

WST 101.02: Gender and Power: Introduction to Women's Studies
Washington State University
(3 credit hours)
T/TH 12pm -1:15 pm
CUE 319

Instructor: Leigh Gaskin

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Office Hours: Wednesday 10 am -12 pm or by appointment

Required Text:

- Gwyn Kirk and Margo Okazawa-Rey, *Women's Lives: Multicultural Perspectives*, 6th ed. (2013). ISBN: 978-0-07-351234-1

Course Overview: This class introduces students to the interdisciplinary field of Women's Studies. Drawing on historical perspectives and socio-cultural analysis, this course will consider some of the major issues that have concerned Women's Studies including the social construction of gender and the intersections of gender with race, ethnicity, class, nationality, dis/ability, sexuality, and so on. We will be concerned with the ways in which these constructions and intersections shape women's lives. Our investigation will proceed through reading the work of a diverse group of feminist scholars, writers, and activists.

You should be aware that this course will provide an alternative way to view the world and our place within it. It is required that students come to this class with an open mind and a willingness to engage with some difficult material that challenges various assumptions seen as "common sense" or natural. Listen to what other students have to say and if you disagree with something, discuss it with the person respectfully and in an open manner – do not attack. Because some of the topics may make people uncomfortable or even angry, it is essential that we treat each other with respect so that we can work through any issues and be able to examine why something makes us uncomfortable, or why something makes us angry.

Course Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:

- Recognize and understand ways that gender functions as a social institution;
- Identify and explain how socially constructed categories of gender, race, class, and sexual identity function together to formulate the positionality that shape women's lives and experiences;
- Define and utilize basic terms and concepts central to women's studies, including sex, gender, agency, sexuality, feminism, patriarchy, intersectionalities and oppression;
- Apply concepts and theories important to the field of women's studies to their individual life experiences and to the broader society.

Women's Studies Major and Minor: In addition to meeting the diversity/social science [DIVR] [S,D] general education requirement, this course can be used for the Women's Studies Undergraduate Major and Minor. For more information, visit <http://libarts.wsu.edu/ccgrs/undergraduate/wst-major.asp>

Students with Disabilities: Reasonable accommodations are available for students with a documented disability/disabilities. If you have a disability and need accommodations to fully participate in this class, please visit or call the Access Center (Washington Building 217; 509-335-3417) to schedule an appointment with an Access Advisor. All accommodations **MUST** be approved through the Access Center. For more information visit <http://accesscenter.wsu.edu>, or e-mail at: Access.Center@wsu.edu

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Evaluation: Students must satisfactorily complete the following requirements in order to pass this course. Please remember if you are having difficulties, make an appointment to discuss and resolve your concerns.

Attendance	150 points
Participation/In-class assignments	100 points
11 Quizzes	220 points
Midterm Exam	230 points
Final Paper	300 points
Total possible points	1000 points

Grading scale (percentages): [A] 93-100 [A-] 90-92 [B+] 87-89 [B] 83-86 [B-] 80-82 [C+] 77-79 [C] 74-76 [C-] 70-73 [D+] 67-69 [D] 60-66 [F] 60-0

Attendance: Class attendance is vital, so you will earn 6 points per class attended (meaning on-time and staying through the duration of class). You will earn an attendance grade based on 25 meetings, which does not include the first day (25 X 6 points = 150 points total). For more information see the attendance policy below. **150 points**

Participation/ In-class Assignments: This class functions as a forum in which participants can engage the texts and exchange ideas, interpretations, and insights with each other. The success of this format depends on everyone's preparation and participation. Therefore, I expect you to participate in class activities and discussion. Successful participation requires that you prepare for class by completing the reading(s) prior to class, doing your assignments, and actively engaging the course material. Any in-class work will count toward your participation grade. I expect you to attend class and to be an active participant in class discussion. **100 points**

Quizzes: There will be 11 quizzes, which may occasionally be announced, and shall cover the readings for the day(s)/week since the last quiz. Each quiz is worth 20 points and cannot be made up without a legitimately documented excuse and per my discretion. The quiz questions may include: multiple choice, fill in the blank, matching, short answer, essay etc. **220 points**

Midterm Exam: The exam will be over terms and general themes covered up to the midterm. You will be given a review sheet in class a week before the exam, it will not be emailed nor handed out to those who do not attend class that day. The midterm is scheduled for October 9th. More information will be provided closer to the exam. **230 points**

Final Exam: The final exam will be a take-home essay exam and requires that you recall and synthesize material from the assigned readings, films, speakers, and class discussions. The essay should be a minimum of 8-10 pages in length, include references from the text, film, or current events that effectively articulate a response to the given prompts. A works cited or reference page must be included as part of the paper, but does not count towards the page length requirement. The assignment will be handed out one week prior to the due date of **December 16th** at 4 pm and should be turned in via hard copy my mailbox and an email copy. **300 points**

Format for Written Assignments: All written assignments must be typed (in a standard 12-point font, as a personal preference **do not use** Times New Roman) and double-spaced, with one-inch margins on all sides. Each written assignment **must include:** your name, course name and section, my name, assignment title, and date; this should appear in the upper right-hand corner--single spaced. Assignment pages should be numbered and stapled together. You may use APA or MLA format for incorporating and citing sources. All assignments should be submitted in hard copy at the beginning of class on the due date **and** an electronic copy via e-mail. Papers will not be graded unless both formats are received. This does not apply to in-class writing assignments.

COURSE POLICIES

Attendance: This course is a combination of lecture and class discussion, as a result, attendance is necessary. You are responsible for signing the attendance sheet which will be sent around at the beginning of class. If you fail to sign in, it will be counted as an absence, regardless of whether you were actually present.

Students are allowed two absences; missing more than two classes will lower your final grade. If you do miss class, it is your responsibility to find out the assignments you missed and be prepared for the next class. You should get the assignments from the reading list and/or contact a classmate. I will not provide a recap of the class if you are absent.

While I enjoy hearing from you all, it is unnecessary to let me know that you will be absent. If you have an extenuating circumstance that requires prolonged absences come by during my office hours to discuss the issue (including student athletes). If you would like to know about your absences, see me during office hours. I will not be answering questions about absences via e-mail. Excessive tardiness (meaning being late over 2 times) will also affect your grade.

Technology and Textbook: Computers are allowed in class for noting taking only. If you are found to be doing things besides note taking for WST 101, you will be asked to not to bring your computer back to class. For other devices such as: cell phones, music players, e-readers, tablets, etc. those are barred from being used during class time. If you are found to be using a prohibited device while in class you will be asked to put it away and loose attendance points for that day. If it is a continual issue you will be asked to leave class.

If you have a digital copy of your textbook, be sure to print out the materials prior to coming to class. **You are required to bring your textbook to every class meeting.**

Extra Credit: During the semester there will be campus-- events that pertain to Women's Studies-- which I will announce during class. To earn extra credit, you must attend the event and write a minimum 2-3 page response to earn up to 5 points. If a student simply summarizes the event, that will not be sufficient for credit. The response must explain the event in terms of class materials that have been covered, a personal reaction, and relation to a current event. Papers must be turned in

within a week after the event. A maximum of 2 extra credit papers will be allowed, for a potential total of 10 extra credit points.

Policy on Academic Honesty: You are expected to do your own work and ensure that you do not plagiarize or submit the work of someone else as your own. Together we must be committed to the highest ethical standards for our research and scholarship. For all writing assignments, be careful to properly document quotations and paraphrases from other sources. Plagiarism (from the Latin, meaning “kidnapping”) is a serious offense and includes presenting words or ideas from other sources as your own.

Plagiarism includes the following:

- Quoting directly from the internet, a book, an article, or writings (published or unpublished) of another person without placing quotation marks around the words of the other person and acknowledging your source. Quotation marks must be used even around short phrases.
- Presenting the ideas of another person without acknowledging your source, even if the ideas are explained in your own words. Even when you paraphrase another person’s argument or thought you must cite your source(s).
- Buying a paper from an internet source or another person and submitting the paper or portions of the paper as if it were your own.
- Deliberately falsifying your references.

You must always use quotation marks around words that are not your own and properly cite your sources according to a recognized style manual (e.g., APA or MLA Format). Even when you are summarizing someone else’s ideas in your own words, you must acknowledge your source through proper methods of citation.

Since academic dishonesty is a serious offense, deliberate plagiarism will result in a failing grade on your assignment, may result in a failing grade for the course, and depending on the circumstance, referred to the Office of Student Standards and Accountability. Cheating is defined in the Standards for Student Conduct WAC 504-26-010 (3). It is strongly suggested that you read and understand these definitions. If I determine that an instance of plagiarism is the result of carelessness or sloppiness rather than deliberate intent, a student may rewrite an assignment for a grade no higher than a “C.” If you have any questions about how to document quotations and to use sources properly, I will be happy to speak with you at any time.

Late Assignments: Quizzes are not able to be made up. Other assignments submitted after the due date will be penalized 10 points per business day that it is late. Assignments that are late more than five business days will not be accepted.

Email and Office Hours: I will use email to communicate with students outside of class. These communications will range from class announcements to supplemental readings. Students will be responsible for information sent via electronic communication.

In addition, there are two ways to contact me outside of class. Please feel free to come by my office during office hours or to email questions and concerns to me. I have listed my office hours and email address at the top of this syllabus. If you need to meet with me but cannot make my office hours, I will gladly schedule an appointment at a time convenient for both of us. Understand, however, that I need at least 24 hours to respond to email.

Schedule: Below is the schedule for the semester. **You are expected to complete the reading(s) scheduled for the day prior to the start of class.** I reserve the right to make additions, amendments, or changes to this schedule. *Please note that you are responsible for all class meetings, assignments, and any announced changes that occur, even if you are absent from class. **(All readings are from Women's Lives unless otherwise noted).**

Week 1: *What is Gender & Women's Studies?*

8/26 First Day! Welcome, Introductions, and in-class writing
8/28 Chapter 1: Untangling the "F" Word p. 3-17; Thompson, p. 33

Week 2: *Gender and Social Constructions*

9/2 Chapter 2: Frameworks for Understanding p. 51-64;
9/4 Lorber, p. 54; Johnson, p. 68; Wolf, p. 43; Subramanian, p. 46

Week 3: *Social Constructions (con't)*

9/9 Chapter 3: Identities and Social Locations, p. 101-115
9/11 Combahee River Collective, p. 27; Daly, p. 115; Allison, p. 123

Week 4: *Intersections of Race, Class, and Gender*

9/16 No readings due; watching *Hip-Hop: Beyond Beats and Rhymes* by Byron Hurt
9/18 Kaye/Kantrowitz, p. 131; Waters, p. 138; Mohanty, p. 82

*** Tuesday, September 23rd is the deadline for dropping a course without record***

Week 5: *Masculinity*

9/23 Readings on masculinity posted on Angel (read all in the folder)
9/25 Chapter 6: Violence Against Women p. 259-274; watching *Tough Guise* by Jackson Katz

Week 6: *Power and Violence Against Women*

9/30 Smith, p. 274; Grove, p. 284; Segato, p. 297
*handout midterm review (must be in class, will not be posted or e-mailed)
10/2 Review material from beginning of class until 9/30 for the midterm

Week 7: *Body Image and The Media*

10/7 Mid-term exam
10/9 Chapter 5: Women's Bodies, p. 209-212; Levy, p. 195; Riley, p. 227

Week 8: *Body Image, Sexuality, and Virginity*

10/14 Angel readings; watching *Killing Us Softly* by Jean Kilbourne
10/16 Chapter 4: Sexuality, p. 173-183

Mid-term grades posted October 15th

Week 9: *Sexuality and LGBTQ... Rights*

10/21 Lorde, p. 183; Cisneros, p. 187

10/23 Khan, p. 204; Serano, p. 189; Somerson, p. 198

Week 10: *Reproductive Rights and Justice*

10/28 Chapter 5: Women's Bodies, Women's Health, p. 214-227; Angel readings

10/30 Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice, p. 243; hooks, p. 250

Week 11: *Women and Work*

11/4 Chapter 7: Making a Home, Making a Living, p. 307-332

11/6 Garland-Thompson, p. 232; Gill and Voss, p. 330; Crittenden, p. 342; Hayes and Hartmann, p. 358

Week 12: *Global/Third World Feminism*11/11 *No class- Veterans Day - Thank you to all that have served our country!*

11/13 Chapter 8: Living in a Globalizing World, p. 363-382; Anzaldúa, p. 383; Patel, p. 389; Biemann, p. 400; Ngai, p. 404; Shiva, p. 412

Week 13: *Women and the Environment*

11/18 Chapter 11: Women and the Environment, p. 503-515; Steingraber, p. 516

11/20 Loyd-Paige, p. 532; Allen and Sachs, p. 536; Hartmann and Barajas-Roman, p. 546; Ekine p. 553

Friday, November 21st Last day to withdraw from a course**Week 14: *THANKSGIVING BREAK***11/25 *No class - enjoy your break!*11/27 *No class - enjoy your break!***Week 15: *Activism, Community, and The Future of Feminism***12/2 Chapter 12: Creating Change, p. 561-575; Chernik, p. 575
watching "Flow: For Love of Water" by Irena Salina12/4 Yep, p. 579; Goddard, p. 585; Cachola, Kirk, Natividad, and Pumarejo p. 600;
Antrobus, p. 608**Week 16: *Dead Week***

12/9 Optional meeting for final paper (by appointment ONLY)

12/11 Optional meeting for final paper (by appointment ONLY)

**** FINAL EXAM DUE December 16th at 4 pm **** Mailbox: Wilson 111