Course Objectives
This course will offer students an opportunity to
1. develop an understanding of the historical trajectory of feminism
2. recognize the diversity of feminist thought
3. analyze cultural texts for their representation of gender issues
4. identify and critically evaluate the ways that gender and its related issues influence contemporary society, particularly the impact on their own lives.

Course Description
The primary goal of this course is to familiarize students with the development, context, and key issues of genders, both historical and contemporary. We will discuss many of the critical questions and concepts feminist scholars and writers have developed as tools for thinking about gendered experience. In addition, this course is an introduction to critical thinking about the construction of gender and the intersections of gender with race, ethnicity, class sexuality, and nations. We will be concerned with the ways in which these constructions and intersections shape our lives.

Required Text:

Classroom Regulations:
1. Attendance: Attendance is taken at each class. You are allowed one absence without penalty. Save this day when you need it. Any absences beyond this initial one must be documented with a signed note from a medical doctor or therapist. Any undocumented absence after the first absence will result in loss of attendance points and lower grades for class participation.
2. Lateness: If you come to class after the attendance has been taken, you will be
counted late. Two “lateness” will equal one absence. If you arrive late, you should notify me at the end of class to make sure that you have been counted late and not absent for that day.

3. Group work: Early in the semester students will be assigned (or will choose) a peer group. Each group will give a 20 minutes presentation. The project will require you to identify a gender issue in Taiwan. You will need to gather evidence of the issue, craft a solution to the problem, and present your solution to the class.

4. Reading quizzes: Students should be prepared for a short reading quiz on the class days that readings are due.

5. Film review: Each student will write 1-2 pages review/response paper after watching the film.

6. Personal essay: Students are required to write 2-3 pages personal essay about their gendered experiences, and their thoughts on feminism. While I expect these to be personal, they should include examples from class discussion and readings.

7. Plagiarism: Intentional plagiarism is a serious academic offense with potentially grave consequences. Your instructor is trained to spot plagiarism. Don’t take chances. Do your own work.

**Course Schedule**

1. Introduction to the course
2. Film
3. Introduction to feminism and gender studies; Jennifer Baumgardner and Amy Richards, “a day without feminism” (Film Review due)
4. Virginia Woolf, chapters from *A Room of One’s Own*
5. Mary Wollstonecraft, Introduction, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*
6. Margaret Fuller, chapters from *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*
7. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, From *Address to the New York State Legislature*, 1860
   Sojourner Truth, "Ain't I a Woman"
8. Simone de Beauvoir, Introduction, *The Second Sex*
10. Harriet Jacobs, chapters from *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*
11. Constance Fenimore Woolson’s “Miss Grief”
12. Susan Glaspell, *Trifles*
13. Alice Walker, chapters from *In Search of Our Mothers’ Gardens*
14. Doris Lessing; Marge Piercy
15. Jennifer Baumgardner and Amy Richards, “a day with feminism”
16. Taiwanese Feminism
17. Group Presentations
18. Final Exam

**Grading Formula:**

- Reading Quizzes 10%
- Class participation and attendance 15%
- Personal Essay 10%
- Group project and presentation 15%
- Film review 10%
- Final exam 40%