January 7 2015
Review Syllabus, introductions, film Killing Us Softly3
Topic: women and media

January 14 2015
Documentary Film: Selling the Girl Next Door (2011) 43 min reveals the devastating realities of the business of underage sex. In a year-long investigation, CNN correspondent Amber Lyon goes underground herself, posting an online ad, and taking calls from solicitors – and Internet pimps – to understand more about how girls are victimized by traffickers.
Topic: sex trafficking

January 21 2015
Documentary Film: Orgasm Inc. (2009) 73 min
Filmmaker Liz Canner takes a job editing erotic videos for a drug trial for a pharmaceutical company. Her employer is developing what they hope will be the first Viagra drug for women that wins FDA approval to treat a new disease: Female Sexual Dysfunction (FSD). Liz gains permission to film the company for her own documentary. Initially, she plans to create a movie about science and pleasure but she soon begins to suspect that her employer, along with a cadre of other medical companies, might be trying to take advantage of women
Topic: women’s sexuality and rights

January 28 2015
Performance: The Raging Grannies are social justice activist groups. The group dresses up in costumes that mock stereotypes of older women, raising public awareness through the medium of song and humor. With their origins dating back to 1987, these White, middle-class, educated women between the ages of 52 – 67 began their performances out of a reaction to what was taking place around them in society; the threat of health and environment, ageism and sexism. Today, they are just as witty, performing their satirical songs which they used when they peacefully protested against solidarity among women and their right to be treated fairly.
Topic: women’s movements

February 4 2015
Speaker: Madeline Barch is an instructor in Political Science at Seattle Central College and teaches a course in Women and Politics. Madeline has a broad knowledge of women’s participation in government, both locally and nationally, and in social movements like Riot Grrrls and the Campaign against Female Genital Mutilation. Madeline is particularly interested in how media bias affects the women who run for political office, and she is looking forward to analyzing the upcoming presidential election. Additional speaker second hour: Cynthia Sisk, Executive Leadership Coach
Topic: women in politics, leadership

February 11 2015
Speaker: David Ward, Legal Voice
David is Legal and Legislative Counsel at Legal Voice, where his work focuses on gender violence, LGBT issues and family law. Before joining Legal Voice in 2008, he was the legislative liaison for the Washington State Bar Association. He also worked as a staff attorney at the Access to Justice Institute at Seattle University School of Law, and more. David serves on the board of the QLaw Foundation and as a member of the Washington Supreme Court’s Gender and Justice Commission. He is a graduate of Yale Law School and Trinity University
Topic: women and violence
February 18 2015
Documentary Film: Dark Girls (2011) 75 min
When Africans were first brought to the United States as slaves, many slave owners took a strange approach to dividing the labor — lighter skinned blacks were assigned to work inside the house, performing more precise but less physically demanding chores, while their darker skinned brethren were forced to perform punishing manual labor in the fields. A grim vestige of this tradition lives on in African-American culture, as women with dark complexion often find themselves looked down upon by their peers, considered less attractive, intelligent, or refined than women with a lighter skin tone. In this film, a variety of African-American women discuss this phenomenon, sharing their thoughts on the social and cultural implications of this subtle but common form of prejudice.
Topic: women and oppression

February 25 2015
Speaker: Reema Qadry is the co-founder and veteran speaker for the Seattle Islamic Speakers Bureau, whose mission is educating to eliminate stereotypes about American Muslims and their faith. Reema holds a degree in Management Information Systems from the University of Calgary. For the past 10 years she has delivered many presentations in schools, colleges, universities on Islam and related subjects.
Topic: women and religion

March 4 2015
Speakers: Cheryl Platz, Amazon; Tara Steed, Expedia; Chauncy Faulkner, Slalom Consulting
This panel will speak about women in STEM. Cheryl brings her current experience working as a Senior UX Designer, Tara in IT Problem Management, and Chauncy in Network Tools and Administration. Cheryl is previous Vice President with IGNITE, which connects school-age girls to professional women in STEM careers. IGNITE believes that by increasing the number of women choosing STEM careers, we invest in our nation’s future of gender equity, and position the United States to remain competitive in these vital industries.
Topic: women’s work, income

March 11 2015
Speaker Liz Vivian is the Executive Director of Women’s Funding Alliance. Women in the Greater Seattle Area make just 73 cents for every dollar earned by men - the worst gender pay gap of the 50 largest metropolitan areas in the country. The Women’s Funding Alliance advocates for women and girls in the community, providing leadership to local funding collaboratives and the Seattle mayor’s Gender Equity in Pay Taskforce. Their mission is to advance leadership and economic opportunity for women and girls in Washington State.
Topic: women’s lower status

March 18 2015
Speaker Melissa Tumas, University of Washington
Green Dot is a movement to prevent and reduce power-based violence by engaging students as active bystanders who step in, speak up, and interrupt potential acts of violence. Green Dot is about gaining a critical mass of students, staff and faculty who are willing to do their small part to actively and visibly reduce power-based personal violence.
Topic: sexual assault

March 25 2015
Class Presentations
Topic: varies