Welcome to Women and Health!
I am thrilled to teach this course!

This class utilizes an interdisciplinary approach to explore historical perspectives on health, marginalized populations and their access to health technologies, health policy research, and emerging topics in women's health. The humanities, social sciences and biological sciences will inform inquiry into "hot topics" in health. Women's health will be dissected through a lens of gender equity. Domestic and international perspectives will be employed. You will be encouraged to identify and study topics of your own interest.

**Learning Outcomes**
By the end of the semester, the student will be able to demonstrate understanding in the unit assignment papers, forum discussions and the final project of the following…

- Articulate the historical, cultural, and political context of women’s health in real terms and as a field of study
- Discuss the impact of public policy on health care access, particularly for those women who are marginalized in terms of race, ethnicity, language barriers, socio-economic status, or geographic location
- Understand the value and limitations of women’s health research
- Provide examples of the impact of gender, race, and class in large-scale epidemics
- Identify emerging health technologies and discuss possible impacts on women’s health
- Conduct a basic policy analysis of a current issue in women’s health

**Instructor Info**
Ashley Simons-Rudolph, PhD
apsimons@ncsu.edu (email is best way to contact me)
I am also the Director of the NCSU Women's Center and you can find me on the 3rd floor of Harrelson Hall most weekdays during normal business hours. Mornings may be the best time to drop-in and if I know you are coming, I will make it a point to put the tea kettle on!

**Prerequisites**
None. This course will fulfill 3 credit hours of the General Education Program Interdisciplinary Perspectives Requirement.

**Required Textbooks**


***Note: all 3 of these books can be bought used, on the internet, and/or at the Student Bookstores. You will need to have purchased them by the first day of class or as soon as possible thereafter.

**Other Readings**

Other readings will be provided to you via .pdf throughout the semester.

**Course Organization**

This is an online course and most activities will be self-paced within a weekly schedule. Each week has its own webpage. These units are:

**Unit 1: Historical Perspectives on Health Technologies and Women**

- Introduction to the Social Context of Reproductive Health in the US
- The Medical and Religious Construction of Reproduction

**Unit 2: Marginalized Populations and Their Access to Health Technologies**

- How Racial History Impacts Health Outcomes
- Race and Health Care Choice

**Unit 3: Health Policy Research**

- The Clinical Trial Process
- Federal-level policies
- Case Study: Women, Public Policy, and HIV/AIDS

**Unit 4: On the Next Frontier**

- The Promise of Female Condoms, Microbicides, and other Female-Controlled HIV Prevention Methods
- Advances in Your Area of Interest

**How you will be Graded**

You'll find the due dates and particulars for all of these assignments on your weekly schedule pages. Generally speaking, our weeks will run Monday morning to Sunday 11:45pm. This is to give you weekend-time to complete regular assignments. However, past students have had better luck reading a bit throughout the week. While most readings aren't long in length, they are thought-provoking. Don't try to cram all of the reading and writing into one day...

Writing assignments are always due on the date specified at 11:45pm (this is a Moodle convention, not mine) unless otherwise noted. Moodle is merciless so make sure you get the assignment in BEFORE 11:45pm.

Your grades will be assigned as follows:
### Class Participation on Moodle Forum
- **30%**

### Written Assignments (4) including summaries and short answer questions as specified on the weekly pages and the course schedule
- **40% / 10 points per assignment**

### Final Project
- **30%**

---

***Your grades will be posted by their point value. For example, if you submit a weekly assignment that receives a “B-” grade, your grade will be “8” or 8/10 (80%)***

*****There are NO course exams including no final exam.*****

**For final course grades, I do utilize standard NCSU +/- grading as follows:**

- A+ = 97% and above; A = 94-96%; A- = 90-93%
- B+ = 87-89%; B = 84-86%; B- = 80-83%
- C+ = 77-79%; C = 74-76%; C- = 70-73%
- D+ = 67-69%; D = 64-66%; D- = 60-63%
- F= 59% and lower

**Late Assignments**
One good thing about an online course is that you may post your assignments at any time 24 hours a day/7 days a week. I expect you to plan ahead for life's emergencies...If you finish assignments early, you should post them early. Computers crash, websites go down, we all get sick, etc. Taking an online course means taking responsibility for your own work. We are all adults and I trust you to get things in on time. I know you are busy and I try to give you as much time as I can to complete your work...
If you submit late work, it is my discretion whether I will grade it. I’m not trying to be mean, but late papers put me in a jam too. Summary papers that are an hour or two late will be graded with a late penalty of at least one letter grade. Some assignments (like your final project for example) I cannot grade late because of my quick turnaround time to get your grades in.
The bottom line is: try not to be late, and if you are, email me as soon as possible to let me know when I can expect it. Please note that I do not give incomplete final grades.

**Attendance**
As this is an online course, there are no policies on attendance.

**Academic Integrity**
Don’t cheat. Don’t buy papers. Don’t copy Wikipedia, change a few things, and then submit it to me.
Don’t take other people’s work without citing them. Any of these things are (in my mind) exactly like copying off someone’s paper. Cheating is a personal insult to us academics. I will turn you in to the Academic Integrity Office and I don’t want to have to do that. The NCSU Honor Pledge specifies that: "I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this test or assignment." By simply turning in an assignment, you are indicating that you neither gave nor received unauthorized aid on the assignment. The University policy on academic integrity found here: Code of Student Conduct Policy: POL 11:35:1.

Disability
I really want this class to be accessible to everyone. If you have special needs, please let me know and I will do my very best to accommodate them. Most course materials on the website are transcripted for the hearing impaired. If you are visually impaired, you may change the font size on the website and/or contact me for further assistance. The university also wants you to know this:

"Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must register with Disability Services for Students at 1900 Student Health Center, Campus Box 7509, 515-7653. For more information on NC State's policy on working with students with disabilities, please see the Academic Accomadations for Students with Disabilities Regulation (REG 02:20:1).

A Final Word
Most students have found this class interesting if not a bit fun. Much of the material is thought-provoking and I try to present different sides to controversial issues. Sometimes people misunderstand WGS so let me say right off the bat that you will likely not personally agree with everything you read in this class. Again, I try to present different sides to the issues and the women’s movements (like most all other social movements) are not monolithic. The selected readings are intended to give you a well-rounded perspective on some of today’s controversial issues. They don’t necessarily reflect my own political views nor do I expect that they will always reflect yours. Students from many different ways of life, political affiliations, viewpoints, etc have and will succeed in this class. What I ask of you is that you keep an open mind and critically reflect on what you read. By all means, I welcome a professional, academic deconstruction of an argument and I invite you to engage the readings, me, and your peers in this kind of debate. Still, I want you to keep it academic and not personal. Ultimately, I don’t grade you on how much I personally agree with you nor whether you are/are not a feminist, an activist, etc. I grade you on how well you understand the course material and can apply it in a thoughtful way.

Respecting Other's Privacy
Students may be required to disclose personally identifiable information to other students in the course, via electronic tools like email or web-postings, where relevant to the course. Examples include online discussions of class topics, and posting of student coursework. All students are expected to respect the privacy of each other by not sharing or using such information outside the course.

Basic Computer Requirements
- Read the Basic Computer Requirements and check that you have the skills you need.

DE Virtual Orientation
Review the Virtual Orientation to distance education to help you become familiar with the online course environment. You will find a wealth of information here, from Getting Started to Tips for Success, lots of "how to's", examples of DE courses as well as other helpful information.

NCSU e-Reserves

- Make sure to have an updated version of Adobe Reader installed on your computer.
- Some of your readings will be available through the NCSU e-reserves. You will see the link located on the right hand side of the home page. You will then be taken to the e-reserves page for your course where you will login with your Unity ID and Password.

© 2008 NC State University

Disclaimer