

**WST 101.03: Gender and Power: Introduction to Women's Studies [DIVR] [S,D]**  
**Washington State University**  
**(3 credit hours)**  
MWF 3:10 P.M.-4 P.M.  
CUE 319

Instructor: Leigh Gaskin

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Office Hours: Wednesday 11 am -1 pm or by appointment

**Required Text and Materials:**

- Gwyn Kirk and Margo Okazawa-Rey, *Women's Lives: Multicultural Perspectives*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. (2013). ISBN: 978-0-07-351234-1
- Access to Netflix or other film streaming service

**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. Some of the topics covered in class may make people uncomfortable or even angry, it is important 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.
- The utility to imagine change as an intersectional possibility and to reconceptualize a socially just and equitable future.

**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](mailto: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	200 points
Participation/In-class assignments	400 points
12 Quizzes (50 points each)	600 points
Midterm Exam	300 points
<u>Final Paper</u>	<u>500 points</u>
Total possible points	2000 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 5 points per class attended (meaning on-time and staying through the duration of class). You will earn an attendance grade based on 40 meetings (40 X 5 points = 200 points total). Class begins promptly 3:10 p.m., arriving late, leaving class, or leaving early is not tolerable. This includes departures to get a snack/drink, use the restroom, make a phone call, etc. Any two of these occurrences will constitute one absence. If your cell phone (or any other electronic) sounds or is used during class you will be counted absent for the day, regardless of physically being in class, if it happens a second time you will be asked to leave class indiscreetly. At no time should you feel entitled to openly disrespect any member of the class or any group of people. This includes verbal/nonverbal responses. Any student who has unacceptable conduct will be asked to leave class and be counted absent for the period. For more information see the attendance policy below. **200 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. Assignments will be announced in class and will generally be due during class or at the next class meeting. **400 points**

**Quizzes:** There will be 12 quizzes, which may occasionally be announced, and shall cover the readings for the day(s)/week since the last quiz. Each quiz is worth 50 points and cannot be made

up without a legitimately documented excuse and per my discretion (see late work policy). The quiz questions may include: multiple choice, fill in the blank, matching, short answer, essay, illustration, etc. **600 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 9<sup>th</sup>**. More information will be provided closer to the exam. **300 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, and/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 and rubric will be handed out at least one week prior to the due date of **December 14<sup>th</sup> at 12 pm**. The exam must be turned in via paper copy in my mailbox **and** as an email with an attachment in .pdf or .doc/x versions. A copy of the rubric must be attached to the front of your assignment, otherwise it will not be graded. **500 points**

**Format for Written Assignments:** All written assignments must be typed in a standard 12-point font (**DO NOT use Times New Roman font\***), double-spaced, with one-inch margins on all sides. You may use APA or MLA format for incorporating and citing sources. 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.**

Example: Audre Lorde  
WST 101.03  
Gaskin  
In-class assignment 1  
8/28/15



Assignment pages should be numbered and stapled together prior to turning it in. All assignments should be submitted in paper copy at the beginning of class on the due date; *assignments turned in after this will be considered late* and will receive a late penalty. **In-class assignments** may be written in pen or typed.

\* I will not grade typed assignments that are turned in written in Times New Roman font.

### **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. Additionally, any student signing the attendance sheet for another student will forfeit all attendance points for the course and receive zero (0) points for attendance, as well as the person the student was signing in for—regardless of circumstance.

Students are allowed three absences; missing more than three 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, email, blackboard, 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:** The use of electronic devices are not allowed in class, unless prior arrangements have been made. This includes, but is not limited to: cell phones, music players, computers, e-readers, tablets, etc. If you are found to be using a prohibited device while in class you will be asked to put it away and will be marked absent for that day; if a second occurrence happens, you will be asked to leave the classroom.

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/materials to class every meeting;** failure to do so will result in a reduction in participation points.

**Extra Credit:** During the semester there will be campus events that pertain to Women's Studies-- which I will announce during class, most often with a flyer accompanying the attendance sheet. To earn extra credit, you must attend the event and write a minimum 3 page response to earn up to 10 points that will added to the sum of points a student earns for the class. If a student simply summarizes the event, that will not be sufficient for credit. The response must include: an explanation of the event in a brief summary of 2 paragraphs, connections to class materials/readings, a personal reaction, and relation to a current event. Papers must be turned in within one week after the event; no late work will be accepted. A maximum of 3 extra credit papers will be allowed, for a potential total of 30 extra credit points.

Here are two extra credit opportunities (more to follow in class):

- Arlene Davila, September 10, 5:30 PM in CUE 203
- Cynthia Chandler, November 4, 5:30 PM in CUE 203

**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.

**Commitment to Campus Safety:** Washington State University is committed to enhancing the safety of the students, faculty, staff, and visitors to the Pullman campus. As part of this commitment, the university has prepared this Campus Safety Plan, containing a listing of university policies, procedures, statistics and information relating to campus safety, emergency management and the health and welfare of the campus community. See: <http://safetyplan.wsu.edu/> and <http://oem.wsu.edu/>.

**Late Assignments:** All assignments other than quizzes and optional extra credit may be turned in after the due date with a penalty. Assignments submitted after the due date (meaning at the beginning of class) will be penalized 10 percent of the total points, per business day that it is late. Assignments that are late more than five business days will not be accepted. Quizzes may only be made up with a legitimately documented excuse and per my discretion.

**Email and Office Hours:** I will use email and Blackboard to communicate with students outside of class. These communications will range from class announcements to supplemental readings. Students are responsible for ALL information sent via electronic communication to their WSU student email accounts and Blackboard. It is highly recommended that students check their WSU email prior to class.

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 addresses at the top of this syllabus. Understand, however, that I need at least 24 hours to respond to email. If you need to meet outside of office hours, I will gladly schedule an appointment at a time convenient for both of us.

**Class Modifications:** This syllabus and the course schedule are subject to change as designated by the professor; you will receive notice should any modifications be made to the course and/or reading schedule. Your continued enrollment in the course signifies your acceptance of the terms of the syllabus.

**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: Foundations of Women's Studies and Feminism***

- 8/24 First Day! Welcome, Introductions, and in-class writing
- 8/26 Chapter 1: Untangling the "F" Word p. 3-17
- 8/28 Thompson, "Multiracial Feminism" p. 33

***Week 2: Social Constructions and Intersectionality***

- 8/31 Chapter 2: Frameworks for Understanding p. 51-64
- 9/2 Lorber, "The Social Construction of Gender" p. 64  
Johnson, "Patriarchy, the System" p. 68
- 9/4 Chapter 3: Identities and Social Locations p. 101-115

***Week 3: Understanding Intersections within Feminism***

- 9/7 NO CLASS—Labor Day
- 9/9 Combahee River Collective, "A Black Feminist Statement" p. 27  
Daly, "Perspectives of Native American Women on Race and Gender" p. 115
- 9/11 Allison, "A Question of Class" p. 123  
Garland-Thompson, "Feminist Theory, the Body, and the Disabled Figure" p. 232  
Waters, "Optional Ethnicities" p. 138

***Week 4: Gender Based Violence and Constructions of Masculinity***

- 9/14 Chapter 6: Violence Against Women p. 259-274
- 9/16 Smith, "Sexual Violence and American Indian Genocide" p. 274
- 9/18 Masculinity readings (read all in the folder on Blackboard)  
watch *Tough Guise 2* (2013) by Jackson Katz in class

***Week 5: Rape Culture and College Campuses***

- 9/21 Rape Culture readings (read all in the folder on Blackboard)
- 9/23 Watch *The Hunting Ground* (2015) by Kirby Dick
- 9/25 Segato, "Territory, Sovereignty, and Crimes of the Second State" p. 297

***Week 6: Bodies, Sexuality, and the Media***

- 9/28 Chapter 5: Women's Bodies, p. 209-212  
watch *Killing Us Softly 4* (2010) by Jean Kilbourne in class
- 9/30 Chapter 4: Sexuality, p. 173-183  
Chernik, p. 575
- 10/2 Wrap-up

***Week 7: Methods for Changing a Culture of Rape***

- 10/5 Consent readings (read all in the folder on Blackboard)  
Activism for change (read all in the folder on Blackboard)
- 10/7 Grove, "Engaging Men Against Violence" 284
- 10/9 Wrap-up and Midterm Review

**Week 8: Reproduction: Health, Rights, and Justice**

10/12 Midterm

10/14 Chapter 5: Women's Bodies, Women's Health, p. 214-227

10/16 Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice, "Reproductive Justice" p. 243

**Week 9: A Right to Choose**

10/19 Reproduction (read all in the folder on Blackboard)

10/21 watch *After Tiller* (2013) by Lana Wilson, Martha Shane in class

10/23 finish *After Tiller* and wrap-up

**Week 10: Forms of Labor**

10/26 Chapter 7: Making a Home, Making a Living, p. 307-332

10/28 Crittenden, "The Mommy Tax" p. 342;

Hayes and Hartmann, "Women and Men Living on the Edge" p. 358

10/30 Gill and Voss, "Shattering Two Molds" p. 330

**Week 11: Public Policy Aspects of Women and Work**

11/2 Gustafson, "Why Privilege Marriage?" p. 333

11/4 Women and Work (read all in the folder on Blackboard)

11/6 Wrap-up

**Week 12: Global Feminisms**

11/9 Chapter 8: Living in a Globalizing World, p. 363-382

11/11 NO CLASS

11/13 Biemann, "Remotely Sensed" p. 400

Shiva, "Building a Water Democracy" p. 412

**Week 13: Environment, Agriculture, & Sustainability**

11/16 Chapter 11: Women and the Environment, p. 503-515

11/18 Steingraber, "Rose Moon" p. 516

Loyd-Paige, "Thinking and Eating at the Same Time" p. 532

11/20 Allen and Sachs, "Women and Food Chain" p. 536

**Week 14: Thanksgiving Break**

11/23- 11/27 NO CLASS

**Week 15: A Movement for Social Justice**

11/30 Hartmann and Barajas-Roman, "Reproductive Justice..." p. 546

12/2 Ekine, "Women's Responses to Environmental Destruction" p. 553

12/4 Chapter 12: Creating Change, p. 561-575

**Week 16: Resistance, Activism, and Change: The Future of Feminism**

12/7 Antrobus, "The Global Women's Movement" p. 608; hooks, "Living to Love" p. 250  
watch *Flow: For Love of Water* by Irena Salina

12/9 Lorde, "Uses of the Erotic" p. 183

12/11 Goddard, "Staging Activism" p. 585

Cachola, Kirk, Natividad, and Pumarejo "Women Working Across Borders" p. 600

\*\*\* **FINAL EXAM DUE December 14th at 12 pm in my mailbox (Wilson-Short 111)**\*\*\*