WSS 100 (9776): WOMEN CREATING CHANGE  
www.albany.edu/faculty/jhobson/wss100

Fall 2012  
1:40-2:35 pm  
Mondays/Wednesdays - Lecture Center 22  
Fridays – Discussion Sections:  
- SECTION A – D001 (9777): Meets in BA 216 → (Resume Project Time Period: Before 1500)  
- SECTION B – D002 (9778): Meets in BA 209 → (Resume Project Time Period: 1500-1800)  
- SECTION C – D003 (9779): Meets in BA 210 → (Resume Project Time Period: 1800-1950)  

Instructor: Dr. Janell Hobson  
Office: Social Science 355  
Office Hours: Mondays & Tuesdays, 3:30-5:00 pm, & by appointment  
Email: jhobson@albany.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION  
This course serves as an introduction and gateway to the academic field of women’s studies. During the semester, we will explore a diverse range of women – from different historical periods and world regions – who have had an impact in creating social, cultural, and political change. As we study women’s writings and various cultural artifacts, we will consider how women have challenged the gender roles they were expected to follow and also how they redefined these roles, especially when they were shaped by other social factors relating to their race, class, sexuality, and nationality. A major project this semester will be for us to determine what makes a successful “change agent” as women have advanced society, culture, and politics.

COURSE LEARNING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES  
During the course of the semester, students will learn to:

1. Place women at the center of their academic learning.
2. Increase their knowledge in cultural competency and sensitivity toward gender, racial, and cultural differences.
3. Creatively engage research, teaching, and learning.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS  
Technology: This class will use i-Clickers, which is available for purchase at the University Bookstore and can be registered on Blackboard 9.1. Clickers will be used for regular class participation, engagement with reading assignments, and poll-taking.

Additional readings and materials are available on Blackboard 9.1 (hereafter abbreviated in the course schedule as BB). Both i-Clicker and textbook are available for purchase at the University bookstore.

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

**i-Clicker and Class Participation:** You are expected to regularly attend class, to bring your Clickers to lecture sessions, to bring reading materials to class the day that we discuss them, and to regularly attend and contribute to discussions and in-class exercises during your Friday discussion sections. You are allowed to miss four Clicker assignments, but once you miss more than these or fail to regularly bring your Clicker to class, you will receive a 1-point deduction for each additional Clicker assignment that you miss.

**Resume Project: The Most Radical Change Agents of All Time:** During the course of the semester, as we examine the lives of women who brought about significant political, social, and cultural change, you will be given an opportunity to explore and research the life of an individual woman who you believe represents a radical change agent. Depending on your discussion section, you will be limited by the time period during which your chosen individual lived, and within your section, you will need to sign up for and select your individual based on where she lived – 1) Afro-America, Africa, and the Black Diaspora World; 2) Asian-America, Asia, and the Pacific World; 3) Euro-America, Europe, and the Western World; 4) Middle East and the Arab World; and 5) Native America, Latina/Chicana, and the Latin World.

**Phase I: The Letter of Nomination.** You will need to submit a 1 or 2 page letter of nomination (typed and double-spaced) nominating a woman who qualifies as one of the “Most Radical Change Agents of All Time” who should serve on an imaginary Council for Change – if such a council were to exist. This Council will feature “radical change agents” who will work towards women’s advancement and radical social change. To prepare your letter, research your nominee’s Wikipedia page, and if she does not have one, describe how you will create an online resource about her. Explain what you know about your nominee and how you plan to go about researching her life story to determine if she qualifies for such a nomination. The letter must be turned in during your discussion section, **Friday, September 28, 2012.**

**Phase II: The Annotated Bibliography.** Prepare an annotated bibliography (typed and double-spaced), featuring two primary sources (any artifact produced by your nominee – letter, speech, published/dictated work, artwork, musical composition, etc.) and three secondary sources (a biographical book or book chapter, a journal article, an informative website other than Wikipedia, documentary or feature film or video, etc. about that person). The annotated bibliography must be turned in during your discussion section, **Friday, October 12, 2012.**

**Phase III: The Online Resume.** Mount a website – through blogger.com or wordpress.com – on which you will feature an online resume for your nominee, including a photo/portrait. Your resume should feature highlights of your nominee’s life activities, organized around the usual categories in a resume – Education, Occupation, Accomplishments, Awards, Recognitions, Volunteer Activities, Publications – and hyperlinks featuring the nominee’s biographical data and original works. One hyperlink should be to the nominee’s Wikipedia page (if your nominee has such a page). If your nominee never had a formal education, under “Education,” simply write
“self-taught” or “home-schooled.” If your nominee never held a formal profession or only served as a housewife or a slave, describe under “Occupation” the following examples: “Developed skills in household labor, childcare, and farm work while enslaved to… /while married to …./ while indentured to …” etc. You will be expected to create a biographical page to accompany the online resume – featuring either a 500-word essay that you have written, describing your nominee’s role as a Change Agent, or an original 5-minute digital video that you have created, uploaded onto YouTube or Vimeo, describing your nominee’s role as a Change Agent. Another hyperlink should take us to the nominee’s own words or creative work. If your nominee has delivered a renowned speech, dictated or written an influential essay, poem, or work of fiction/non-fiction, then create a hyperlink, “In Her Own Voice,” to this work. If your nominee has composed important and influential art or music or crafts, then create a hyperlink, “By Her Own Hand,” to this work. Be sure to also feature your annotated bibliography and other online resources as a hyperlink. You may also add other features for your nominee (e.g. if you want to engage in online role-play, you can choose to give your nominee her own Twitter or Tumblr account or a Facebook page. This is only recommended if your nominee is no longer living.) Be sure to post on Blackboard a hyperlink to the website address that you will be using to feature your online resume (no later than Monday, October 15, 12:00 NOON EST). The completed online resume must be submitted as a hyperlink via Blackboard no later than Friday, November 9, 2012, 12:00 NOON EST.

Phase IV: The Interview. Your discussion section facilitator(s) will evaluate and select the top 5 online resumes to be considered for an Interview Session (one from each regional category). From there, I will select the two best resumes from each discussion section. If you make the cut, you will be expected to perform as your nominee, as if she were showing up for a formal interview. If you prefer, you may also perform as your nominee’s “proxy,” standing in for her during the interview. You may use language and dress that best reflects your nominee’s time period. During your discussion section, the class will suggest different interview questions that would help determine who is a radical Change Agent. The Interview Sessions will take place in class on Monday, November 26, and Wednesday, November 28, 2012. The interviewees from each discussion section will be interviewed during our lecture class time, after which the class will vote via i-Clicker for the interviewee who should advance to the next round from each section. If you receive a Top 5 consideration, you stand to earn 2 bonus points on your Final Exam. If you are selected to participate in an Interview Session, you stand to earn 3 bonus points on your Final Exam.

Phase V: The Council for Change Presentation. If the class votes for you to advance to the final round of the Council for Change, you will be expected to prepare a 20-minute presentation that is based on a “Vision for Change,” drawing on where we have been, where we are now, and where we need to go. Your presentation should present the perspectives of your nominee (or what you imagine your nominee would envision), as well as the perspectives of members in your discussion section since your nominee will be serving as a “representative” of her constituents (discussion section members) and their concerns. You may choose to role-play as your nominee in a prepared speech or performance (again, you may use language and dress that best reflects your nominee’s time period), or you may choose to present your nominee’s life story in a formal
presentation – slide show, PowerPoint, performance, etc. After your presentation, the instructor, facilitators and students will evaluate the research, the delivery, and the creativity. After all the presentations are complete, our combined evaluations will determine the most radical “Vision for Change.” If you advance to giving a Council for Change presentation, you stand to earn 5 bonus points on your Final Exam. If your “Vision for Change” presentation is voted the most radical, all the members of your discussion section will receive 1 bonus point on their Final Exam while your own combined points will total 6 bonus points on the Final Exam.

Obviously, certain women have more renown than others, and some women have received more opportunities than others to effect change. What is important in this Resume Project is how well and how convincingly you are able to present your nominee in terms of her life goals, accomplishments, and legacy. Doing exceptional research and presentation will determine how well you can complete and succeed with this project.

Midterm Exam:  A midterm exam, which will include short-answer questions, true/false questions, and a short essay, is scheduled for Friday, October 19.

Final Exam:  The final exam will cover materials studied during the course of the semester and will include short-answer questions, true/false questions, quote/passage/image analyses, and a short essay. Be prepared to be examined on the Online Resumes your classmates produced! The exam is scheduled for Thursday, December 13, 10:30am-12:30pm.

HOW GRADES ARE DETERMINED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Due Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation/i-Clicker</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>each session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resume Project</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>Letter of Nomination – September 28</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Annotated Bibliography – October 12</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Website – October 15</td>
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<td>Online Resume – November 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>October 19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>December 13 – 10:30-12:30</td>
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GRADING SCALE
A = 100-93 points | A- = 92-90 points | B+ = 89-87 points | B = 86-83 points | B- = 82-80 points
C+ = 79-77 points | C = 76-73 points | C- = 72-70 points | D = 69-65 points | E = Below 65 points
EXPECTATIONS
Due to the contents of this course, sensitivity and respect for all are a must. Please turn off mobile and smart phones (or keep on vibrator alert in cases of “emergency” calls) before class begins. Texting and Internet surfing on personal laptops are considered disrespectful use of class time and will result in reduced points from your class participation grade if they become regular occurrences.

Late assignments will result in a 5-point reduction for each day late. After two days late, you will receive a “0” for that assignment. Plagiarism and cheating are university offenses and will result in failing grades.

TO AVOID PLAGIARISM:
Understand what it means: plagiarism results when someone uses the ideas or writings of another and presents these ideas or writings as her or his own. When citing sources, it is best to present ideas using your own original words. When quoting directly from sources, it is best to use direct quotes only if the phrasing is apt and powerfully stated; be sure to include proper citation. If the quote is not revelatory or eloquent but simply provides some useful information, then it is best to explain the information completely in your own words while providing proper citation.

TO AVOID COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT:
You will need to familiarize yourself with copyright policies on “fair use” of others’ creative works. Copyright “fair use” allows you to reproduce copyrighted work if your use of such work is “transformative” of the original or contains a small portion of it. Visit: http://fairuse.stanford.edu/.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNCIL FOR CHANGE</th>
<th>BONUS POINTS ON FINAL EXAM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Top 5 Consideration in Discussion Section</td>
<td>2 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selected to Participate in Interview Session</td>
<td>3 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Selected to Give 20-Minute Presentation</td>
<td>5 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Most Radical Change Agent of All Time</td>
<td>6 points (plus allowing for students in her/his Discussion Section to earn 1 bonus point)</td>
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COURSE SCHEDULE

Introduction
Aug. 27 Course overview.
Aug. 31 Discussion Section: *Introductions and Reflections.*

Recovering Women’s Histories
Sept. 3 holiday – no class.
Sept. 5  Lecture: *Rethinking Women’s History.*  

Sept. 7  Discussion Section: *Women’s Studies Creating Change.*  
WIC: Introduction (pp. 1-12).

**Women’s Conditions and the Need for Change**

Sept. 10  Lecture: *This Woman’s Work.*  

Sept. 12  Lecture: *We Need a Revolution.*  

Sept. 14  Discussion Section: *What does it mean to be a “Change Agent”? The Resume Project.*

**Women Recognizing the Differences between Us**

Sept. 17  holiday – no class.

WIC: pp. 256-59; 281-83; 420-31; 441-52.

Sept. 21  Discussion Section: *Creating Change: Which Women? What Kind of Change?*

**Fighting Injustice**

Sept. 24  Lecture: *We’ve Got to Fight to Save Our Lives.*  
WIC: pp. 376-397.

Sept. 26  holiday – no class.

Sept. 28  Discussion Section: *Nominating a Radical Change Agent to the Council for Change.*  
Due: Letter of Nomination.

**To Be Public and Shameless...**

Oct. 1  Lecture: *From the Personal to the Political: Public Discourse on Female Sexuality.*  

Oct. 3  Video: *America’s Victoria.*

Oct. 5  Discussion Section: *Is Female Sexuality Still Taboo?*  

**Bold Moves**

Oct. 8  Video: *Chisholm’72: Unbought and Unbossed.*
Oct. 10  Video continued.

Oct. 12  Discussion Section: *What challenges do women in leadership positions face?*
Due: Annotated Bibliography for Resume Project.

**It Began with Women**

Oct. 15  Video: “Awakenings” from *Eyes on the Prize.*
Due: Website for Resume Project.

BB: “From Emmett Till to Trayvon Martin”; “Rosa Parks Did More than Sit on a Bus.”

Oct. 19  Midterm Exam (Meet in LC 22).

**Revolution Begins with the Self**


Oct. 24  continued.

Oct. 26  Discussion Section: *Religion and Feminism: Are they compatible?*
WIC: pp. 330-332; 59-68.

**Praise and Resistance**

WIC: 71-87.

Oct. 31  Lecture: *Demonization, Deification, Democratization.*

Nov. 2  Discussion Section: *Is religion inherently oppressive or inherently liberating for women?*

**Earth First, Women Leading**

Nov. 5  Video: *Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai*

Nov. 7  Video continued.

Nov. 9  Discussion Section: *Is environmental consciousness feminist consciousness?*
Due: Online Resume.

**Toward a More Inclusive Movement for Social Change**

Nov. 12  Lecture: *Struggling to Redefine Our Struggles.*
WIC: 155-58; 453-57; 502-509.
Nov. 14  Lecture: *A Different “Woman” Creating Change.*  
BB: Gan, “Still at the Back of the Bus: Sylvia Rivera’s Struggle.”

Nov. 16  Discussion Section: *Interview Questions for Radical Change Agents.*

**The Art of Survival and Wholeness**

Nov. 19  Lecture: *Recovering the Great Woman Artist.*  
WIC: 159-171; BB: Walker, “In Search of Our Mothers’ Gardens.”

Nov. 21-23  holiday – no class.

**The Most Radical Change Agents Of All Time: Interviews**

Nov. 26  Interview Sessions: Facilitators interview Top 2 Short List Contenders (Sections A & B).

Nov. 28  Interview Sessions: Facilitators interview Top 2 Short List Contenders (Sections C & D).

Nov. 30  Discussion Section: *Preparing a “Vision for Change.”*

**Council for Change: Presentations**

Dec. 3  Presentations: Role-Play Speeches or Formal Presentation (Sections A & B).

Dec. 5  Presentations: Role-Play Speeches or Formal Presentation (Sections C & D).

Dec. 7  Discussion Section: *Reflections on the Council for Change.*

**Conclusion**

Dec. 10  Course Review and Final Exam preparations.

Dec. 13  Final Exam: 10:30 am -12:30 pm.