## Course Description

This course is an advanced introduction to the ways in which feminisms emerged in Africa as a set of theoretical interventions and as political practice. It examines the ways in which gender was understood as a marker of power – status, hierarchy as well as social capability – in different parts of Africa, and the ways in which gender operated as a system of distribution of resources, responsibilities and solidarities. African theories of gender and sexuality are explored in relation to colonialism, class and race. These intersecting forms of power have resulted in differences in the forms of feminism in different parts of the continent. Although the focus will be on texts from Anglophone Africa, variations across regions will also be explored. The course is historically grounded, and takes the approach that the genealogies of ideas have explanatory capacity.

By the end of the course, students will develop an understanding of the richness and complexity of African feminisms, and will be able to place African feminisms in conversation with feminisms in other parts of the world.
II. Course Schedule

**September 9: Introduction to the course**
Discussion of key themes and theoretical directions
Discussion of objectives and evaluation criteria

**September 16: Problems in the field**
Nzegwu, Nkiru, “Feminism and Africa: Impact and limits of the metaphysics of gender,”
[https://repository.brynmawr.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1006&context=soc_pubs](https://repository.brynmawr.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1006&context=soc_pubs)

**September 23: Is ‘gender’ African?**

**September 30: Colonialism as domestic intimacy**
October 7: Reproductive control and sexualities

October 14: Intimate Resistances
BOOK REVIEW DUE!

OCTOBER 21-25: UNIVERSITY BREAK

October 28: PRESENTATION OF ESSAY PROPOSALS

November 4: The allures and discontents of nation
Shireen Hassim, 2006, Women’s Organisations and Democracy in South Africa, chapter 1, pp. 20-46

November 11: Collective action
NOVEMBER 18: ESSAY WRITING (NO CLASS)

November 25: ESSAYS DUE!

November 25: Rights, equality and the state

December 2: Violence: public and private
Gqola, Pumla Dineo, “How the ‘cult of femininity’ and violent masculinities support endemic gender based violence in contemporary South Africa,” Agenda,

III. Evaluation:
Seminar participation 10%
Students are expected to prepare for class. You will be assessed on your presentation as well as on your general participation in discussion throughout the course.

Seminar presentation 15%
Each student will prepare to lead one class discussion. This will include a short written intervention (2-3 pages), circulated to the class 24 hours before the presentation.

Book Review 15%
Prepare a 2-3 page critical analytical response to any book relevant to the course. Please discuss your selection with me first. Your response should address the book’s core argument, supporting evidence and should provide a critical assessment of the significance and validity of the argument. Due date October 14.

Presentation of proposal for essay 10%
Each student will present an idea/ concept note for an essay on October 28. This will be a two-three page exposition of the core question that is being addressed and a bibliography. The concept note must
be circulated to the class by noon on October 27.

**Essay 50%**
This major assignment should be a critical examination of a topic addressed in this course. The essay must demonstrate critical thinking, the ability to assess different texts in a coherent analysis, and be well written and formally referenced. The essay must be between 8-10 pages Times New Roman font size 12 double-spaced, and is due on November 25 2019.

### Course Assessment

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSIGNMENT</th>
<th>WEIGHT</th>
<th>DATE DUE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Continuous assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminar presentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Sign up at first class for date</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Review</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>October 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay proposal</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>October 27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>November 25</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>100%</td>
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REGULATIONS COMMON TO ALL AFRICAN STUDIES COURSES

COPIES OF WRITTEN WORK SUBMITTED
Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

PLAGIARISM
The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

COURSE SHARING WEBSITES and COPYRIGHT
Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).

Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).

STATEMENT ON CLASS CONDUCT
The Carleton University Human Rights Policies and Procedures affirm that all members of the University community share a responsibility to:

- promote equity and fairness,
- respect and value diversity,
- prevent discrimination and harassment, and
• preserve the freedom of its members to carry out responsibly their scholarly work without threat of interference.

Carleton University Equity Services states that “every member of the University community has a right to study, work and live in a safe environment free of discrimination or harassment”. [In May of 2001 Carleton University’s Senate and Board of Governors approved the Carleton University Human Rights Policies and Procedures. The establishment of these policies and procedures was the culmination of the efforts of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Human Rights and a Human Rights Implementation Committee.]

GRADING SYSTEM
Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

- **A+** = 90-100 (12)
- **B** = 73-76 (8)
- **C -** = 60-62 (4)
- **A** = 85-89 (11)
- **B -** = 70-72 (7)
- **D+** = 57-59 (3)
- **A -** = 80-84 (10)
- **C+** = 67-69 (6)
- **D** = 53-56 (2)
- **B+** = 77-79 (9)
- **C** = 63-66 (5)
- **D -** = 50-52 (1)

F  Failure. No academic credit WDN Withdrawn from the course
ABS Absent from the final examination
DEF Official deferral (see "Petitions to Defer")
FND  Failure with no deferred exam allowed -- assigned only when the student has failed the course on the basis of inadequate term work as specified in the course outline.

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY
September 30, 2019: Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from fall and fall/winter (full year) courses (financial withdrawal). Withdrawals after this date will create no financial change to fall term fees and will result in a permanent notation of WDN appearing on your official transcript.
December 6, 2019: Last day for academic withdrawal from fall courses.
April 7, 2020: Last day for academic withdrawal from fall/winter (full year) courses.

REQUESTS FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS
You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide: [https://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](https://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide: [https://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](https://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)
Accommodation for Student Activities: write to the professor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf

Survivors of sexual violence: As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton’s Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: https://carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support/wp-content/uploads/Sexual-Violence-Policy-December-1-2016.pdf

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

PETITIONS TO DEFER
Students unable to complete a final term paper or write a final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control or whose performance on an examination has been impaired by such circumstances may apply within five working days to the Registrar’s Office for permission to extend a term paper deadline or to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully and specifically supported by a medical certificate or other relevant documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar’s Office will be considered.

ADDRESSES (613-520-2600, phone ext.)
Institute of African Studies (x2220) 439 Paterson Hall (PA)
Registrar’s Office (x3500) 300 Tory
Student Academic Success Centre (x7850) 302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre (x6608) 500 Unicentre
Centre for Student Academic Support – Study Skills, Writing Tutorials, Bounce Back (3822) 4th flr. Library

Application for Graduation Deadlines
Spring Graduation (June): March 1
Fall Graduation (November): September 1
Winter Graduation (February): December 1