**WST 100: Service Learning Project (Due January 12)**

The Service Learning Project provides students with the opportunity to engage more deeply in Women’s and Gender Studies subject matter. Students will be actively involved in research, teaching, and reflection.

**Part 1: Consciousness Raising Group – 25 points**

One of the ways in which Second Wave feminists increased public awareness about women’s and gender issues was to meet in small groups and discuss specific topics. You will be the facilitator of a consciousness raising group. The topic will be, “Body Image and the Media.”

**Gather:**  5-10 friends or family members for a one-hour group meeting.

**Materials Needed**: 5-10 current magazines (mixture of genres, both women’s and men’s)

Food/drink (optional, but may be helpful in increasing participation)

**Description**:

1. Provide each of your participants with a magazine. Ask them to peruse the content and images, looking for how gender is portrayed. Allow 5-10 minutes.
2. Ask the following questions:
   1. How are bodies represented in the magazines?
   2. How do the images vary by age, sex, class, race, disability, body size, etc.?
   3. What messages do you get from looking at these images?
   4. How have media images affected you personally?
3. Take notes while participants are discussing.
4. Write a 2-3 page, double-spaced summary and reflection on what was said and what you learned (e.g., what surprised you, reactions of the group, how well the facilitation went, etc.). Include a list of your participants by age and sex (e.g., M19, F34, etc.).

**Part 2: Online Activism - 25 points**

Increasing awareness and promoting change related to women’s and gender issues has taken a different form in the Third Wave of feminism. Social media has been at the forefront of disseminating information and encouraging activism.

**Description:**

1. From **12/23-1/11**, follow three (3) of these feminist or social justice blogs/media sites:

Feministing: <http://feministing.com>

Bitchmedia: <http://bitchmagazine.org/blogs>

Everyday Feminism: <http://www.everydayfeminism.com>

Our Bodies Our Blog: <http://www.ourbodiesourblog.org/>

Feministe: <http://www.feministe.us/blog/>

The Crunk Feminist Collective: <http://www.crunkfeministcollective.com/>

Alternet: <http://www.alternet.org/reproductivejustice/>

Human Rights Campaign: [www.hrc.org/blog](http://www.hrc.org/blog)

Oxfam International: <http://blogs.oxfam.org/en/gender-justice>

Others with permission of instructor

1. Write a 3-5 page, double-spaced paper, using the following questions to guide you:
   1. What were the major issues that were covered during the time that you were following the blogs?
   2. What did you learn?
   3. Describe your reactions to what you learned. How will you use what you learned in your personal or activist life?