

## THE POLITICS OF MOTHERHOOD

WS 5663-50 (82655) \* Spring 2012 \* 100% Online \* "Virtual Class" meetings on Mondays 1/23, 3/5, 5/7 from 6-8:50 p.m.



*"No choice has a more profound impact on a woman's life than her decision whether or not to become a mother"*—Diana Tietjens Meyers

*"We have to care not just about 'our' rights but all women's rights, not just about 'our' children, but about all children."*—Diana Taylor

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

*The Politics of Motherhood* is a reading and writing intensive seminar in which we take a relational approach to investigate the social construction and politicalization of motherhood. Central themes in the seminar include the institutionalization of motherhood, ideologies of motherhood, motherhood as subjectivity and identity, motherhood as agency and performance, and feminist theories of motherhood. We examine issues that include but are not limited to the following: Maternal theory, feminism and motherhood, mother-activism, motherhood and experience, motherhood and difference, motherhood and essentialism, motherhood and reproduction, and the motherhood and child relationship. *The Politics of Motherhood* fulfills an elective for the M.A. and Graduate Certificate Programs in Women's Studies at TWU.

### READINGS ARE SELECTED FROM THE FOLLOWING REQUIRED TEXTS:

- King, Toni C. and S. Aleese Ferguson. *Black Womanist Leadership*, 2011. 978-1438436029
- Kinser, Amber. *Motherhood and Feminism*. Seal P, 2010, ISBN 978-1580052702
- Landsman, Gail. *Reconstructing Motherhood and Disability in the Age of "Perfect" Babies*, 2008. 978-0415917896
- Lavell, Jeannette Corbiere and D. Memee Lavell-Harvard. *Until Our Hearts Are on the Ground: Aboriginal Mothering, Oppression, Resistance and Rebirth*, 2006. 978-1550144611
- Layne, Linda L. *Motherhood Lost: A Feminist Account of Pregnancy Loss in America*, 2002. 978-0415911481
- Plant, Rebecca Jo. *Mom: The Transformation of Motherhood in Modern America*, 2011. 978-0226670201

\*\* In addition to the required textbooks, we will engage a number of journal articles and viewing material.

For more information please contact:  
Dr. Christa J. Downer  
[cdowner@twu.edu](mailto:cdowner@twu.edu) or 940-898-2112