Salem State College  
Course Syllabus  
PHL 320 Philosophical Perspectives on Women  
Spring Semester, 2004

Dr. Krishna Mallick

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Class time: Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays, 12:30 p.m. to 1:20 p.m., SB 106

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Wednesdays/Fridays, 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
and by appointment at other times

COURSE OBJECTIVE:

We will explore and critically analyze a variety of issues/topics confronting women through discussion of readings, videos and debates. Topics like the meaning of feminism, women and work, gendered power and violence, reproductive technologies and others will be discussed from feminist and anti-feminist western as well nonwestern viewpoints which will help students to make up their minds about different issues that they will be faced with.


COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Tests: Two in-class tests. They will be essay type. The dates will be announced at least one week in advance. 20 points each, total=40 points  

   One take home test on Nectar in a Sieve. 10 points

Group Project: Each group will participate in a debate related to this course. Each student in the group will speak for at least five minutes on the side that s/he has selected. After the presentation, the class will participate in discussion. Group grade is worth 8 points and individual grade is worth 9 points, total=15 points

Groups will be formed within the first few weeks of class. Each group can select one from the following topics:
1. Comparable Worth/Glass Ceiling
2. Sexual Harassment
3. Family and Medical Leave Act
4. Welfare Policy/Feminization of Poverty
5. Pornography Ordinance
6. Date rape
7. Lesbians with children/adooption
8. Surrogate Motherhood/In Vitro Fertilization
9. Divorce Law and transformation of legal marriage
10. Prostitution
11. Gender Issue and Art
12. Battered women
13. Anorexia/Bulemia
14. Children having children/Teenage Pregnancy
15. Women with AIDS delivering babies with AIDS
16. Legal rights of Gays/Lesbians
17. Women in the military
18. Women in athletics
19. Women’s issues in other parts of the world, like Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Iran, Iraq etc.

Each group must do some research related to the topic they have selected and must be available to meet with the group outside of class time. Two groups cannot do their presentation on the same topic.

Your individual grade will be based on how clearly and consistently you present your side of the argument by relating it to the materials discussed in class from the textbooks. Your group grade will be based on team effort. All the students in each group will be required to meet with the instructor at least one week before their debate date and present a handout which will be handed out to all students so that they are familiar with the topic being debated.

2. Unannounced In-class and homework assignments: 10 points

4. Paper: One critical paper on a women’s issue in India. Due date and instruction for the paper will be given later in class. 20 points

5. Class Participation: Your participation throughout the semester. If you have difficulty in participating in class, give your written comment on the topics/issues discussed in class on a regular basis as the evidence of your involvement in the class discussion. 5 points

Method of instruction is mostly discussion, very little lecture. Audio-visual materials will be used to enhance classroom discussion. There is a possibility of having guestspeaker/s in class.
Reading and class assignment:

Topic: Oppression

1/21/04 Wednesday- Introduction to the course. What is feminism?


1/26/04 Monday- Continuation of discussion of Simone De Beauvoir’s article.

1/28/04 Wednesday- Read Part I.4, “White Privilege and Male Privilege…,” by Peggy McIntosh, pp. 30-38 from Gender Basics.

1/30/04 Friday- Continuation of discussion of Peggy McIntosh’s article.

2/2/04 Monday- Continuation of discussion of Peggy McIntosh’s article.


2/6/04 Friday- Continuation of discussion of Robert Daseler’s article.


2/11/04 Wednesday- Continuation of discussion of Part I.7 and review of Test #1.

2/13/04 Friday- Test #1 on Part I.2, I.4, I.6 and I.7 from Gender Basics.

2/16/04 Monday- President’s day holiday. No class.

Topic: The Book Nectar in a Sieve

2/18/04 Wednesday- Read Nectar in a Sieve. Finish reading the entire book before this class. Be prepared to discuss the reading in class.

2/20/04 Friday- Continuation of discussion of Nectar in a Sieve. Be prepared to discuss it in class.

Topic: Rape and Sexual Harassment

2/25/04 Wednesday- Continuation of discussion of Tim Beneke’s article. **Take home test on Nectar in a Sieve is due in class. Please note that due date will be strictly followed.**

2/27/04 Friday- Presentation of Group I.

3/1/04 Monday- See the video “Warrior marks: female genital mutilation and the sexual blinding of women,” (54 minutes) in class.

3/3/04 Wednesday- A possible guestspeaker from North Shore Rape Crisis Center.


Assignment for the rest of the semester will be given on 3/5/2004.