

WGSS 101: Gender, Race, Sex and the Body

Mondays/Wednesdays 12:30pm – 1:45pm

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 11:00am – 12:00pm and 2:00pm – 3:00pm

Course Description:

Introduction to the rapidly expanding body of literature ideas related to the gendered aspects of health and sexuality with an emphasis on women.

This introductory course offers students an initial overview of some of the key concepts underlying the interdisciplinary field of women's gender, and sexuality studies, particularly related to gendered aspects of health and sexuality. The overall objective of this course is to provide students with an intellectual framework through which to consider fundamental questions about social constructions of race, gender and sexuality as well as gendered aspects of health and sexuality such as body image, sexual behaviors, and sexual violence in the context of sexism, racism, homophobia, and transphobia. As part of the General Education Program in the Lifelong Learning and Self Integration (E) category, this course is designed to facilitate students' understanding of gender, race, and sexuality in relation to health and well-being in ways that they can integrate into their lives.

Required Text:

All readings will be posted on BeachBoard.

Assignments

1. **Class Participation:** Attendance is a requirement for this class. You are expected to come to class regularly and to participate fully. This includes participation in in-class writing prompts, responses, and discussions, as well as coming to class fully prepared. You are expected to come to class having done the reading and any homework ahead of time. Class participation also means communicating thoughtfully and respectfully with your peers. To receive full credit for class participation, you must arrive within the first 20 minutes of class.
2. **Reading Assignments:** Assignments will be posted on Beachboard, asking you to respond to a prompt. In order to do the assignment properly, you will need to show full understanding of the reading. All assignments are to be typed and submitted to Beachboard before the beginning of class. Please do not email me your assignments. They are to be in font no larger than 12 point, no smaller than 10 point, double-spaced, with one-inch margins and a single-spaced header. Put the assignment number as the title.
3. **Class Writings:** Class will typically begin and end with a short prompt that you will answer in 1-2 sentences. There may be additional prompts throughout class. These prompts are intended to help you consider what we've talk about

in class and to prepare you for the next reading assignment. If you are present in class, paying attention, and responding thoughtfully, they should be an easy way to boost your grade.

4. **Projects:** You will have 3 projects during this class that you will have to complete. These projects are your opportunity to do a bit of research and exploration beyond the topics in this class, and to demonstrate your ability to use the knowledge you gain in this class to move forward with independent research. For this class, you will complete a book report, write an analysis of the representations of bodies in a movie or TV show, and conduct an interview with a friend or family member about their position on issues of gender, race, and the body.
5. **Reading Quizzes:** I will occasionally administer quizzes during class to gauge your command of the reading. These quizzes will be unannounced in the syllabus. In order to prepare, please make sure you complete all the reading due before class and ask me ahead of time if you have any questions about it.
6. **Final exam:** On the last day of class, you will have a final exam that will consist of 4 essay questions. To prepare, I will give you a study guide with a list of possible questions that might be on the exam.

Grade Breakdown

Class Participation	10%
Reading Assignments	20%
Class Writings	10%
Projects	25%
Final Exam	15%
Reading Quizzes	20%
TOTAL	100%

Expectations

1. **Student Conduct:** Students are expected to attend class on a regular basis, having prepared themselves by doing the reading and all relevant assignments. You are also expected to maintain appropriate conduct during class. Most importantly, this means showing respect and encouragement to your fellow classmates. You will be asked to use a computer, tablet, or smartphone to participate in many of the lectures, but other than that, use of electronics should be limited.
2. **Late/Makeup Work:** Please try to turn in your assignments on time. I will accept reading assignments and will allow you to redo them for a higher grade if you wish, but any assignment you turn on late can receive no higher grade than a 75%. However, for all other assignments, including class writings, exams, and your final project, late and makeup work will not be accepted.

3. **Academic Honesty:** If you are found to be cheating or plagiarizing on an assignment, you will receive a grade of zero on the assignment. Students who cheat or plagiarize repeatedly will face disciplinary action.
4. **Special Accommodations:** If you have a disability and would like to request an accommodation, please speak to me and I would be happy to accommodate you.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Reading/Assignments (due on this day!)
Wednesday 01-23-2019	Introductions, Class Expectations	
Monday 01-28-2019	Studying Sex and Gender	Chapter 4 (Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation) of <i>Our Bodies, Ourselves</i> Reading Assignment #1 due
Wednesday 01-30-2019	Feminism	<i>We Should All Be Feminist</i> by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
Monday 02-04-2019	Feminism	"A Day without Feminism" by Amy Richards and Jennifer Baumgardner Reading Assignment #2 due
Wednesday 02-06-2019	Sexual Anatomy and Reproductive Processes	Chapter 1 (Our Female Bodies: Sexual Anatomy, Reproduction, and the Menstrual Cycle) of <i>Our Bodies, Ourselves</i>
Monday 02-11-2019	Sexual Anatomy and Reproductive Processes	"Male Anatomy" from getthefacts.com Reading Assignment #3 due
Wednesday 02-13-2019	Intersectionality	"The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House" by Audre Lorde (on BeachBoard)
Monday 02-18-2019	Intersectionality	Combahee River Collective Manifesto Reading Assignment #4 due
Wednesday 02-20-2019	Feminist Approaches to Health, Sexuality, and Beauty	"If Men Could Menstruate" by Gloria Steinem
Monday 02-25-2019	Gender/Race Interviews	Gender/Race Interview due
Wednesday 02-27-2019	Race, Sex, and Body Image	Section I of <i>Hunger</i> by Roxane Gay
Monday 03-04-2019	Race, Sex, and Body Image	Sections II of <i>Hunger</i> by Roxane Gay Reading Assignment #5 due

Wednesday 03-06-2019	Gender, Sexuality, and Sexual Desire	"Compulsory Heterosexuality and the Lesbian Existence" by Adrienne Rich
Monday 03-11-2019	Gender, Sexuality, and Sexual Desire	Reading Assignment #6 due
Wednesday 03-13-2019	Gender and the Medical Establishment	
Monday 03-18-2019	Gender and the Medical Establishment	
Wednesday 03-20-2019	Media Representations of Gender and Race	"Girls, Girls, Girls" from <i>Bad Feminist</i> by Roxane Gay
Monday 03-25-2019	Media Representations of Gender and Race	Video selections from feministfrequency.com by Anita Sarkeesian Reading Assignment #7 due
Wednesday 03-27-2019	Media Analysis	Media Analysis due
Monday 04-01-2019	No Class—Cesar Chavez Day	
Wednesday 04-03-2019	No Class—Spring Break	
Monday 04-08-2019	Gender and Sexual Violence	
Wednesday 04-10-2019	Gender and Sexual Violence	
Monday 04-15-2019	Reproductive Justice	"A Defense of Abortion" by Judith Jarvis Thomson
Wednesday 04-17-2019	Reproductive Justice	Reading Assignment #8 due
Monday 04-22-2019	Gender and Health Activism	Chapter 26 (The Politics of Women's Health) of <i>Our Bodies, Ourselves</i>
Wednesday 04-24-2019	Book Reports	Book Report due
Monday 04-29-2019	Transgender Issues	Chapter 2 of <i>Whipping Girl: A Transsexual Woman on Sexism and the Scapegoating of Femininity</i>
Wednesday 05-01-2019	Transgender Issues	Chapter 3 of <i>Whipping Girl: A Transsexual Woman on Sexism and the Scapegoating of Femininity</i> Reading Assignment #9 due

Monday 05-06-2019	Review for Final	
Wednesday 05-08-2019	Review for Final Exam	
Finals Week	Final Exam	