

NEW COURSE FOR SPRING 2010:

THE POLITICS OF MOTHERHOOD

WS 5663-01 (Course Code: 38004) * Spring 2010 * Thursdays 6-8:50 p.m.

“Motherhood has been more than a domestic chore or emotional bond for my mother. It’s a political vocation—one she’s taken seriously enough to go up against the world for”

—Lisa Jones (*Bulletproof Diva: Tales of Race, Sex, and Hair, 1994*)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The Politics of Motherhood is a reading intensive seminar in which we take a relational approach to investigate the politicalization of motherhood and the social construction of mothering. Central themes in the seminar include: Maternal Subjectivity, Maternal Performance, and Maternal Politics. We examine issues that include but are not limited to the following: *How has motherhood been politicized? How is motherhood constructed to disempower women? How is motherhood an identity of power? Who gets to be a mother? Who is a “good” mother? Who is a “bad” mother? How have reproductive technologies changed motherhood? What is mother-activism? What is the relationship between feminism and motherhood?*

READINGS ARE SELECTED FROM THE FOLLOWING REQUIRED TEXTS:

Diquinzio, Patrice. *The Impossibility of Motherhood: Feminism, Individualism and the Problem of Motherhood*. New York: Routledge, 1999. ISBN 9780415910231

Glenn, Evelyn. *Mothering: Ideology, Experience, and Agency*. New York: Routledge, 1993. ISBN 9780415907767

Hansen, Karen and Anita Iltta Gary. *Families in the U.S.: Kinship and Domestic Politics*. Philadelphia, PA.: Temple UP, 1998. ISBN 9781566395908

Jetter, Alexis, Annelise Orleck, and Diana Taylor. *The Politics of Motherhood: Activist Voices from the Left to Right*. Hanover, N.H.: UP of New England, 1997. ISBN 9780874517804

***In addition to the required textbooks, we will be reading a number of journal articles.*

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