

Women's & Gender Studies Assessment

AY 2011-2012

Course Name:

WMST 410: Feminist Theories (Spring Quarter 2012)

Assessment Instrument:

Writing assignments integrated into the course requirements for WMST 410 were used to assess Objective 1: "Students will convey knowledge of historical perspectives on feminist thought and feminism as a movement."

Students were assigned a variety of primary source readings representing the historical progression of U.S. feminist thought. The course began with Betty Friedan's work from the early nineteen-sixties, followed by more recent thinkers including bell hooks and Gloria Anzaldua. We ended with an examination of some fairly current work by Naomi Klein. Class discussions focused on the historical progression of feminist thought and feminism as a movement from one text to the next.

Students had the opportunity to write three discussion papers comparing, contrasting, and commenting on the ideas of two authors representing different historical perspectives on feminist thought and feminism as a movement. Only their two best discussion paper grades contributed to the final course grade, so students were able to skip one of the three papers. Students also had the optional opportunity, contingent upon working with the EWU Writers' Center, to revise and resubmit their discussion papers to improve their grades.

Summary of Results

15 students completed the course. Listed below are their final discussion paper grades (calculated, in some cases, after the papers were revised and resubmitted). Because only two out of three papers were required, most students skipped one paper (indicated with an "X").

	Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
Student 1	A-	A-	X
Student 2	X	A	A
Student 3	A	X	A
Student 4	A-	X	B+
Student 5	B+	B+	X
Student 6	B+	B-	X
Student 7	B+	A-	X
Student 8	B+	B	X
Student 9	B	X	B
Student 10	X	C+	D+

Student 11	A-	A	X
Student 12	A	X	A
Student 13	A-	A-	X
Student 14	A	A-	X
Student 15	B+	A-	X

These results reveal that the majority of the students understood the material well enough to score well above the level of a C (or “satisfactory”) grade.