27-Feb	F&F 6 & 7
Thursday	1-Mar	KKC 5
Tuesday	6-Mar	F&F 10
Thursday	8-Mar	KKC 6
Tuesday	13-Mar	<i>Speech 1</i>
Thursday	15-Mar	<i>Speech 1</i>
Tuesday	20-Mar	F&F 11, 12
Thursday	22-Mar	KKC 7
RECESS RECESS		
Tuesday	3-Apr	F&F 13 & 14
Thursday	5-Apr	KKC 8
Tuesday	10-Apr	F&F 16
Thursday	12-Apr	KKC 9
Tuesday	17-Apr	F&F 17 & 18
Thursday	19-Apr	KKC 10
Tuesday	24-Apr	F&F 19-21
Thursday	26-Apr	work on final speeches or paper
Tuesday	1-May	F&F 23-24
Thursday	3-May	KKC 11 & 12 <i>{paper 2 due}</i>
Tuesday	8-May	<i>Speech 2</i>
Thursday	10-May	<i>Speech 2</i>
FINAL	EXAM	<i>rhetorical critique paper</i>

Contact: My office is Morey Hall 144.

Office hours: Tue/Thu 10:45 am – 12:00 pm & 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm, Wed 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm. And by appointment.

Email: knopfcm@potdam.edu (Please put "American Women" or COMM416 in the subject line so your message is not filtered as SPAM.)

Phone: 315-267-2883

Stay Tuned: I will be setting up a Web page for this course that will contain useful links and other information.