

**Feminism in Action**  
**WGST 3850.01/ WGST 3850.H01/ POLS 3850.01**

**Saint Louis University**  
**M/ W 3:10-4:25 pm**  
**Brouster 040**

Instructor: Dr. Mary Maxfield (she/they)  
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION** This course addresses feminist activism on a wide range of issues (including domestic violence, rape, education and health care), and in a variety of forms (including writing, theater, public protests and coalition building). It gives students the opportunity to study the scholarship of activism and to participate in feminist action.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

By coming to class *prepared, curious, and prepared to contribute to our classroom community*, you will, by the end of the semester, achieve the learning objectives:

*Understand the range of issues feminists address through activism;*

This course has a Canvas site that is available through MySLU. Canvas will be used in the following ways:

Required readings: Articles will be posted, usually as PDF files or web links. Students should print articles and bring them to class.

All handouts and assignments, including a copy of this syllabus, are available on Canvas.

Written assignments will be submitted through Canvas.

Announcements and important links will be posted on Canvas.

## **GRADING**

**PARTICIPATION (10%)**

**POST-IT ACTION (5%)**

**SHOW-AND-TELLS (10%)**

**REFLECTIONS (25%)**

**ACTIVIST PROJECT (40%)**

**ALLY/ COLLABORATOR/ CO-CONSPIRATOR PROJECT (10%)**

**Attendance:** Attendance is necessary in this class. Students can miss 3 classes throughout the course of the semester, without penalty. Additional absences will lower your participation grade. Students who are having difficulty with attendance are encouraged to contact their instructors as soon as possible and remain in active communication to determine reasonable accommodations.

**Participation:** Attendance is key, but participation goes beyond your presence in the room. Participation means reading materials in advance



**Stage 3: Learning from Others [~2 page paper]**

**Stage 4: The Action**

**Stage 5: The Final Paper [6-8 pages] & Presentation**

Each student will present their project in a showcase of Feminism in Action presentations that will be open to the WGS community and friends.

Presentation times will vary based on the number of students, but will be announced in advance (likely about 6 minutes per person.)

**Ally/ Collaborator/ Co-Conspirator Project (10%):** This assignment gives you an opportunity to earn credit for work you do in support of classmate/s or other community members' activism. This could include doing graphics or photography for someone, helping set up an event, participating in a brainstorming meeting, editing a brochure, etc. The total amount of time on your ally project(s) should be 3-4 hours. A form will be provided for you to log your hours. Provide at least 2 paragraphs of reflections on being an ally/ collaborator/ co-con



All readings/ assignments should be completed ahead of class for the day they are listed. This schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in-class and on Canvas.

Personal Reflections: 3 (of 5) required.  
Action Reflections: 12 (of 17) required.

**UNIT 1: FOUNDATIONS**

**W Aug 24 Intro to Class/ Each Other/ Community Guidelines**

**M Aug 29 ~~Personal Reflections~~ ~~122.66 529.39 Tm 0 g 0 G[( )] T~~ ~~JJTTQQ000000813.55008012~~ ~~WBH/H3H2/HH~~**

## **UNIT 2: INTERSECTIONS**

**M Sep 19**     **LGBTQIA+ Activism: The St. Louis Queer Support Helpline (SQSH)**  
View “A Conversation with SQSH” [video], starting at 30:15 (SQSH’s  
Founding, Mission and Programs)

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**W Oct 12**



**W Nov 9      Reproductive Justice: Sex Education**  
Listen to “A Very Specific Mary Poppins” (~40 min)  
Explore the Scarleteen website.  
Action Reflection 14

**UNIT 5: CULTURE AND LAW**

**M Nov 14      Sport & Education Inequity: Title IX**  
Read “Title IX and How We Got It” (Sandler)  
Action Reflection 15

**W Nov 16      Feminist Literacy**  
Read *The Feminist Bookstore Movement* [excerpt] (Hogan)  
Action Reflection 16

**M Nov 21      Looking Forward**  
“A Killjoy Manifesto” and “A Killjoy Survival Kit” (Ahmed)  
Personal Reflection 4: Your Manifesto  
**Feminist Action: Stage 4: Action Due**

**W Nov 23 NO CLASS**

**M Nov 28      Culture Work: Riot Grrrl**  
Watch *The Punk Singer*  
Action Reflection 17: Riot Grrrl

**W Nov 30      Looking Back, Looking Forward**  
Personal Reflection 5: Feminist Killjoy Survival Kit  
Last opportunity for second show-and-tell

**M Dec 5      Student Presentations (Tentative Schedule)**  
**Feminist Action: Stage 5: Reflection Essay Due**

**W Dec 7      Student Presentations (Tentative Schedule)**