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UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE AT CHATTANOOGA

# Women's Studies Newsletter

Edited By: Blake Harris

## 2011 Summer and Fall Schedule

### Summer Schedule

WSTU 4250	Gender, Crime, and Criminal Justice	MW	11:20	2:30	Knox
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### Fall Schedule

*WSTU 2000	Introduc- tion to Women's Studies	MWF	2:00	2:50	Byers
*WSTU 2950	Violence Against Women	TR	10:50	12:05	Peters
WSTU 3070	Gender and Society	MWF	12:00	12:50	Evans
**WSTU 3310	American Women Writers	M	5:30	8:00	Noe
WSTU 3240	Race, Gen- der and the Media	MW	2:00	3:15	Gailey
WSTU 4250	Gender, Crime and Criminal Justice	MWF	11:00	11:50	Knox
WSTU 4510	Psychology of Women	TR	1:40	2:55	Cothran
WSTU 4550	Secret Agency: Women Espionage	W	5:30	8:00	Mauk

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

\*\*This course partially fulfills general education requirements for the Fine Arts and Humanities category.

## *Crooked* by Catherine Trieschmann

*Crooked* was proudly presented by the Women's Studies Program and UTC Theatre Department this spring. *Crooked* is a dramatic comedy by Catherine Trieschmann and was chosen to kick off Women's History Month on March 4, 2011.

The plot revolves around three female characters and explores social identities through the lens of a teenager. Laney (played by UTC student Jamie Harkin) is a fourteen-year-old who is beginning to adjust to her new life in Oxford, Mississippi, with her intelligent, exhausted mother, Elise (played by UTC faculty member Dr. Anne K. Swedberg). Laney meets sixteen-year-old Maribel (played by UTC student Heather Chang) who is a firm believer in the healing powers of Jesus Christ. The new friendship takes Laney on a hilarious exploration of spirituality and sexuality that threatens the fragile relationship between mother and daughter.

Director Blake Harris, a UTC Women's Studies major, says, "Crooked explores the intersections of sexuality, religion, gender and other social identity categories. I found it interesting to illustrate how we often use our identity labels not only to define who we are, but also hide from what we don't want others, or even ourselves, to see."



Laney (Jamie Harkin) and Maribel (Heather Chang)

## Introduction to Women's Studies— Prof. Libby Byers



Women's Studies is proud to have Professor Libby Byers joining the program as the instructor of our Introduction to Women's Studies class.

This is Byers's first time teaching Introduction to Women's studies and she says that it is important

for everyone involved to understand that this course is deeply rooted in the social sciences. "Research is a large component of this course and students must be able to analyze critically and interpret research in the field of feminist theory.... [Students] also learn to write scientifically by preparing their own research proposals and presentations." Byers continues: "Learning to think critical-

ly about this material is crucial; furthermore, taking this knowledge and putting it into action through research is a skill that students will need in order to face academic challenges in the future."

The beginning of the semester focused on revealing the negative stigma that surrounded the term "feminism" and brought conscious awareness to the "inequalities women face socially, professionally, and culturally." This "eye-opening" experience has been rewarding to everyone involved in the classroom. Byers says that "it is nice to see students make connections between what they have learned in class and what is going on in the world around them... It has been a true pleasure to be teaching this course. I ultimately want students to walk away from this course feeling as though they have a solid foundation in women's studies. "

## Introducing Alysse White, Women's Studies Major

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Alysse White, a UTC senior, will be graduating this upcoming May from the Women's Studies Program and will be recognized as an SGA Outstanding Senior in this April. White, originally from Cordoba, Argentina, moved to the United States about four and a half years ago. She began attending the university in August of 2008.

Alysse says that the interdisciplinary aspect of Women's Studies is what interested her in the major. "My favorite aspect of Women's Studies was the liberty I was given to explore topics that interested me. My focus has always been on the Hispanic community, and the program gave me the liberty to explore that from an analytical perspective."



After graduation, Alysse

plans to pursue her goal of helping Hispanic women in the community. She will be joining a group that defends immigrant rights by allying with police officers, attorneys, social workers and other public officials. With this goal in mind, Alysse plans to apply for the Police Academy so she can advocate on the behalf of the Hispanic women in the community. She is currently involved in a service learning project that focuses on the Hispanic community in Chattanooga.

Alysse White encourages other students to consider the Women's Studies Program at UTC. She continues: "Of all the courses I've taken, I feel that Women's Studies is the most relevant to today's society and the challenges we all face... The topics we cover and the issues we explore are relevant to everyone."

## Presentation at the 2010 National Women's Conference

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A select group of students were chosen to present at the 2010 National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) Conference in Denver, CO. The participating students—Megan Coleman, Chassey Foster and Blake Harris—are Women's Studies majors, with the exception of Raquel Barlow, who is a Psychology major. The students, led by Dr. Lisa Cothran, presented "Cougars vs. Silver Foxes: Are There Double Standards in Perceptions of Age-Discrepant Relationships?" which was based on the results of a survey conducted in the 2010 Mentoring Program.

Dr. Lisa Cothran, along with Dr. Marcia Noe headed the 2010 Mentoring Program that successfully guided four first-year students off of academic probation. Coleman, Foster and Harris were mentors for the program and helped distribute the surveys from which the data was derived for the "Cougars vs. Silver Foxes," while Barlow assisted Dr. Cothran in the interpretation of the data. The research engaged the following three questions:

1. Do females and males view age-discrepancy relationships similarly?
2. Are age-discrepant relationships involving older

females (cougars) and older males (silver foxes) viewed similarly or is there a double standard?

3. Are age-discrepant hetero and non-hetero age-discrepant relationships viewed similarly or is there a double standard?

The students and Dr. Cothran relayed the results to the eager audience at the conference, and proudly represented UTC and the Women's Studies Program in a professional manner.



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## "Explore, Connect, Empower" Lecture Series

The Economics of Marriage Another Look	Leila Pratt	Monday, April 4	5:30	Raccoon Mountain Room
Sexual Assault Rates: How much Rape is there and how do we know this?	Helen Eigenberg	Friday, April 8	1:00	Raccoon Mountain Room
Queering The Good Book: Analyzing Itineraries of Emotion in "For The Bible Tells Me So"	Elizabeth Gailey	Monday, April 11	5:30	Raccoon Mountain Room
Julian of Norwich: Christian Female Mystic	Heather Palmer	Monday, April 18	5:30	Raccoon Mountain Room



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.