

WGS 2500: Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies
Spring 2019
Online Course

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Office: 133 Stubbs Hall

In-Person Office Hours: Wednesdays 11:30-1:00 and by appointment

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Discussion Leaders:

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Course Description:

Course Materials:

All our readings are on Moodle. It is your responsibility

Netiquette

Communicating online can easily lead to conflict because there is no way for people to read additional interactive cues like facial expression, tone of voice, or emotion. You therefore need to be very careful to avoid engaging in practices that can make conflicts more likely—especially since the subjects we learn about in this course may produce strong emotional responses. Here are a few pieces of advice on how to effectively and respectfully communicate and interact in an online course:

- – What happens in class stays in class. Unless you directly ask for and receive permission, do not share information you learn about people with anyone else.
- – No one in this class has the authority to speak for straight people, gay people, people of color, women, men, LSU students, or even for

CLASS POLICIES

Late work: I will not accept late work. You therefore need to be certain that you turn in your work on time. If you have a problem submitting assignments via Moodle for any reason (technical issues, etc.), get your work to me on time in another way (via email, for example). If you will miss work because of a religious holiday or because you have an emergency situation, notify me in advance (or as soon as possible). See university policy statement PS-22 for detailed explanation of excused absences. You will need to provide documentation (such as a doctor's note) via email prior to missing class or within 48 hours in order for it to be excused.

File formats:

Online Quizzes (10) 25% of Total Grade

Most weeks you will be expected to complete a quiz on Moodle designed to assess your knowledge on all the material for that week. The quizzes will generally be 10 questions and will be a combination of multiple-choice questions and true and false questions. Each student will have 1 attempt at each quiz and a one-hour time limit. There are 11 quizzes in total but only 10 will be counted toward your final grade, as I will drop the lowest quiz grade. Each week, quizzes will open each Friday at 8 am and are due on that same day at 11:59 pm.

Discussion (10) 15% of Total Grade

Students are required to participate in online discussions that are facilitated through Moodle. I expect each student to participate thoughtfully. On the last slide (or sometimes two slides) of each power point presentation, I have included detailed questions that you should use to prompt your discussion forum. Then you will reply to others' posts at least two times before the deadline. You will be graded on both, your initial discussion post and your replies. There are 10 discussion forum posts that are calculated in your final grade.

Initial posts: Discussions on the board will take the form of threads – which are chains of comments that follow an original post. Each thread starts with an original post. Students are required to make one new discussion topic each week.

Replies: Replies are your response to a thread topic or to another student. Students are required to make at least 2 replies each week. Your discussion grade for the week is the average of how your comments are rated.

Discussion leaders and I will interject occasionally to facilitate and guide discussion. In addition, we will always intervene if we notice any unprofessional or inappropriate comments or to correct factual errors. However, for the most part, we want your discussion to be a space where you (the students) create and steer the dialogue. We therefore will engage sparingly and only when necessary.

You can make a **MAXIMUM** of 3 posts per 24-hour period. So you need to think about this and space your posts out throughout the week.

The discussion forums are organized into groups of 10 students. That means each student will only discuss class topics with 9 other students rather than the whole class. The groups will be decided randomly by software in Moodle the first week of the semester.

Each group will have a designated discussion leader. You will “meet” your discussion leader the first week of class.

Your initial posting must

- a. Relevance to the topic at hand
- b.

The PowerPoint lectures are designed to correspond with the materials for the week. You are expected to read the texts, listen to podcasts, watch all films and video clips, and read the PowerPoints. Sometimes the PowerPoint lectures will have similar information as the material and sometimes the power points will depart from the material, which means you need to carefully read everything!

Week 1 (January 7-11) Introduction to the Course and Syllabus

1. Read over syllabus carefully
2. On January 10, you will be assigned your discussion group on Moodle
Please note that since students drop and add classes for the next two weeks, some folks might disappear from your group and others might appear.
3. On January 11, please introduce yourself to your discussion group and your discussion leader using Padlet

Week 2 (January 14-18) Women's Studies: Perspectives and Practices

1. Claiming an Education. By Adrienne Rich
2. Forty Years of Women's Studies: Origins and Intersections. By Beverly Guy-Sheftall and Bonnie Thornton Dill
3. Feminist Politics: Where We Stand. By bell hooks.
4. A Day without Feminism. By Jennifer Baumgardner and Amy Richards
5. Still Needing the F Word. By Anna Quindlen
6. Podcast: Saying the F-Word: What Would a Feminist Do?

Assignments:

- Quiz
- Padlet
- Exam Opportunity

Week 3: (January 22-25) Gender: Masculinities, Femininities, and The Gender Spectrum

****No School Monday MLK Day****

1. The Five Sexes, Revisited. By Annette Fausto-Sterling
2. The Social Construction of Gender. By Judith Lorber
3. Unraveling Hardwiring. By Cordelia Fine
4. Wrestling With Gender. By Deborah H. Brake
5. Guyland. By Michael Kimmel
6. Bodies and Bathrooms. By Dan Frosch
7. Podcast: Princesses, Pink, and Girly Culture: What Would a Feminist Do?

Assignments:

- Quiz
- Discussion Forum

- Exam Opportunity

Week 4: (January 28-February 1) Intersections

6. Introduction: The New Culture of Sex. From American Hookup: The New Culture of Sex on Campus. By Lisa Wade
7. Podcast: Hookup Culture: The Unspoken Rules of Sex on College Campuses

Assignments:

- Quiz
- Discussion Forum

Week 7: (February 18-22): Health and Reproductive Justice

1. Southern Discomfort. By Carl Gaines
2. A Global Health Imperative. By Nancy Fugate Woods
3. Welcome to Cancerland. By Barbara Ehrenreich
4. From Rights to Justice: Women of Color Changing the Face of US Reproductive Rights Organizing. By Zakiya Luna
5. What it Takes to Get an Abortion in the Most Restrictive U.S. State. **By Audrey Carlsen, Ash Ngu and Sara Simon.**
6. Video: Undue Burden: Trying to Get an Abortion in Louisiana

Assignments:

- Quiz
- Discussion Forum
- Exam Opportunity

Week 8: (February 25-March 1) Gender and Violence

1. Beyond the Politics of Inclusion: Violence Against Women of Color and Human Rights. By Andrea Smith
2. Masculinity, Mental Illness, and Guns: A Lethal Equation? By Michael Kimmel
3. Anti-LGBT Violence: Three Essays. By Tony Hobday, Michelangelo Signorile and Hope Gillette
4. Sexual Assault on Campus: A Multilevel, Integrative Approach to Party Rape. By Elizabeth Armstrong, Laura Hamilton, and Brian Sweeney
5. Film: (Netflix)

Assignments:

- Quiz
- Discussion Forum
- Exam Opportunity

Week 9: (March 6-8): Media and Culture

This week is Mardi Gras and we have an abbreviated week of school. There are no assigned readings this week. Instead, you get to watch two films! There is also no quiz this week. However, you are still expected to complete the discussion forum this week

1. Film: (Netflix)
2. Film: (Netflix)

Assignments:

- Discussion Forum

Week 10: (March 11-15) Family Systems, Family Lives

1. Marriage and Love. By Emma Goldman
2. The Way We Never Were. By Stephanie Coontz
3. Who Wants to Marry a Feminist? By Lisa Miya-Jervis
4. "The New Momism," by SJ Douglas and MW Michaels
5. Can a Gay Man be a Housewife? Gay Fathers Doing Gender, Family, and Parenting. By Dana Berkowitz
6. Singled Out. By Tamara Winfrey Harris
- 7.

1. Name It. Change It. By Rachel Joy Larris and Rosalie Maggio
2. Too Poor to Parent? By Gaylynn Burroughs
3. Looking Beyond the Wall. By Robert Neustadt
4. Struggling to Find a Home. By Patricia Leigh Brown

Assignments:

- Quiz
- Discussion Forum

Week 13: (April 1- 5) The Criminal Justice System

1. Film: *I* (Netflix)
2. Readings TBA

Assignments:

- Discussion Forum