

This course was created in 2007 by Linda Kalafatides with the support of the administration at the TDSB's L'Amoreaux C.I. Principal: Valerie Nelson

Teacher's version

L'Amoreaux C.I.,
TDSB

Department: Interdisciplinary

COURSE NAME: Women Studies and Gender Issues
COURSE CODE: IDC302
COURSE: Grade 11 Open
PREREQUISITE: None
TEACHER: Linda Kalafatides

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an interdisciplinary exploration of gender issues in history, politics, society, the media, education and workplace. The course is designed to empower students through the study of the past and present role of gender in these disciplines and through the pursuit of human rights at a local and global community level. The course focuses on the honing of critical thinking skills and the development of career-planning strategies for overcoming gender bias in all aspects of life from health to money management. Students will also learn to identify and overcome barriers in their personal and professional lives through interdisciplinary ICU's, interviews with professionals in a wide variety of fields and through community action.

TEXTBOOK:

None

UNITS OF STUDY...

UNIT ONE

AN INTRODUCTION: WHERE NO ONE HAS GONE BEFORE

***Shocking Truths about Gender**

-a brief introduction to some of the major issues of gender internationally

***What is Equality and do we have it?**

- brief examination of the consequences of a fixed mindset and a look at the definition of controversy and analytical thinking eg. the abortion issue

-(new 2008 addition) the Falconer Report and CAMH survey re: sexual assaults and harassment in SW Ontario

***Is Equality possible? If so, what does it look like?**

-a study of models such as the balance of gender in Northern Europe's political system and provisions for child care

***Violence Against Women**

-imbalance and activism from the cave to Canada (a brief history)

-an introduction to global issues affecting the girl child using a 30 min. video on child brides, child prostitution and Female Genital Mutilation -a beginner's analysis of the importance of infrastructure (i.e. give one a fish to eat tonight/ teach one to fish and feed for a lifetime) and innovation

***Why Gender Studies?**

-Position paper "Reading Gender" by Sheetal Rawal (Ms. G Project)

-I Beam Goals – a lesson in creating and pursuing goal action plans

***The Thirty Sexes: Intersex, transgender and more**

-excerpts of Oprah interviewing individuals representing different sexes

***Sexism in our language, in professions and Reverse sexism:**

-eg. female use of "sorry", change in titles like "Mrs.", sexism against men

-a look at visions of gender equality in the future re: language and professions (eg Science Fiction's professional roles for women and use of "Sir" for women and men)

***Sex, Marriage, Children, Pregnancy, rights/practices eg. Honour killings**

-excerpt of Killer's Paradise – a documentary by Giselle Portenier)

Activities:

- questionnaire: when did you first notice...
- development of a survey for students of L'Amoreaux
- workshop on the process of activism with guest speakers Miss G Project
- discussion of personal goals
- use of journals and flow charts examining direct causes & underlying causes
- Internet research on laws and NGO's: Equality Now and Beyond Borders

Resources: Guest Speakers; Videos; Handouts; Magazines; News
Activities: Journals; Internet Research; Career Planning; Newsletter;
Questionnaires and Interviews; Mindset : A New Psychology for Success

UNIT TWO**HISTORY: ON THE SHOULDERS OF OTHERS**

- *The global role of gender from prehistory to modern day life
 - current events data collection and class newsletter begins
 - *Key moments/Key feminists/Key Setbacks/Key developments
 - detailed look at the influence of the changes individuals have made historically and an analysis of how they made a difference
 - *We are still the result of millions of years of evolution
 - a look at gender and Genetics, gender and IQ and gender and emotional intelligence from the text, Emotional Intelligence (Goldman, 1995)
 - *The evolution of healing as a gender issue
 - What do Doctors, Witches, Midwives and the Great Pharmaceutical Businesses all have in common?
 - *The following will be introduced in class but will be presented by students via Drama; Powerpoint; Essays; Photo Essays...
 - *Gender and...
- Science and math - key unknown figures; Religion- women in Judaism:
Islam: Hinduism: Buddhism: Christianity: First Nations; Ancient

matriarchal societies; Marriage; Breastfeeding; Family; Sex Trade; HIV/AIDS; Mental Health: Property; Law – violence/custody/careers/crime/Roe vs. Wade; Labour Laws: Pay Equity/Advancement; Environment (Bella Abzug/Al Gore); Gender waves; Organizations: Equality Now/ Rainbo; Political Representation; Race; Economics

Activities:

Internet research; essays; photo essays and drama presentation
Interview of guest speakers

Resources: Current Events; Videos; Maleus Maleficus; Emotional Intelligence; Guest speakers on: midwifery; wearing the veil; political representative; social worker from shelter for victims of violence

UNIT THREE

MEDIA STUDIES AND GENDER: WE ARE WHAT WE EAT XXX WATCH

*Body Image

-an analysis of the relationship between what we see and how we are seen

* Violence Against women in television/Music Videos/Hip Hop – excerpts from “The Hour” and Miss G video

*Media, Fashion, Pop Culture and Marketing: how and why audiences are targeted and stereotyped – an analysis of cause and effect

*The expectations that rule - a field trip to Toys R Us and study of bus shelter/TTC advertising

*Female Directors: A look at magazine articles on the subject and a guest speaker – a documentary director from NFB/BBC

*A comparison of plastic surgery with ancient rights such as FGM

*The influence of Hollywood on personal empowerment (a study of Film Noir and Hong Kong films)

- *A study of how media reports the physical differences between the sexes
- *Media coverage of political and religious issues eg. The veil
- *Media portrayal of the Venus vs. Mars characteristics of women and men
- *Stop the presses – a media studies unit on gender, careers, activism in print

Activities:

Write for publications; Guest speaker: magazine writers and documentary film maker; Compare print coverage of same issue; Study TV commercials; View media samples of Body Image; Study print, video or photographic coverage of gender differences and gender stereotypes; Record commercials from TV; Make own written or video notes and share with class; Design a storyboard for a documentary; Field trip to Toys are Us on Public Transportation-video record of advertising on the way; Current Events research; Community Action

Resources: Media Studies units: “Ad it up”; “What’s inside the box” and “Stop the Presses”; Magazines; videos; Guest speakers three from media jobs representing 3 genders and their experiences of sexism

UNIT FOUR

EDUCATION AND CAREERS: CONCRETE GOLACHES AND GLASS CEILINGS

- *Unequal opportunity – a global look at gender and education/careers
- *Ethnocultural Education– the 13-year-old around the world
- *Same sex education facts and fiction: A guest speaker from Linden School
- *What’s missing and how do we change the situation?
- *A focus on Literature as an example of gender bias or non-inclusive education, eg. Excerpts of seminal works by women from Ancient Sumeria to the 21ST Century; Fairy Tales; the Cult of the Classics; Genres, themes

and time periods; Gothic Literature to women's magazines; Shakespeare, Bollywood, Hollywood, and Hong Kong context/ WWII

*The role of gender in education re:

Sexual Health: the missing pieces – what all sexes need to know

Physics: representation of the sexes in the classroom and curriculum

Business and Economics: personal, national, global; social entrepreneurship

Personal finances: the necessity of managing personal finances/accounts

Science: great women scientists never studied

Law – guarding against ignorance (the legal protection of one sex over another eg. Custody favouritism; commonlaw)

Physical Health: what girls and boys are not taught

Mental Health: a history of hysteria

Sports: Title IX

Social Studies: gender imbalance

Family planning: Planned Parenthood - an international issue;

Activism and humour

Activities: Statistics, Surveys and Interview skills; Current Events Research; Community Action with Women's shelter; Drama presentation

Resources:

Female politician; HR Worker; Top Consultant; Stock Broker; Social Entrepreneurship Educator from MARS center for innovation; Parents of students;

Print: Cool Time; Emotional Intelligence (on boys & jail/on girls & pregnancy); Knock'm Dead; Think and Grow Rich; How to be Assertive not Aggressive; Rich Dad Poor Dad; Articles on Self-Mastery; Mindset: The New Psychology of Success; In a Different Voice

UNIT FIVE

CULMINATING ACTIVITIES

Newsletter; Documentary; Music Video; Dramatic performance; PowerPoint Presentations; Surveys eg. Gender Balance of TDSB Physics Classes; Letter Writing; Poster/Post Card Campaigns; Photo Essay; Publishing in Print – guest speaker on this; Equity Committee/Positive Community Action; E.I. or Social Entrepreneurship Research Projects

ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Assessment based on the following 4 categories

Knowledge/Understanding	25%
Thinking and Inquiry	25%
Communication	25%
Application	25%

Calculation of Final Mark

70% Term and 30% Final Summative Assessments=100%

LEVELS OF ACHIEVEMENT

Level 1	50-59%
Level 2	60-69%
Level 3	70-79%
Level 4	80-100%

Level 3 is defined as the provincial standard. A student achieving at level 3 should be well prepared for work in the next grade level or the next course.

REPORTING OF LEARNING SKILLS

The learning skills that will be assessed are:

Works independently/Teamwork/Organization/Work habits/Initiative

These will be reported on the Provincial Report Card by using the following categories:

Excellent(E) Good(G) Satisfactory(S) Needs Improvement(N)