

# COURSE OUTLINE

**FINE-193**

**Introduction to Women's Studies:  
Women, Art, and Culture  
3 Semester Hours**

## **HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

### **Description**

An introduction to the ideas and issues central to Women's Studies, feminism, gender and diversity with emphasis on women's art and culture. The course will examine how women have been represented and how gender has been constructed in the dominant culture as well as the role of the arts and of women themselves in developing an alternative women's culture. Prerequisite: Eligible to enroll in ENGL-121. (3 hours weekly)  
NOTE: Also listed as WMST-193.

### **Overall Course Objectives**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Analyze social, political, and philosophical influences which shape works of art in any culture.
2. Develop criteria for aesthetic decision making to be applied to the evaluation of works of art.
3. Compare the artistic vision of women as artists with the portrayal of women as subjects of art.
4. Examine the values prescribed for women and the values women have chosen as their own in Meso America, Europe, Africa, and Asia, as well as the United States.
5. Examine the ways in which women have confronted and addressed the fundamental philosophical issues of meaning, reality, knowledge, and value.
6. Compare the ideas of women and men philosophers.
7. Explore cultural paradigms for women and their influence on language, image making, artistic expression, and social roles.
8. Critically analyze issues of cultural and gender diversity and the concept of a shared humanity.
9. Examine the relationship between a women's culture and the dominant male culture.
10. Critically examine how our ideas about the past are shaped and filtered by the culture in which we live as well as how the achievements and contributions of individuals shape and are shaped by the culture in which they live.
11. Demonstrate active listening skills by objectively restating, in his or her own words, material which has been verbally transmitted.
12. Demonstrate the physical ability to speak effectively so that the receiver(s) can understand the ideas being expressed.
13. Communicate an abstract or concrete idea so that the receiver(s) clearly perceives the intended message. This will include the ability to express a point of view which is not the student's own.
14. Effectively deliver a formal oral presentation in front of a group.
15. Communicate using appropriate language.

## **Major Topics**

- I. Women and Culture
  - A. Creation Stories
  - B. Worldviews and Women
  - C. Images of Women
  
- II. Women Artists and Image Makers
  - A. Traditional Arts
  - B. Studio Art
  - C. Literature
  - D. Philosophy
  - E. Music
  
- III. Feminism
  - A. Definition and History
  - B. The Construction of Gender
  - C. Gender and History
  
- IV. Women's Culture as Alternative and Opposition
  - A. Women's Arts
  - B. Women's Values
  - C. Relationship with Dominant Culture
  - D. Women's Art/Culture and Social Change

## **Course Requirements**

**Grading/exams:** Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty but will include the following:

Research assignments will focus on analysis of art and culture.

Final grades will be based on unit exams, research and writing assignments, and class participation.

**Writing:** Specific writing assignments will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include at least 1000 words of formal writing.

## **Other Course Information**

This course is a Fine Arts and Humanities core course and meets College definition for **Cultural Diversity**.

This course is a Humanities Elective, a Fine Arts Elective and an Arts and Science elective.