Women’s Studies

RCSD Social Studies Semester Elective

This course explores the core concepts underlying the interdisciplinary field of Women's Studies, introducing the ways in which the study of women and gender as social categories transforms our understanding of culture, history and society. Topics include feminism and the feminist theory, history of the women’s movement as well as various sub-topics which will be analyzed from a historical perspective and with respect to the combined effects of gender, race and class on the status of women in contemporary society.

**Women’s Studies**

**Unit 1: Gender and Feminist Thought**

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| **Essential Questions**   * What is freedom? * What is feminism? * How are gender roles constructed from personal to global levels? * In what ways are gender roles used in society and what are their purposes? * To what degree do women internalize cultural expectations when forming their own self-image? * What theories or explanations are there to explain why women have lower status and power than men? * To what extent to gender roles inhibit and/or liberate individuals? * To what extent should the West promote its own ideologies and beliefs about gender equalities on other cultures or nations with questionable cultural practices? | **Key Ideas**   * Gender and sexual identity are social and historical constructs that reflect current ideals of cultures. * Gender roles vary widely between and among cultures and affect societies in many ways. * Women’s studies are a vehicle to understand the role of social and historical gender identity constructs. * Women have been the target of oppression based on gender, race class and ethnicity through gender stratification and stereotyping. * The oppression of women in social, political, and economic systems continues today throughout the world. |
| **Key Social Studies Practices** | **Suggested Products & Activities**   * Student analysis of their own personal identity in relation to power relationships. |

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| **Topics** | **Sources** |
| Feminist Theory  Patriarchy’s role in shaping gender roles | [Helen Reddy, I am woman hear me roar song / video](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUBnxqEVKlk)  [Feminism in the United States, website timeline](http://civilliberty.about.com/od/gendersexuality/tp/History-of-Feminism.htm)  [Article on Early Feminists](http://www2.hu-berlin.de/sexology/ATLAS_EN/html/the_feminist_movement_in_the_u.html)  *The Feminine Mystique by Betty Friedan*  Feminism vs. the Religious Right (1973)  [No More Miss America, 1968 protest / article](http://www.jofreeman.com/photos/MissAm1969.html)  [Patriarchy's role in shaping gender roles / article](http://www.mibba.com/Articles/People/3538/Looking-Beyond-Normalcy-The-Construction-of-Gender-Roles/) [If Men Could Menstruate article by Gloria Steinem](file:///C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\1646881\My%20Documents\Dropbox\Social%20Studies%20Share\Curriculum\Women's%20Studies\eblast) |
| Gender Roles  Stereotypes  Sexism  Gender Inequality | [Nature v. Nurture Gender and Society Website](file:///C:\Documents%20and%20Settings\1646881\My%20Documents\Dropbox\Social%20Studies%20Share\Curriculum\Women's%20Studies\Contact%20list%20Women's%20Studies.docx)  [Gender Stereotypes/Website Article](http://www.healthguidance.org/entry/15910/1/List-of-Gender-Stereotypes.html)  [Gender Inequality / website](http://www.trustwomenpac.org/2012/03/gender-inequality-in-the-u-s-today/)  [sexist commercial ad for Folgers Coffee / film clip](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vRYfouuHPvs) |
| Global View of Women’s Rights | PBS Documentary; Who Wears a Veil?  [If Men Could Menstruate article by Gloria Steinem](file:///C:\Users\2013459\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary%20Internet%20Files\Content.Outlook\SU2VR6QL\eblast)  [Portraits of Afghan Women/ PBS series](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/wideangle/episodes/a-woman-among-warlords/a-woman-among-warlords-photo-essay/597/)  [Women's Rights in Afghanistan lose steam / article](http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Asia-South-Central/2011/0308/Women-s-rights-in-Afghanistan-lose-steam)  [Women, War and Peace - Women in Afghanistan -PBS Series](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/women-war-and-peace/full-episodes/peace-unveiled/) |

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**Unit 2: History of the Women’s Movement**

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| **Essential Questions**   * Who are the Women in the Women’s Movement? * How have gender and women’s roles changed over time and in relation to political and social events? * How have women’s perceptions of themselves and of other women changed over time and what does this reflect about their society? * What strategies have women used in their struggle to achieve social change? * How have women balanced the need to conform to cultural expectations with the desire to assert their individuality and equality? * What are the goals of the current women’s movement? | **Key Ideas**   * Women have worked as individuals and groups to promote equal rights. * Understand how the roles of women have changed and evolved over time. * Major historical movements and events affect women and the goals and strategies of Women’s Liberation Movement. * Women have viewed their social constructs within varying time periods in differing ways. * Analyze hot topics for women today: equal pay, abortion rights, student loan debt and sexual harassment. (NOW) |
| **Key Social Studies Practices** | **Suggested Products & Activities** |

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| **Topics**  Leaders of the Movements  (Lucy Stone, Grimke Sisters, Amelia Bloomer, Harriet Tubman, Susan B. Anthony, Ida B. Wells, Ida Tarbell, Sojourner Truth, Wendell Phillips, Garrit Smith, Jane Addams, Alice Paul, Carrie Chapman Catt, Eleanor Roosevelt, Harriot Stanton Blatch) | **Sources**  [Timeline of women in the Women's Movement / Website](http://www.infoplease.com/spot/womenstimeline1.html)[Women's Rights timeline/website](http://www.ibiblio.org/prism/mar98/path.html)  [National Parks, Women's Rights / Website](http://www.nps.gov/wori/historyculture/abby-kelley-foster.htm)  [The Women's Right Movement](http://utc.iath.virginia.edu/abolitn/wmhp.html)  [Time line of ground breaking events for women / website](http://www.infoplease.com/spot/womenstimeline2.html) |
| Early Struggles   * Women and the Abolition Movement * American Women’s Suffrage Association (1890) * National Association of Colored Women (1896) * Lucy Stone Marriage Contract (1855) | [Women in the Anti-Slavery Movement - website](http://cghs.dadeschools.net/slavery/anti-slavery_movement/women.htm)  [Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony papers project / Website](http://ecssba.rutgers.edu/docs/seneca.html)  [The Abolitionist Movement and Women's Rights/website](http://www.nwhm.org/online-exhibits/rightsforwomen/abolitionandsuffrage.html)  [Ain't I A Woman? - graphic organizer](http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/E151FA9D-6017-4556-981F-CD076D731A72/0/SecondaryTextGuideAnswerKeyAintWoman.pdf)  [Lucy Stone Marriage Contract](http://alexpeak.com/twr/tmc/) |
| Suffrage at Last (1919)  World War I and the 1920’s (1900-1929)  The Depression and World War II (1930-1940’s)  Changing roles of women at work (Pink Collar) | [Susan B. Anthony / Website](http://susanbanthonyhouse.org/her-story/biography.php)  [Votes for Women's Suffrage/Library of Congress Website](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/vfwhtml/vfwhome.html)  [Women's Rights Pictures](http://dsc.discovery.com/tv-shows/curiosity/topics/women-rights-pictures.htm)  [Photos from the Seneca Falls Convention](http://www.google.com/search?q=the+seneca+falls+convention&hl=en&tbm=isch&tbo=u&source=univ&sa=X&ei=JLOLUcyDI8bX0QH_g4DADg&sqi=2&ved=0CD0QsAQ&biw=1016&bih=542&safe=strict)  Women’s Liberation Movement (1942) |
| The Modern Movement  The ideal Woman (1950’s)  The Modern Women’s Movement (1950 to present) | [1950's Education on "Women" film clip](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j8ADfS8WQmw)  [A word to the wives/1950's film clip on women and the household](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7EN8CkMY0A)  [Makers of America; The Modern Women's Movement](http://video.pbs.org/video/2336932877)  [National Organization for Women - 40 years and fearless video](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1GXcNYaY5Yk)  Unbought and Unbossed, Shirley Chisholm (1972)  *Rowe v Wade (*1973) |

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**Unit 3: Contemporary Women’s Issues**

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| **Essential Questions**   * What roles do the media play in gender stereotypes and bias? * How can women combat current health risks and help future generations improve their quality of life? * What is Beauty? * Marriage as an institution; fulfillment or oppression? * What obstacles do women encounter when they get married? * What kinds of discrimination do women face who are LGBT? * How has changing educational opportunities affected women’s roles in the workforce? | **Key Ideas**   * The influence of mass media is a major contributor to the perpetuation of gender stereotypes and bias. * Equity in the workplace is an ongoing issue for women across the country. * Advocating for Women’s health programs. * Defining beauty and the societal expectations of women today. * Analyze courtship and marriage as institutions, including their historical roots and cultural traditions. * Describe the problems facing “women of color” as they confront the combined effects of racism and sexism. * Analyze courtship and marriage as institutions, including their historical roots and cultural traditions. * Identifying misconceptions about LGBT * Understanding the benefits and consequences of reproduction. |
| **Key Social Studies Practices** | **Suggested Products & Activities**   * Students create a heath pamphlet listing health risks to woman and preventive care strategies * Journal Entries * Group Round-Table Discussion on articles * Students write a eulogy for “Jane Doe” |

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| **Content**  The Media, what defines beauty?  Body image and Beauty | **Sources**  [The Strength to Resist, Media's impact on Women and Girls - video clip](http://www.cambridgedocumentaryfilms.org/filmsPages/resist.html)  [Phenomenal Women / Maya Angelou poetry](http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poem/178942)  [girl model, body image / video clip](http://www.pbs.org/pov/girlmodel/video-scouting-new-faces.php) |
| Unhealthy Relationships/Women and Violence | Beyond Killing Us Softly; The Strength To Resist  Twisted Love: Dating Violence Exposed –  [Not For Sale, Women and Prostitution / video clip](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTElswfYigA) |
| Healthcare and Reproductive Rights and the Law   * + Sanger   + *Roe v. Wade* | [Reproductive Rights and Historical Highlights / website](http://www.now.org/issues/abortion/roe30/timeline.html)  [Our Bodies, Our Rights / Website](http://obocnow.blogspot.com/2012/04/timeline-of-reproductive-rights.html)  Margaret Sanger-First Birth Control Clinic (1916) |
| LGBT/The future of Women’s Rights  Glass celling  Women’s colleges and the Co-educational movement | Second March for Women’s Lives: LGBT (2004)  [Transgender News Video - First Grade Student](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-204_162-57571795/first-grade-transgender-girl-barred-from-school-bathroom/)  Rochester Organizations for Women AAUW |