

**Women In Science
Geography 390/WOMS 430
Fall 2004**

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Course Description and Objectives:

Science and technology permeate our society. Who practices science and the way in which science is conducted is socially constructed. Why is it then that women feel outside of “science” and continue to be underrepresented in many scientific fields? In this course we will examine the history of women in science and address the current status of women in various scientific disciplines. We will spend time examining what we may consider both the “women question in science” and the “science question is feminism”. We will also explore the representation of women of science as they are portrayed in literature and film. The objectives of this class are to discuss issues of science and gender using recent scholarly literature, to critique the various viewpoints, to become familiar with the subject, and to discuss these issues in a constructive manner. This should be an interesting and fun topic to spend a semester on and I look forward to learning with you!

Course Readings:

- 1) Janet A. Kourany, (2002) *The Gender of Science*. Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey. 391 pgs.
- 2) Many readings will either be on reserve at the Map Library (Davis Hall) or available as PDF's on BlackBoard.

Grading: No late assignments will be accepted! We will discuss each assignment in class.

The Breakdown:

Seminars (3 @ 5% each)	15
Book review	15
Movie review	5
Biographical abstract	10
Biographical presentation	5
Website abstract	5
Website presentation	5
Final paper	30
Final presentation	<u>10</u>
	100%

The Assignments:

Seminars: For each seminar a reading list will be provided at least one week in advance. These sessions are for group discussion and therefore require all participants to have read 3-5 of the articles from the reading list, **before** the seminar begins. A list of 5 recent scientific journal article references (i.e. post 1990), will be submitted by each student at the beginning of each seminar. Seminars are worth 5% each, which includes, reference list (1), attendance (1) and participation (2) and reading notes (1).

Book Review: Choose a book (biography, autobiography, or fiction) in which a women of science is the subject or plays a leading role. All books must be approved by the instructor. The review will be two pages in length, summarizing either the life of the women (biography or autobiography) or the portrayal of the WIS in the story. All reviews should contain a critique section. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Movie Review: You will be given a list of "Hollywood" films and you will have to choose one to critique. This will be similar to the book review except the review will only be one page in length. You will also be required to read to journal articles on the subject of the portrayal of women scientists in movies.

Biographical Abstract and presentation: You will choose a prominent women in science and complete a brief biography of her life and work. The abstract will be ½ page in length and the presentation (in powerpoint) will be 15 minutes (12 minutes + 3 for questions).

Website abstract and Final paper and presentation: TBA

Exams: NONE

**If there is any student in the class who has need for test-taking or note-taking accommodation, please feel free to come and discuss this with me, either after class or during my office hours.
Course Policies and Statements

Attendance policy: Lecture, and seminar attendance is essential!

Tests/Assignments policy: There will NOT be any make-up lectures or seminars after the scheduled dates, therefore any schedule conflicts should be brought to my attention well before the date! There will be no exceptions.

Receiving Assistance: Students are urged to contact me should they have questions concerning course materials and procedures. If you have a disability or any other special circumstance that may have some impact on your course work and for which you may require accommodations, please contact me early in the semester so that arrangements can be made with the Centre for Access-Ability Resources (CAAR).

Academic Misconduct/Ethics Statement/Drop Date: **Please consult the current NIU Undergraduate Catalogue for information regarding ethics, conduct, and drop dates.**

Plagiarism Statement: "The attempt of any student to present as his or her own work that which he or she has not produced is regarded by the faculty and administration as a serious offence. Students are considered to have cheated if they copy the work of another during an examination or turn in a paper or an assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else. Students are guilty of plagiarism, intentional or not, if they copy material from books, magazines, or other sources or if they paraphrase ideas from such sources without acknowledging them. Students guilty of, or assisting others in, either cheating or plagiarism on an assignment, quiz, or examination may receive a grade of F for the course involved and may be suspended or dismissed from the university." Northern Illinois University Undergraduate Catalogue.

Semester in a Box – all dates, subjects, and readings may change!!

Week	Tuesday	Thursday	Readings From Text**
1	Intro to course	What is science?	Pgs 153-170
2	History of Women in Science	History of Women in Science	Pgs 8-33
3	Some key figures	Movie #1 Nova: Secret of Photo 51	
4	<u>Due: All Biographical Abstracts at the start of class on Tuesday. Both Tuesday and Thursday will be spent on student biographical presentations</u>		
5	Current status of women in science	<u>Seminar 1: Gender myths and Science</u>	Pgs 39-60 and 75-85
6	Diversity, Culture, and Science	Movie #2 Science and Gender with Evelyn Fox Keller	Pgs 34-38, 112-124 For movie: pgs 125-135
7	Feminist critiques of science	Would and/or Do women do science differently?	Pgs 192-203, 310-321, 340-353, and 361-371
8	Continuing and/or perceived barriers to women in science	<u>Student web site presentations</u>	
9	Lifting a ton of feathers: Women in Academia	<u>Seminar 2: Female Scientists – are they role models??</u>	
10	Women in Environmental Science	Movie #3 The American Experience: Rachel Carson	
11	Women in Physical Geography <u>Due: Book Review</u>	Women in Physics: Guest Lecture	For WIP: pgs 66-74
12	Women in Geology: Guest Lecture	<u>Seminar 3: Ecofeminism</u>	
13	Women in Chemistry: Guest Lecture <u>Due: Movie Review</u>	Women in Meteorology: Guest Lecture	
14	<u>Final Papers due: no lecture</u>	Thanksgiving	
15	<u>Student Presentations of final paper</u>	<u>Student Presentations of final paper</u>	
16	Finals week: meet to pick up your grades		

**** The last page of this syllabus is a list of further readings some of which are mandatory and others are optional. Please be careful and make sure you understand which readings are necessary for each week. Read all material BEFORE class.**

Further Readings (an * indicates that the reading is optional)

Week One

Evelyn Fox Keller, 1985. *Reflections on Gender and Science*, Chapter 3: Spirit and reason at the birth of modern science.

Week Two

Sandra Harding and Jean F. O'Barr, 1987. *Sex and Scientific Inquiry*, Pgs 7-34.

Week Three

Start reading for the next few weeks!!!!

Week Four

Take advantage of the time and read the material for the first seminar

Week Five

All the seminar readings. List will be handed out in class

Week Six

*Sandra Harding, 1991. *Whose Science? Whose Knowledge?*, Chapter 9.

Week Seven

*Sandra Harding and Jean F. O'Barr, 1987. *Sex and Scientific Inquiry*, Pgs 233-246.

*Sandra Harding, 1986. *The Science Question in Feminism*, chapters 1,2 and 6.

Week Eight

Harriet Zuckerman et al. 1991. *The Outer Circle, Women in the scientific community*. Chapters 1 and 11.

Sue V. Rosser. Attracting and Retaining Women in Science and Engineering available from

<http://www.aaup.org/publications/Academe/2003/03ja/03jaross.htm>

Week Nine etc: TBA