

Volume 13, Issue 1

Spring 2009



UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT CHATTANOOGA

# Women's Studies Newsletter

Edited by Eliza Russell

## Women's Studies Courses for Fall 2009

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WSTU 200*	Introduction to Women's Studies	Gailey	MWF	11:00-11:50
WSTU 295*	Violence Against Women	Peters	W	5:30-8:00
WSTU 324	Race, Gender, and the Media	Gailey	MW	3:25-4:40
WSTU 307	Gender and Society	Evans	MWF	10:00-10:50
WSTU 425	Gender, Crime, and Criminal Justice	Knox	MWF	12:00-1:00
WSTU 451	Psychology of Women	Cothran	TTH	3:05-4:20
WSTU 455R	Chick Lit: Classic and Contemporary	Noe	M	2:00-4:30
WSTU 455R	Queer Theory	Palmer	W	2:00-4:30
WSTU 455R	Activist Ecofeminism	Jaynes	M	5:30-8:00

\*Counts as a general education requirement.

Registration begins April 6 for enrolled students.

### A Note From the Director:

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This fall we'll have three brand-new courses for you: Queer Theory, Chick Lit, and Ecofeminism. You can read more about them on pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter.

In response to popular demand, during Women's History Month we will feature a panel, "What Can You Do with a Women's Studies Degree?" that will include local women who are currently pursuing careers for which a women's studies major or minor would be good preparation. This panel discussion, free and open to the public, will be convened on Wednesday, March 25, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. in Holt 304.

Our new women's studies major is growing, and so is the list of minors! All of you who are new to women's studies should know that our program has a website on the UTC webpage at: [www.utc.edu/Academic/Womens-Studies](http://www.utc.edu/Academic/Womens-Studies). We also have a blog on this website, and we invite our majors and minors to blog on any gender-related issue, topic, or current event. Send your blog (written under a pen name) to [Timothy-Harris@utc.edu](mailto:Timothy-Harris@utc.edu)

If your abilities run more along the line of the graphic arts, you may want to enter our logo contest, which we are running during the month of February, 2009, to replace the current UTC Women's Studies Program logo with a new design. Rules for the contest are on the back page of this newsletter. The deadline is Friday, February 27 at 5:00 p.m. The prize is \$100.00.

Also this year, we have a new Student Advisory Committee; all declared women's studies majors and minors are eligible to serve on this committee. Timothy (Blake) Harris is the student to contact about joining this committee.

Best wishes for a great semester,  
Marcia Noe, Professor of English and Director of Women's Studies

## WSTU 455R: Activist Ecofeminism

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Throughout the years, UTC lecturer Michael Jaynes has gained quite a reputation as an animal rights activist, and early in the fall 2008 semester, he gave a well-received lecture on the link between pornography and meat. So who better to teach a brand new women's studies course on Activist Ecofeminism in fall 2009? Ecofeminism is an emerging "social and po-

litical movement that searches for connections between the domination of women and the domination of nature by the patriarchal dominant mindset and status quo," says Jaynes. Ecofeminism "examines these connections and the methods of empowerment for women, animals, the Earth, and all of nature." According to Jaynes, the course will have four major objectives in six areas of study (nature, humans, earth, animals, art, future), which will be

"to read widely in the ecofeminist literature; to understand the link between women's liberation and animal liberation as well as adrocentrism and speciesism; to develop feminist ecocritical approaches to works of literature and art; and to actively engage the public's consciousness regarding the destruction of nature and women." Students will be required to keep a field journal, interact with nature, and design an activism project or form of public discourse. Jaynes also notes that this ecofeminism class differs from others in that much of the class work "involves organizing, planning, and executing an activist project to somehow engage the greater Chattanooga area." He believes that "everyone can take an active role in our activist project whether it be making phone calls to local media outlets, organizing public space, the creating of art, or grabbing signs and taking to the streets." Jaynes realizes that not everyone is so outgoing, will work with all comfort levels, and doesn't want "any fear of public interaction to prohibit taking the class." By teaching the class, he hopes to "introduce students, the women's studies program, and the public at large to the existence, importance, and urgency of ecofeminism." And maybe even change the world!

## WSTU445R: Queer Theory

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According to Wikipedia, queer theory "is a field of gender studies that emerged in the early 1990s out of the fields of gay and lesbian studies and feminist studies... [It] builds both upon feminist challenges to the idea that gender is part of the essential self and upon gay/lesbian studies' close examination of the socially constructed nature of sexual acts and identities. Unlike gay/lesbian studies, queer theory expands its focus to encompass any kind of sexual activity or identity that falls into normative and deviant categories." Dr. Palmer believes the current cultural climate is full of contradictions – one on hand, there are "more representations of homosexuality than ever before, however stereotypical they may be; and on the other hand, a distinct and pronounced anti-gay agenda, manifesting itself, for example, in the preponderance of anti-gay marriage rhetorics..."

It is her hope that by teaching a Queer Theory class, she will be able to create "safe spaces within institutions in which non-normative identities can take the risk of coming out, of playing with identity and investigating the wide range of potentials that exist for being." She feels that the students need a space where they can feel comfortable and safe to express who they are, and to assert "the basic right to be," a right that many heterosexuals take for granted in this "homophobic world."



## Psychological Research: Positive Effect of Women's Studies Courses on Students

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UTC's Dr. Lisa Cothran and psychology graduate student Matt Campbell recently completed a psychological study that compared the differences between students who enroll and don't enroll in women's studies classes. The goals of the study were to compare the attitudes towards men and women of students who enroll and who do not enroll in a women's studies course, and to examine the effect of enrolling in a women's studies course on these attitudes. It was predicted that at Time 2, women's studies students (experimental) would feel less negatively towards both women and men compared to non-women's studies students (control). It was also predicted that the attitudes of male and female students whose mothers had higher education would be less impacted by women's studies coursework.

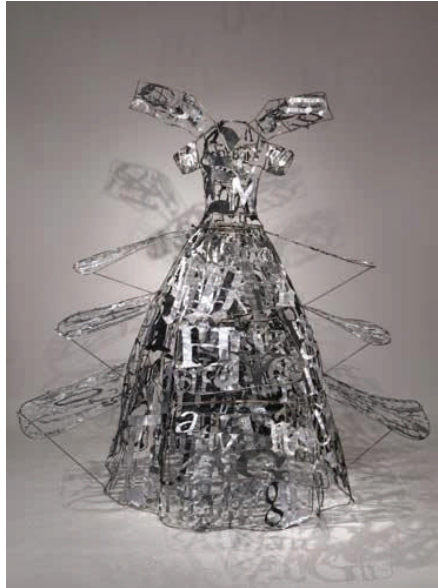
The first prediction was supported. Regarding post-class attitudes towards women, women's studies students reported fewer negative benevolent sexist attitudes compared to non-women's studies students. The same was true for attitudes towards men. However, the second prediction was not supported. Among students whose mothers did attend college, women's studies students of both sexes reported fewer negative benevolent sexist attitudes. In sum, findings suggest that women's studies coursework positively impacted sexist attitudes toward women and men. However, women's studies coursework appeared to more significantly impact the attitudes of students whose mothers attended college.

# Hunter Museum Exhibit: Lesley Dill - I Heard a Voice

## January 17th-April 19th, 2009

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Chattanooga's Hunter Museum of American Art has organized an exhibition of artist Lesley Dill's work that will focus on her most recent large-scale theatrical work. This is the first time in its 57-year history that the Hunter has organized and toured an exhibition of this scale. For the last twenty years Dill has been a sculptor, photographer, printmaker and performance artist, all while consistently exploring the human form, language, sensory experience and their interactions. Dill's work can be both ephemeral and spiritual, drawing on both her travels in India and her interest in Buddhism, as



she uses bronze, photography, poetry, thread, wire and paper to sculpt figures and build tapestries. Her pieces give visual form to poetic texts by Emily Dickinson, Salvador Espru, and Franz Kafka. The Hunter exhibition will include 34 pieces from both public and private collections. Some of the sculptures have been created for this exhibit tour, and many have not been shown widely before. A full-color catalog and a video featuring Dill in her studio will accompany the exhibition.

-<http://www.huntermuseum.org/exhibition/7/i-heard-a-voice/>

## Spotlight on Women's Studies Majors

### Blake Harris

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A junior, Blake Harris was one of the first women's studies majors at UTC, as well as the only male women's studies major (so far!). Blake became interested in gender and society because he grew up in a non-traditionally gendered household and felt he had an outside perspective when it came to the sociology of families. After graduating from UTC, Blake plans on going to graduate school and is looking at George Washington University or DePaul University, which had one of the first women's studies programs in the country. At DePaul, he's interested in the interdisciplinary women's studies-theatre major. Blake has an active ex-

tracurricular life both on and off campus. He's a member of Spectrum, part of the Student Advisory Committee for the women's studies program, and directed UTC's *The Rocky Horror Show* in the fall of 2008 (he's directing next year's show as well). In addition, Blake works part-time at Hamilton Place and has many music-oriented activities on his plate, such as teaching voice lessons to high school students, directing, acting, playing the piano, and singing in various choirs. He writes for UTC's women's studies blog and if anyone is interested in submitting something, feel free to contact him.

### Jennifer Litton

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This is Jen's second time around at UTC, as she is earning her post-baccalaureate degree in English literature and women's studies. She currently has an undergraduate degree in social work. After earning her post-baccalaureate degrees, she'd like to stay at UTC and go on to earn her Masters degree, eventually teaching at colleges. She thinks having a degree in women's studies will allow her to have many options, as it "opens your eyes to a wider perspective." Many classes have

an androcentric (male-centered) point of view, so if Jen teaches, the women's studies degree will also help broaden her students' perspective. Before she came back to school, she put her social work degree to use as a child and adolescent case manager. Currently, Jen works at the Lupton Library and can be seen riding her bicycle to school. She's also quite well-rounded creatively and enjoys writing, art, and photography.

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Editorial Information: The Women's Studies Newsletter appears at least once a semester. For more information please contact Dr. Noe at (423) 425-4692 (office) or (423) 266-9316 (home), or email her at [Marcia-Noe@utc.edu](mailto:Marcia-Noe@utc.edu). The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga is an equal employment opportunity/affirmative action/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution. E041002003-001-09.

## Women's Studies Logo Design Contest (\$100 Prize)

1. This contest is open to any UTC student who is enrolled in at least 2 courses during the spring semester of 2009.
2. Students may submit no more than 2 different logo designs to this competition.
3. Students should submit 2 hard copies of each design: one copy with nothing but the logo on it and another with the logo plus contact information (name, UTC ID, address, phone number and e-mail). Paperclip both copies together and deposit them in the Logo Contest bin affixed to the left of Holt 338E by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 27, 2009. No electronic submissions will be accepted.
4. The entries will be judged on quality and on how well the design reflects the mission statement of the UTC Women's Studies program, which can be examined on the program's website.
5. The winner must agree to give the UTC Women's Studies program all rights to the logo, which will be used on the UTC Women's Studies website, as well as on its newsletters, brochures, posters, and other promotional materials.
6. Entries will not be returned to contestants.
7. The UTC Women's Studies program reserves the right to name no winner if none of the entries turn out to be appropriate and/or usable.