

English and Social Studies Curriculum Guide

for the Sisters of Mercy Critical Concerns



SECTION 5: WOMEN



Mercy Education
System of the Americas

Educación de la Misericordia
de las Américas

Women



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Definition

While representing nearly 50% of the world's population, women today still lack equal representation within political and economic circles. In the world today, the rights of women throughout the developing world is a critical concern. Support for women's issues involves action and advocacy for policies that support equality for women, especially in the areas of education, healthcare, employment, and childcare. These causes should be paired with a renewed feminist movement that understands and reforms gender stereotypes.

Characteristics

- Failure to treat women as equal to men in word or deed is a form of violence.
- This violence can be physical, emotional, psychological, or sexual and has numerous consequences.
- The Sisters of Mercy believe that women's education, health and spirituality need special attention. They continue this mission in their schools, colleges, health-care institutions and spirituality centers. They advocate for equal pay, for services for domestic violence victims, economic justice, and for the rights of girls and women in especially repressive societies.

Essential Questions

- What is "feminism?"
- What are the values of "mainstream" feminism today? Are they different from the values of "radical" feminism?
- How are women treated in politics and the workplace?
- What are the causes and effects of the #MeToo movement?
- What issues are women facing in the developing world?

- What are the cultural narratives involving gender roles and how do they contribute to discrimination against women? How do cultural narratives about gender limit men in their choices?
- What are the implications of gender stereotypes combined with racial stereotypes to men and women of color?
- What can individuals do in support of women's issues that reflects Mercy priorities listed in "characteristics" above?

Recommended Topics

- Equal Rights Amendment
- Domestic and Dating Violence
- The Pay Gap and "Glass Ceiling"
- Human Trafficking
- Abortion and the Right-to-Life Movement
- Childcare and paid maternity leave
- Women's prisons
- Under representation of women in politics, corporations, STEM, and judiciary
- #MeToo Movement
- Gender Stereotypes
- The History of Patriarchy
- Women's Education
- Women and Religion
- Women and the Media
- Percentage of U.S. Poor that are Women
- Feminism in Developing and Developed Countries

Recommended Resources

- [History of Catherine McAuley](#) - working on behalf of women
- [USCCB on Sexual Abuse of Women](#)
- [USCCB on Women's Issues](#)
- [Pope Francis: Woman is the world's harmony](#)
- [Sisters of Mercy Justice Site on Women](#)
- [Sisters of Mercy Resource Sheet on Women](#)
- [Sisters of Mercy Links on Human Trafficking](#)
- [U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking](#)
- [A Mighty Girl Blog](#)
- [National Right to Life](#)
- [He For She](#)
- [Days for Girls International](#)
- [Conceptual Unit Outlines](#)

- Trafficking Victim Protection Act 2000
- Poetry Foundation: Women
- NETWORK

Recommended Readings

Articles

- "Picture A Leader: Is She A Woman?"
- "Beyond the Girl and Boy Aisles"
- "Why Is Silicon Valley So Awful To Women?"
- "What 4 Men Learned From Being Photoshopped Like Famous Women: Huffington Post"

Fiction

- Atwood, Margaret. *The Penelopiad, The Handmaid's Tale*
- Bronte, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre*
- Austin, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice*
- Chopin, Kate. *The Awakening*
- Hurston, Zora Neal. *Their Eyes Are Watching God*
- Walker, Alice. *The Color Purple*
- Wolff, Virginia. *Orlando, A Room of One's Own*
- Kidd, Sue Monk. *The Secret Life of Bees*
- Sophocles. *Antigone*
- Shakespeare, William. *Macbeth, Hamlet*
- Morrison, Toni. *The Bluest Eye, Sula*
- Ibsen, Henrik. *The Dolls House*
- Hawthorne, Nathaniel. *The Scarlet Letter*

Nonfiction

- Kristof, Nicholas. *Half the Sky*.
- Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi. *Dear Ijeawele, or A Feminist Manifesto in 15 Suggestions*
- Clinton, Hillary. *What Happened*
- Japinga, Lynn. *Feminism and Christianity: An Essential Guide*
- Flores, Theresa and Peggy Sue Wells. *The Slave Across the Street*
- Angelou, Maya. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*
- Truth, Sojourner. *Ain't I a Woman?*
- Taylor, Susie King. *Reminiscences of My Life In Camp*
- Walls, Jeannette. *The Glass Castle*
- Simmons, Rachel. *Enough As She Is*
- Friedan, Betty. *The Feminine Mystique*

- Lindbergh, Anne Morrow. *The Gift from the Sea*
- Yousafzai, Malala. *I Am Malala*
- Carter, Jimmy. *A Call To Action*
- Gay, Roxane. *Bad Feminist*

Recommended Videos

- “Miss Representation” Documentary
- “Killing Us Softly: Advertising’s Image of Women” Documentary
- “He Named Me Malala” Documentary
- “Half the Sky” Documentary
- “The Hunting Ground” Documentary
- “The Invisible War” Documentary
- "Emma Watson He For She"
- "Malala UN Speech"
- "We Should All Be Feminists"
- “Suffragette” Film
- “RGB”

Lesson with Link and Source	Lesson Topics	Connection to English Curriculum	Connection to Social Studies Curriculum
<p><u>Women Issues of 19th Century U.S.</u> by Library of Congress</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women's Suffrage - Civil War - Slavery - Analyzing Primary Sources - Persuasive Writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use when studying works of fiction or nonfiction in which the role of women is key, for example, works like <i>The Awakening</i> by Kate Chopin that emphasize the constraining role of social gender roles. - Use when teaching students how to write a persuasive letter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Use when exploring the Seneca Falls Convention and the Declaration of Sentiments (USHIS 1848) Jane Addams and Hull House (USHIS 1889) Abolitionists such as Lucretia Mott, William Lloyd Garrison, Sojourner Truth
<p><u>Human Trafficking</u> by Advocates for Human Rights</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Modern Day Slavery - Misconceptions about Trafficking - Trafficking in the U.S. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use when studying works of fiction or nonfiction about slavery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Use when exploring the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (USHIS 2000)
<p><u>Dating Violence</u> by PBS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dating Violence Facts and Myths - Laws About Dating Violence - Websites Providing Assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use when studying works of fiction or nonfiction involving dating, domestic, or interpersonal violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Use when exploring Violence Against Women Act (USHIS 1994)
<p><u>Gender Stereotypes</u> by PBS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gender Stereotypes - Title IX - Analyzing Media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use when studying works of fiction or nonfiction involving gender stereotypes. For example, many works like <i>The Bluest Eye</i>, show the ill effects of valuing women's appearances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Use when exploring the impact of Title IX (USHIS 1972) Mass media, conformity, and the myths & realities of women in the 1950s (USHIS 1948-60) Cult of Domesticity

		over their actions and character.	(USHIS 1820-1890) - Use when exploring Gender and Social Psychology
<u>Women in the Criminal Justice System</u> by Independent Television Service	Individual Lessons Covering: - Portraits and Trends - Intervention Program for Mothers - Resilience, Empathy, Role Models, and Mentoring	- Use when studying works of fiction or nonfiction involving female characters in prison	- Use when exploring Reformers such as Dorothea Dix and the Second Great Awakening (USHIS 1840s)
<u>#MeToo Movement</u> by New York Times	- #MeToo - Sexual Harassment - Surviving Sexual Assault	- Use when studying works of fiction or nonfiction involving sexual harassment	- Use when exploring previous feminist movements in U.S. and World History
<u>Feminism From the 1960s to Today</u> by ReadWriteThink	- Feminism - Betty Friedan - Women's Issues	- Use when studying works of fiction or nonfiction involving strong female characters and issues they face	- Use when exploring the changing roles of women in society and their push for equality through legislation like Title IX (USHIS 1972) - Use as a comparison to feminist movements in different cultures in World History