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UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT CHATTANOOGA

Women's Studies Newsletter

Edited By: Blake Harris

Spring 2011 Class Schedule

*WSTU 2000	Introduction to Women's Studies	W	2:00	4:30	Byers
*WSTU 2950	Violence Against Women	M	5:30	8:00	Eigenberg
*WSTU 2950	Violence Against Women	TT	1:40	2:55	Peters
WSTU 3050	Sex and Gender	MWF	12:00	12:50	Miles
WSTU 3240	Race, Gender and the Media	TT	12:15	1:30	Alderman
WSTU 4150	European Women's History to 1800	TT	1:40	2:55	White
WSTU4170	Women in the Economy	TT	10:50	12:05	Pratt
WSTU 4250	Gender, Crime and Criminal Justice	MWF	11:00	11:50	Knox
WSTU 4550R	Museums, Men and Movies	TT	1:40	2:55	Becksvoord
WSTU 4550R	Hell Raisers: Women and the Body Politic	W	5:30	8:00	Mauk
WSTU 4830	Feminist Theory	TT	3:05	4:20	Welsh
WSTU 4960	Senior Seminar	TBA	TBA	TBA	Palmer

* This course partially fulfills general education requirements for the Behavioral and Social Sciences category.

Southeastern Women's Studies Association Conference

In March 2010, Dr. Heather Palmer took a group of students to the conference of the regional organization, SEWSA, which is "committed to scholarship and activism eliminating oppression and discrimination on the basis of sex, race, age, religion, sexual orientation, ethnic background, physical ability, and class" (www.sewsa.nwsa.org).

Jen Litton, Carla Fulgham and Megan Coleman presented papers with Dr. Palmer. Each of the students were in Dr. Palmer's Queer Theory course (4550R) and presented the papers that she had researched and developed throughout the semester.



Dr. Heather Palmer- Acting Coordinator

Dr. Heather Palmer will be acting coordinator for the Women's Studies program during Dr. Marcia Noe's 2010-2011 sabbatical. She is dedicated to feminism, not just as a movement for the liberation for women, but as a broad social movement for the equality of individuals. Dr. Palmer believes that feminism is thus structurally linked to the larger ethical project of human rights in this era of globalization and is a movement critical to the lives of both women *and* men.



Results of the Spring 2010 Mentor Program

In the fall semester of 2009, four Women's Studies majors were approached by Dr. Marcia Noe and Dr. Lisa Cothran about helping with a service and research project: "Low Retention of High Ability Underachieving Female Students." The study paired four first-year students with a high-achieving junior or senior Women's Studies major.

The rationale for this project was based on research that indicates the following outcomes:

- The college experience impacts males and females differently
- First-year females from nontraditional college populations (e.g. low-income, first-generation, women of color, etc) are at risk for noncompletion
- College women's academic achievement is



closely linked to relationships with others

- Mentoring is effective in improving student retention, performance, academic satisfaction, and developmental gains.

After the students were paired and introduced, the thirteen week program began. The students began meeting at least twice a week to discuss varying topics, including how to establish a student/professor relationship, the best places to study and studying techniques, how to cope with dorm life, and how to set attainable academic goals. The pairs were also involved in research projects that unveiled the methods of scholarly work.

Once the dust settled from the hectic end to the semester and grades were released, each of the four first-year students had successfully raised her GPA. Each student found that having a mentor provided accountability and encouragement, which made a positive impact on her level of academic engagement.

Mentor Program Participants

(back row, left to right): Blake Harris, Anne Brettell, Megan Coleman, Megan Wilson, Kelley Close, Chassey Foster, Rachel Koch, (front row, left to right) Nicola Hall and Dr. Lisa Cothran

Dr. Rebecca Jones Tenured and Promoted to Associate Professor



Dr. Rebecca Jones has now been granted tenure at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Dr. Jones moved to Chattanooga to begin working at UTC and has been employed by the university for five years in English and Women's studies.

She said that even though the tenure process is one that is very detailed and includes a lot of prep work, it is a "very useful process." Although the process is one that takes several years to complete, Dr. Jones said that "everyone was very supportive," making it a "smooth process."

Along with tenure, she has also been promoted to an Associate Professor. She appreciates the opportunity to develop classes for English and Women's Studies. These courses are developed through pursuing topics that she is passionate about and have validity in the student's academic careers. Many of her courses and published works revolve around rhetoric and feminism.

Dr. Jones received her Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and has also won the College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Teacher Award. She is currently teaching Introduction to Women's Studies.

Senior Seminar

Any Women's Studies major who plans to graduate in May or December 2011 should sign up for Senior Seminar (WSTU 4960). For more information and to enroll, please contact Dr. Heather Palmer (Heather-Palmer@utc.edu).

Museums, Men and Movies

Professor Andrea Becksvoort will be teaching a new course for the Women's Studies program in Spring 2011 (TT, 1:40-2:55) entitled "Museum, Men and Movies." This class will interrogate how the growth of large museums, the professionalization of the academic disciplines particularly anthropology and history, and the emergence of mass media in the late nineteenth and early 20th centuries contributed to the formation of national identity in the United States.

Fall Lecture Series

BFFs or Frenemies:

Female Friendship in Literature and Culture

Dr. Marcia Noe

November 8

5:30 in the Signal Mountain Room

Small Screens and Big Streets:

A Comparison of Women Police Officers on Prime-Time Crime Shows and US Police

Dr. Lorraine Evans

November 15

5:30 in the Signal Mountain Room

The Femme Fatale in Literature and Culture– Prof. Gale Mauk

Exotic dancers. Biblical women. Laura Croft. These are just a few of the topics that are being discussed in Professor Gale Mauk's exciting new course: "Femme Fatale in Literature and Culture." Mauk describes the class as "an interdisciplinary examination of historical, mythic and fictional women whose attractiveness, sensuality and desire for power resulted in their being classified as irresistible, but socially dangerous." Her students are reading works pertaining to the Biblical figures Judith and Salome, as well as Vera Caspera's noir novel *Laura*, making stops along the way to plot the evolution of the film versions of Cleopatra, and to view Josephine Baker's infamous "Banana Dance." The course involves not only academic/feminist essays and criticism, but also studies of the Femme Fatale representations in dance, song, film, stage and visual art.



The students in the class are diverse and come from many different academic disciplines. Although the coursework is often intense and the theories can be dense, it is important to Mauk that students enjoy the course while discovering the development of the representation of women in art. Mauk will teach *Hell Raisers: Women and the Body Politic* in Spring 2011.



Mata Hari, the Dutch exotic dancer.

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Spring 2011 Lecture Series

Ralph Covino	Rape as an Agent of Political Change in the Early Roman Republic	January, 2011
Talia Welsh	Punishing Parents for Bad Health Habits	February, 2011
Claire McCullough	Where are the Women in Science and Engineering?	February, 2011
Lindsay Irvin	Early Medieval Saintly Women	March 7, 2011
Heather Palmer	Julian of Norwich: Christian Female Mystic	March 14, 2011
Sharon Redhawk Love	Native Women in Traditional Criminal Justice Systems	March 21, 2011
Elizabeth Gailey	Gender in Communications Theory	March 28, 2011
Helen Eigenberg	Sexual Assault Rates – How much Rape Is There and How Do We Know This?	April, 2011

Join our Facebook Group



If you are interested in the Women's Studies program's upcoming lecture series, events and general information, join our Facebook group! You can find us by searching "UTC Women's Studies Department" on Facebook.