



## COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2026

### WS3000(A3/VC): Women's Studies – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Ila Ahlawat  
**OFFICE:** Virtual  
**OFFICE** By Appointment

**PHONE:** N/A  
**E-MAIL:** [IAhlawat@nwpolytech.ca](mailto:IAhlawat@nwpolytech.ca)

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:** This course introduces the field of women's studies, with emphasis on the theoretical foundations of feminist analysis and the diversity of debates within feminism. The primary focus surrounds issues of gender as a social, cultural and political construct and how this intersects with, for example, race, class and sexuality. The course is also an opportunity to explore the shared and diverse aspects of women's experiences and show how women's studies as an academic discipline challenges the methods, theories and knowledge of traditional disciplines.

**PREREQUISITE(S):**  
None

**COREQUISITE(S):**  
None

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**



- Butler, Judith. *Performing Acts and Gender Constitution*, in 'The Theatre Journal', Maryland: John Hopkins University Press, 1988. pp: 519–531 :  
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/3207893>
- Emma A. Jane (2018) Gendered cyberhate as workplace harassment and economic vandalism, *Feminist Media Studies*, 18:4, 575– 591:  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/323811448\\_Gendered\\_cyberhate\\_as\\_workplace\\_harassment\\_and\\_economic\\_vandalism](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/323811448_Gendered_cyberhate_as_workplace_harassment_and_economic_vandalism)
- Chughtai, Ismat. *The Quilt*, in 'The Quilt and Other Stories'. Sheep Meadow Press, 1994:  
<https://xpressenglish.com/our-stories/the-quilt/>
- Woolf, Virginia. *Chapter III*, in 'A Room of One's Own'. Wisehouse, 2020. :  
<https://mail.gutenberg.ca/ebooks/ebooks/woolfv-aroomofonesown/woolfv-aroomofonesown-00-h.html>
- Shraya, Vivek. *Trisha*. : <https://vivekshraya.com/projects/visual/trisha/>
- Rossetti, Christina. *Goblin Market*. :  
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44996/goblin-market>
- Gilman, Charlotte Perkins, *The Yellow Wallpaper*. :  
<https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/gprc-ebooks/detail.action?docID=5443984>
- Vogels, Emily. January 13, 2021. 'The State of Online Harassment'. <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2021/01/13/the-state-of-online-harassment/>
- Kapoor, Ilan, *The Queer Third World*, in 'Third World Quarterly', Routledge, Vol. 36, 2015. pp. 1611–1638 : <https://research.ebsco.com/c/xbau5a/viewer/pdf/srtlmotrrb?auth-callid=e9ac1759-c7b7-451c-b9b8-6d24351883be>

**DELIVERY MODE(S):** Synchronous (This course is delivered remotely. There are no face-to-face or onsite requirements. Students must have a computer with a webcam and reliable internet connection. Technological support is available through [helpdesk@nwpolytech.ca](mailto:helpdesk@nwpolytech.ca))

## LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- To learn about the inscription of patriarchy and patriarchal politics in society
- To understand how practices of oppression are dispersed both overtly and covertly against gender minorities
- To understand about various feminist movements and their implications
- To learn to distinguish between gender and sexual identities
- To analyze the historical and contemporary demarcations of gendered and sexual identities

## TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferralberta.alberta.ca>

**\*\* For courses with alpha (letter) grading, a grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

## EVALUATIONS:

| Assessment                       | Course Weight | Due     | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Class Participation & Attendance | 20%           | Ongoing | <p>Students will be graded on their class-participation. This combines attendance (5 marks) + class exercises (15 marks).</p> <p>Please know that your mere presence in the class would not count towards class attendance. You are expected to maintain a disciplined and respectful behaviour while in class. Your camera should be turned on during a class.</p> <p>In addition, students are expected to proactively engage in class-discussions and submit written records of class tasks, when required, on a regular basis. To do this effectively, take note of detailed instructions shared on this in the classroom and/or on D2L regularly.</p> <p>The following grading criteria apply for your attendance (presence in class+ disciplined conduct):</p> <p>Between 85-100%= 5 marks</p> <p>Between 75-84%= 4 marks</p> <p>Between 65-74%= 3 marks</p> <p>Between 55-64%= 2 marks</p> <p>Between 45-54%= 1 mark</p> <p>The following will serve as a Rubric for the 15% assigned to weekly class exercises:</p> <p>&gt; student follows the given instructions for a specific Class Task, including recommended word count and</p> |

|                         |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                         |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <p>not using technological tools such as AI to write the work</p> <p>&gt; student is able to demonstrate both individual effort as well as group collaboration, where applicable/required by the means of the oral and written content they produce for the exercises</p> <p>&gt; student proactively demonstrates class participation by critically analyzing, meticulously processing and tactfully presenting information</p> <p>&gt; student is mindful of English language and articulation, including grammar and appropriate vocabulary</p> |
| Quizzes                 | 20% | <p>Jan 27: Quiz 1<br/>(<i>Yellow Wallpaper</i>)</p> <p>Feb 3: Quiz 2<br/>(Rossetti's <i>Goblin Market</i>)</p> <p>Mar 10: Quiz 3<br/>(<i>'The Quilt'</i>,<br/><i>'Queer Third World'</i>)</p> <p>March 17: Quiz 4<br/>(Trisha)</p> | Students will be given 4 in-class quizzes or lightning tests during the course of the semester (each carrying 5% weightage) related to the class readings. They will be short questions that will test the students' understanding of the texts and topics covered in previous classes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Mid Term Exam           | 20% | February 12                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Owing to the concerns surrounding usage of AI in drafting student-assignments, this assessment will be conducted during the class in the week right before the Reading Break. Students will be given 75 minutes to attempt specific questions from a text already dealt with in the class. The idea would be to allow students to employ original and research-centric critical arguments in a focused manner to analyze and investigate given questions on this test.                                                                             |
| Group Oral Presentation | 10% | Week 12 and Week 13                                                                                                                                                                                                                | This presentation project requires students to creatively use, to a limited extent, digital, arts-based, or emerging media (music, podcasting, autobiography, poster etc.) as a storytelling and                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

|                                  |     |                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|----------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                  |     |                                                               | <p>analytical medium to reflect their critical analysis of the course texts. This project requires both literary as well as media analysis in relation to sex, gender and sexuality.</p> <p>This project will be presented in class virtually in groups of 2-3 students. The students can pick a topic of their choosing for the Presentation. However, they need to pick a topic that relates to the prescribed reading(s) in the course and focusses on one the following themes-women rights, sexual violence.</p>                                                                                                  |
| Final Exam- Major Research Paper | 30% | During exam period – this will be scheduled by the department | It will be a take-home exam with a limited time of 1 day given to submit back. The Major Research Paper is the final exam (approx. 1500 words, excluding references) that expects students to carry out a research-based analysis of gendered and sexual identities and their dynamic relationship with social, cultural and political institutions of power through an evaluative, critical and comparative argument responding to course texts and themes. Students will also be evaluated for clarity of organization, logic, syntax, and grammar. The topic/question of this exam will be provided by the teacher. |
| Total                            |     | 100%                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

## GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most institutions will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

## Grading Chart

| Alpha Grade | 4-point Equivalent | Percentage Guidelines | Alpha Grade | 4-point Equivalent | Percentage Guidelines |
|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| A+          | 4.0                | 95-100                | C+          | 2.3                | 67-69                 |
| A           | 4.0                | 85-94                 | C           | 2.0                | 63-66                 |
| A-          | 3.7                | 80-84                 | C-          | 1.7                | 60-62                 |

|    |     |       |  |    |     |       |
|----|-----|-------|--|----|-----|-------|
| B+ | 3.3 | 77-79 |  | D+ | 1.3 | 55-59 |
| B  | 3.0 | 73-76 |  | D  | 1.0 | 50-54 |
| B- | 2.7 | 70-72 |  | F  | 0.0 | 00-49 |

## COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

| Week                                                               | Module/Topic                                                                             | Readings                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Week 1</b><br>(week of Jan 5)                                   | overview/course outline, definitions and binarisms                                       | Overview/Course Outline<br>Textual Review                                                                       |
| <b>Week 2</b><br>(week of Jan 12)                                  | patriarchy and art, women and education, women rights                                    | Virginia Woolf, 'A Room of One's Own' (Chapter 3)                                                               |
| <b>Week 3</b><br>(week of Jan 19)                                  | gendered divisions, hysteria and women, patriarchy and art                               | Charlotte Gilman, 'The Yellow Wallpaper'                                                                        |
| <b>Week 4</b><br>(week of Jan 26)                                  | society and gender, women roles, power and resistance, gender divisions                  | Christina Rossetti, 'Goblin Market'<br>Quiz 1 ( <i>Yellow Wallpaper</i> )                                       |
| <b>Week 5</b><br>(week of Feb 2)                                   | biological determinism, gender trouble, sex vs gender, fluid genders, sex and desire     | Judith Butler ' <i>Performative Acts and Gender Constitution</i> '<br>Quiz 2 (Rossetti's <i>Goblin Market</i> ) |
| <b>Week 6</b><br>(week of Feb 9)                                   | <b>MID-TERM EXAM</b>                                                                     | <b>In-Class Midterm Exam:</b>                                                                                   |
| <b>Week 7: FEBRUARY 16- FEBRYARY 20: READING WEEK (No Lecture)</b> |                                                                                          |                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Week 8</b><br>(week of Feb 23)                                  | lesbianism, woman sexuality, social deviances, sexuality and rebellion, public spectacle | Ismat Chughtai, 'The Quilt' / ' <i>Lihaaf</i> '                                                                 |

|                               |                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Week 9<br>(week of March 2)   | postcolonial cultures,<br>sexual deviance,<br>decolonizing and<br>reimagining identities | Ilan Kapoor, ' <i>Queer Third-World</i> '                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Week 10<br>(week of March 9)  | trans art, diasporic<br>literature, trans identities,<br>collective activism             | Vivek Shraya, 'Trisha'<br><br>Quiz 3 ('The Quilt', 'Queer Third World')                                                                                                                                                 |
| Week 11<br>(week of March 16) | gendered cyberhate,<br>digital cultures, reified<br>sexualities,<br>2.                   | Emma Jane, ' <i>Gendered Cyberhate</i> '<br><br>Vogels, ' <i>The State of Online Harassment</i> '.<br><br>Quiz 4 (Trisha)                                                                                               |
| Week 12<br>(week of March 23) | 4. In-Class Oral<br>Presentations                                                        | In-Class Oral Presentations                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Week 13<br>(week of March 30) | 6. In-Class Oral<br>Presentations                                                        | In-Class Oral Presentations<br><br>Video: Killing us Softly 4<br>Video Link:<br><a href="https://www.kanopy.com/en/torontomu/watch/video/216732/41634">https://www.kanopy.com/en/torontomu/watch/video/216732/41634</a> |
| Week 14<br>(week of April 6)  | 8. course conclusion                                                                     | Student queries, discussions                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Week 15                       | 11. FINAL EXAM:                                                                          | Online Take-Home Final Exam: Final Exam<br>(Available for 24 hours)                                                                                                                                                     |

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Please note that in cases where submitted work exhibits concerning patterns or raises questions about the origins of its creation and the student's intellectual effort involved, students may be required to submit to an oral examination regarding the work at the discretion of the instructor. Failure to participate in the oral examination will result in an assigned grade of 0 for the assessment. If, following the oral examination, the instructor still has concerns about the work,

the academic misconduct provisions of the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy (linked elsewhere in this outline) may be applied.

- I do not usually do alternative assignments. It is the student's responsibility to show up and complete designated assignments on time. Deferrals or extension are usually not encouraged and may only be granted in extenuating circumstances such as extreme illness or other serious circumstances beyond the student's control and documentation must be provided well in advance or as soon as possible after the due date of an assessment. Work commitments or holidays are not considered legitimate reasons for missing assigned deadlines.
- Unless previously discussed, late work will not be considered for grading.
- This course has the requirements listed below for students. Failure to meet these requirements may affect attendance and participation grades.

|                     |                                                                                                              |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Technology          | A stable internet connection sufficient to meet the class requirements.<br><br>Webcam, microphone, speakers. |
| Class Participation | Camera on and showing your face during class.<br>An appropriate screen name.                                 |

- Please do not be late for class.
- Students are expected to complete assigned readings before class.
- If students miss class, it is their responsibility to obtain the information they missed.
- Policies regarding final exams are governed by institutional policy. Students should consult the Examinations policy in the NWP Calendar. Students should consult the NWP Calendar for any questions regarding deferred exams but note that students are required to be available to write exams during the entire final exam period.

## COMMUNICATION POLICY & SUBMISSIONS

Please note that all inquiries relating to the lectures, course material, assignments, etc should be made during the classes or during office hours. In addition, it is the students' responsibility to take note of any information that has been shared in the classes and on D2L from time to time during the course of the semester, and such information will not be reshared via email. Of course, email inquiries of URGENT and/or valid nature from students will be answered in due time.



All submitted assignments that lack the essential details (such as names of submitter(s), assignment-name, themes dealt with, etc) will be penalized. Similarly, all emails lacking the applicable and necessary details such as section#, assignment#, explicable and appropriate language, etc will be disregarded.

**Office Hours** (By appointment): If you need to set up an individual virtual appointment, please send me an email with at least three options for meeting day/time suitable for you. Zoom link for the meeting will be provided once day/time for meeting is confirmed.

## STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/polytechnic-leadership/policies-directory>.

**\*\*Note:** all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is integral to your learning, the credibility of your degree or certification, and the integrity of the college as a whole.

### Generative Artificial Intelligence

- The use of Generative AI (e.g., ChatGPT, Quillbot, Grammarly, Google Translate) is strictly prohibited for any assessment or class task in this course and will be strictly penalized.
- Falsified or incomplete citations or misrepresentation of source material (common occurrences in text produced by Generative AI) is prohibited. You are responsible for the accuracy of the work you submit.
- Submitting work that does not reasonably reflect your knowledge of the material and/or the skills being assessed is a breach of Academic Integrity.

### Copyright

Your class lectures and any course materials provided to you are copyrighted, and may not be shared without my express written permission. Do not share these materials (e.g. course outline, slides, assignment instructions) with others and do not post them on the internet during the course, or at any time after. Classes (or parts of classes) in this course may be recorded by the instructor for use as an instructional resource for the class. These recordings are protected under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP) and are to be used for academic purposes only.

Students must not sell, duplicate, distribute, or publish evaluative assessments, course lecture notes, handouts, recordings, or other information provided by an instructor, or use the above for any commercial purpose. Students who misuse course materials may also be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct (for more information the Polytechnic Policy on Student Rights and Responsibilities under the section on Academic Misconduct <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/>)