

WST 101.01: Gender and Power: Introduction to Women's Studies

Washington State University

(3 credit hours)

T/TH 2:50 pm to 4:05 pm

CUE 119

Instructor: Leigh Gaskin

Office: Wilson 12

Mailbox: Wilson 111

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 11 am to 1 pm or by appointment

Required Texts and Materials:

- Gwyn Kirk and Margo Okazawa-Rey, *Women's Lives: Multicultural Perspectives*, 6th ed. (2013). ISBN: 978-0-07-351234-1
- Access to media streaming services (i.e. Netflix, Amazon Video, Hulu, YouTube, etc)
- Printed articles posted on Blackboard

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. Some of these concepts will make people uncomfortable, but these conversations are precisely what propel us forward in our goal to abolish gender-based oppressions.

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, ability, 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;
- Learn and practice activism, advocacy, and critical thinking skills to challenge patriarchy, abolish gender binaries, and to push the boundaries of gender, for the purpose of imagining and creating a socially just and equitable world.

Women's Studies major and minor: This course can be used majoring and minoring in Women's Studies. For more information, visit <https://ccgrs.wsu.edu/undergraduate-studies/major-in-womens-studies/> or see me for more details.

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. If you are having difficulties, please make an appointment to discuss and resolve your concerns.

Attendance	60 points
Participation/In-class assignments	290 points
Quizzes	200 points
Project Prospectus	150 points
Research paper/project	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]** 59-0

Attendance: Class attendance is vital, so you will earn 2 points per class attended (meaning on-time and staying through the duration of class). You will earn an attendance grade based on 30 meetings. Class begins promptly 2:50 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, leaving the class during a film, 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. **[60 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. **[290 points]**

Quizzes: There will be 4 quizzes, which are noted in the reading list, 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). Any person allowed to make up a quiz automatically agrees to an essay exam. The quiz questions may include: multiple choice, fill in the blank, matching, short answer, essay, illustration, etc. **[200 points]**

Project Prospectus: This assignment prepares you to write the final essay or to work on a project as an alternative final. A prospectus is an overview of what you will be working on. It includes different sections such as: an explanation on why you picked that topic/idea/project, provides an outline for project completion, and includes a research component that will grow your ideas and interests related to the paper/project. You will be given a rubric and detailed assignment instructions at least 1 week before the due date, September 28 at the beginning of class. **[150 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 7-8 pages (maximum of 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 **December 12 at 4 pm** in **Wilson-Short 111**. 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. **[300 points]**

Or

Alternative Final Project: A student may complete and document a final project in lieu of a final paper. Any student who wishes to utilize this option must email me **by October 19**. I will help you develop your project and provide additional information about requirements. Previous student projects include: a short film, a social change project, a research experiment, an art piece, among many others. *I hope you all consider this option.*

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 101.01
Gaskin
Name of the assignment
Due date

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.

*** 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 physically 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 **TWO** absences; missing more than two classes will lower your final grade. If you miss more than 6 classes, you will automatically receive a zero (0) for all attendance points and possibly fail the course. 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. Per university policy, seven or more absences will result in an F for this course.

If you will be absent, there is no need to inform me of your absence. 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 answer questions about absences via e-mail. Excessive tardiness (meaning being late over two (2) times) will affect your grade. Every two late occurrences count as one (1) absence.

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. You will often have to look up material and reference specific information from the text. It is part of your participation grade to bring your book to class.

Recording and/or Photographing Lectures: Students are not permitted to video record, audio record, or photograph any lecture and/or any other class content without written permission from the professor.

Extra Credit: During the semester there will be campus events that pertain to the course--which I will announce during class, most often with a flyer accompanying the attendance sheet. To earn extra credit (5 points) you must attend the event, stay for the whole time, and write a minimum three (3) page response. The assignment is due within one (1) week of the event on the next class session; no late work will be accepted

Simply summarizing an event will not be sufficient for credit. The response must include: an explanation of the event, connections to class materials/readings, and a personal reaction. A maximum of 2 extra credit papers will be allowed, for a potential of 10 extra credit points total.

Commitment to Campus Safety: Washington State University is committed to enhancing the safety of the students, faculty, staff, and visitors on 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/>

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 all sources. Plagiarism is a serious offense and includes presenting words or ideas from references and sources as your own work.

- **If it is not your original idea** (original idea meaning: an idea that you developed without any help or guidance from texts, other people, and/or internet sources) **you MUST CITE it; otherwise it is deliberate plagiarism and is academically dishonest.**

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" at my discretion. 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: All make up work is at my discretion—you should request an extension for any assignments you might miss prior to the absence. I am unlikely to allow you to turn an assignment late/make-up assignments without proper notification before the due date. Late assignments that are accepted (meaning after the due date at the beginning of class) will be penalized 20% of the total points, per day that it is late. Make-up quizzes, if allowed, will automatically revert to an essay assignment, no exceptions.

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 REQUIRED 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 this syllabus.

READING LIST

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?*

8/22 First Day! Welcome and Introductions
8/24 Chapter 1: Untangling the "F" Word p. 3-17; Thompson, p. 33
Selected video clips

Week 2: *Gender and Social Constructions*

8/29 Chapter 2: Frameworks for Understanding p. 51-64
8/31 Lorber, p. 54; Johnson, p. 68

Week 3: *Social Location and Historical Context*

9/5 Chapter 3: Identities and Social Locations, p. 101-115
9/7 Daly, p. 115; Kaye/Kantrowitz, p. 131

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

9/12 Combahee River Collective, p. 27; hooks, p. 250
Video clips about intersectionality, gender, and feminism
9/14 Subramanian, p. 46; Alison, p. 123
Quiz 1 (Make sure you do the readings on quiz days, those readings are included)

Week 5: *Body Image, The Media, and Media Literacy*

9/19 Blackboard readings (the folder will be labeled with the date; print/bring to class)
watching *Killing Us Softly* by Jean Kilbourne in class
9/21 Chapter 5: Women's Bodies, p. 209-212, Riley, p. 227, Chernik, p. 575

Week 6: *Power and Violence Against Women*

9/26 Chapter 6: Violence Against Women p. 259-274; Grove, p. 284
9/28 *Tough Guise* by Jackson Katz
Prospectus assignment due

Week 7: *Rape Culture*

10/3 Smith, p. 274; Serano, p. 189
10/5 Readings on Rape Culture in a folder BB (labeled as date/ print for class)

Week 8: *Sexuality, Concepts of Virginity, and Queer Studies*

10/10 Chapter 4: Sexuality, p. 173-183, Cisneros, p. 187, Lorde, p. 183
Midterm grades posted
10/12 BB readings, Khan, p. 204; Somerson, p. 198

- Week 9: *Reproductive Rights and Justice***
 10/17 Chapter 5: Women's Bodies, Women's Health, p. 214-227; Asian Communities for Reproductive Justice, p. 243
 10/19 **Quiz 2**
 Watch After Tiller (2015) *this film might be assigned as homework
- Week 10: *Women and the Environment***
 10/24 Chapter 11: Women and the Environment, p. 503-515; Steingraber, p. 516
 10/26 Hartmann and Barajas-Roman, p. 546; Shiva, p. 412
 watch "Flow: For Love of Water" by Irena Salina
- Week 11: *Global/Third World Feminism***
 10/31 Chapter 8: Living in a Globalizing World, p. 363-382; Biemann, p. 400
 11/2 Anzaldúa, p. 383; Segato, p. 297; Ngai, p. 404
- Week 12: *Women and Work***
 11/7 Chapter 7: Making a Home, Making a Living, p. 307-321; Crittenden, p. 342
 11/9 Garland-Thompson, p. 232; Gill and Voss, p. 330; Hayes and Hartmann, p. 358
Quiz 3
- Week 13: *Food Justice and Foodways***
 11/14 Allen and Sachs, p. 536, Loyd-Paige, p. 532
 Video clips about food justice
 11/16 Blackboard readings
 Continued discussions on food justice and activism
- Week 14: *THANKSGIVING***
 11/21 Thanksgiving break- enjoy!
 11/23 Happy Thanksgiving!
- Week 15: *Activism, Advocacy, and Community***
 11/28 Chapter 12: Creating Change, p. 561-575; Goddard, p. 585,
 11/30 Ekine p. 553, Blackboard readings
- Week 16: *The Future of Feminism and the Quest for Social Justice***
 12/5 Cachola, Kirk, Natividad, and Pumarejo p. 600
 12/7 Antrobus, p. 608
Quiz 4

**** FINAL EXAM DUE December 12 at 4 pm **** Mailbox: Wilson 111 and e-mail copy