

**WST 315—Classic Texts in Women’s Studies, Tuesday and Thursday, 1-2:30 Phelps Stokes, Room 204**

**Dr. Linda Strong-Leek, Associate Professor, Women’s Studies**

**Phelps-Stokes Hall—202A**

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**Office Hours—Monday and Wednesday 10-12; Thursday 11-12—Others by appointment**

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### **Goals of the Course:**

WST 315 will help students:

- become acquainted with classic readings shaping the field of women’s studies
- develop a strong theoretical foundation in preparation for advanced coursework in women’s studies
- strengthen their critical thinking skills in the interdisciplinary field of women’s studies

### **Course Texts: Students will read selections from the following texts:**

- **Gloria Anzaldua (ed.)—This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color**
- **Katie Conby (ed.)—Writing on the Body: Female Embodiment and Feminist Theory (WB)**
- **Anna Julia Cooper—A Voice From the South**
- **Simone De Beauvoir—The Second Sex**
- **Harriet Jacobs—Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl**
- **Maxine Hong Kingston—The Woman Warrior**
- **Miriam Schneir (ed.)—Feminism in Our Time: The Essential Writings, World War II of the Present (EW, WWII to Present)**
- **Miriam Schneir (ed.)—Feminism: The Essential Historical Writings (EW)**

### **Course Requirements:**

#### **1. Attendance**

This course meets weekly for three hours, and attendance is mandatory. Each student is expected to complete readings and writing assignments on time, and to participate in leading class discussion.

#### **2. Assignments**

WST 315 is organized around a set of difficult, comprehensive reading. There will be focus questions for the most challenging text. Students are responsible for completing the weekly reading assignments and for submitting written summaries or responses to focus questions. Weekly assignments will constitute **45%** of the final grade. A final synthesizing essay of 5-7 pages will count for **20%** of the final grade.

### 3. Participation

Throughout the course students will be responsible for (1) analyzing texts and (2) leading discussion groups. Each week a different team of students will be responsible for a presentation on the assigned readings. There will be a combination of individual and collaborative oral communication assignments, totally **35%** of the final grade.

#### Weekly Reading and Discussion Schedule:

##### **Week One: Introduction, Manifestos**

Sojourner Truth, "Ain't I A Woman?"  
Elizabeth Cady Stanton, "Womanliness"  
Text of the Equal Rights Amendment

##### **Week Two: Exchanges**

Frederich Engels, "The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State (EW)  
Emma Goldman, "The Traffic in Women" (EW)

##### **Week Three: Exchanges—Continued—**

Gayle Rubin, "The Traffic in Women: Notes on Political Economy of Sex" (handout)  
Adreinne Rich, "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence" (EW—WWII-Present)  
Luce Irigaray, "The Sex Which is Not One" (WB)  
Alice Walker—"In Search of Our Mother's Gardens" (handout)

##### **Week Four: Subjection and Subjectivity**

John Stuart Mill—"The Subjection of Women" (EW)  
Micheal Foucault—"Discipline and Punishment" (part 3—Discipline) (handout)

##### **Week Five: Subjection and Subjectivity—Continued—**

Simone DeBeauvoir—"The Second Sex"—pp. 267-424  
Laura Mulvey—"Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema" (handout)  
Patricia J. Williams—"On Being the Object of Property" (WB)

##### **Week Six: Sexuality and Liberation**

Mary Wollstencraft—"A Vindication of the Rights of Women" (EW)  
Harriet Jacobs—*Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*  
Audre Lorde—"Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power" (EW)

##### **Week Seven: Sexuality and Liberation –Continued**

Anne Lister, *Diaries (excerpts)*  
Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, "The Female World of Love and Ritual" (handout)  
Michelle Wallace—"Black Macho and the Myth of Superwoman" (EW, WWII to Present)

**Week Eight: Addressing the Body**

Judith Butler—"Performance Acts and Gender Constitution" (WB)

Susan Bordo, "The Body and the Reproduction of Femininity" (WB)

Sandy Stone, "The Empire Strikes Back: A Posttranssexual Manifesto" (WB)

**Week Nine: Addressing the Body—Continued**

Judith Brownmiller—"Against Our Will" (EW, WWII to Present)

Betty Friedan—from *The Feminist Mystique* (EW, WWII to Present)

Mary Daly—"After the Death of God the Father" (EW, WWII to Present)

**Week Ten: Vocalizations**

Carol Gilligan—from *In a Different Voice*—(EW, WWII to Present)

Diane Fuss—"Essentially Speaking" (handout)

Anna Julia Cooper—*A Voice from the South* (excerpts)

**Week Eleven: Vocalizations—Continued**

Helene Cixous—"The Laugh of the Medusa" (handout)

Gloria Anzaldua, from *This Bridge Called My Back* (handout)

**Week Twelve: Identity, Politics, Political Identities**

Maxine Hong Kingston, *The Woman Warrior*

Gloria Anzaldua, "La Consciencia de la Mestiza: towards a New Consciousness" (WB)

**Week Thirteen: Problems with the Canon**

Charlotte Perkins Gilman—*Women and Economics*—selections—"The New Mothers of a New World: Is America Too Hospitable? A Suggestion on the Negro Problem" (handouts)

**Week Fourteen: Women's Space**

Virginia Woolf—from *A Room of One's Own* (EW)

Audre Lorde—"The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House" (WB)