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## **Level 4**

### **High school changes 'sexist' Women's Studies course**

**18th April, 2017**

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1704/170418-womens-studies-4.html>

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**Please try Levels 5 and 6. They are (a little) harder.**

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# THE READING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1704/170418-womens-studies-4.html>

A school in Canada has been criticized online for its women's studies course. Critics thought it had sexist subjects that were unfit for women in the 21st century. These included 'polite conversation,' dinner party etiquette, and 'nail application skills'. There was also a course on how to "enhance your style...face and body shape". The course did also have lessons on web design, reproductive health, the role of women in history, and beauty in the media.

A leading critic was actress Siobhan Bryn. She wrote: "This is unbelievably sexist. Women's studies is not fashion and putting on a lunch." She said the course looked like it was from the 1950's. Another critic said it was very "offensive and disrespectful". The school has now removed the subjects. A spokesman said: "It looks like we're supporting stereotyping girls....We want [our kids] to have a positive image and build self-esteem,...to analyze things critically."

Sources: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-4342910/High-school-offers-polite-conversation-classes-girls.html>  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-39348155>  
<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/edmonton/clyde-women-studies-pembina-school-1.4034711>

# PHRASE MATCHING

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1704/170418-womens-studies-4.html>

## PARAGRAPH ONE:

- |                       |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Critics thought it | a. enhance your style        |
| 2. unfit for          | b. of women in history       |
| 3. dinner party       | c. on web design             |
| 4. how to             | d. had sexist subjects       |
| 5. lessons            | e. the media                 |
| 6. reproductive       | f. etiquette                 |
| 7. the role           | g. women in the 21st century |
| 8. beauty in          | h. health                    |

## PARAGRAPH TWO:

- |                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. A leading critic was    | a. girls                |
| 2. This is unbelievably    | b. esteem               |
| 3. looked like it was from | c. removed the subjects |
| 4. The school has now      | d. critically           |
| 5. stereotyping            | e. actress Siobhan Bryn |
| 6. have a positive         | f. the 1950's           |
| 7. build self-             | g. image                |
| 8. analyze things          | h. sexist               |

# LISTEN AND FILL IN THE GAPS

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1704/170418-womens-studies-4.html>

A school in Canada has been (1) \_\_\_\_\_ for its women's studies course. Critics thought it had sexist subjects (2) \_\_\_\_\_ for women in the 21st century. These included 'polite conversation,' dinner (3) \_\_\_\_\_, and 'nail application skills'. There was (4) \_\_\_\_\_ how to "enhance your style...face and body shape". The course did also have (5) \_\_\_\_\_ design, reproductive health, the role of women in history, and (6) \_\_\_\_\_.

A leading (7) \_\_\_\_\_ Siobhan Bryn. She wrote: "This is unbelievably sexist. Women's studies is not fashion and (8) \_\_\_\_\_." She said the course looked like it was (9) \_\_\_\_\_. Another critic said it was very "offensive and disrespectful". The school (10) \_\_\_\_\_ the subjects. A spokesman said: "It looks like we're supporting (11) \_\_\_\_\_ ...We want [our kids] to have a positive image and (12) \_\_\_\_\_, ...to analyze things critically."

# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1704/170418-womens-studies-4.html>

AschoolinCanadahasbeencriticizedonlineforitswomen'sstudiescourse. Criticsthoughtithadsexistsubjectsthatwereunfitforwomeninthe21stcentury. Theseincluded'politeconversation,'dinnerpartyetiquette, and'nailapplicationskills'. Therewasalsoacourseonhowto"enhanceyourstyle...faceandbodyshape". Thecoursealsohavelessonsonwebdesign, reproductivehealth,theroleofwomeninhistory, andbeautyinthemedias. AleadingcriticwasactressSiobhanBryn. Shewrote:"Thisisunbelievablysexist. Women'sstudiesisnotfashionandputtingonalunch." Shesaidthecourselookedlikeitwasfromthe1950's. Anothercriticsaiditwasavery"offensiveanddisrespectful". Theschoolhasnowremovedthesubjects. A spokesmansaid:"Itlookslikewe'resupportingstereotypinggirls.... Wewant[ourkids]tohaveapositiveimageandbuildselfesteem,...toanalyzethingscritically."

# WOMEN'S STUDIES SURVEY

From <http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1704/170418-womens-studies-4.html>

Write five GOOD questions about women's studies in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student A: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

*High school changes 'sexist' Women's Studies course – 18th April, 2017*  
More free lessons at [www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com](http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com)

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## WRITE QUESTIONS & ASK YOUR PARTNER(S)

Student B: Do not show these to your speaking partner(s).

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

c) \_\_\_\_\_

d) \_\_\_\_\_

e) \_\_\_\_\_

f) \_\_\_\_\_

