

Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies
Fall 2016
WMG 1100

Classroom: Lentz Hall 319
Class Hours: 12:30 – 2:10pm

Professor: Ciara O'Connell
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Office Hours: Email to Schedule

Course Description

This course offers an introduction to Women's and Gender Studies, an interdisciplinary academic field that explores critical questions about the meaning of gender in society. The primary goal of this course is to familiarize students with key issues, questions and debates in Women's and Gender Studies scholarship. Gender scholarship critically analyzes themes of gender identity and power in a range of social spheres, such as law, education, work, medicine, and the family.

Throughout the semester, we will "question gender" in multiple ways:

- Why has gender been a primary organizing factor in society?
- How do we explain the sexual division of labor and the unequal social status of women and girls and those activities and roles deemed "feminine" in society?
- In what ways does gender intersect with race, class, and sexuality?
- How do gendered structures of power and authority operate?
- Can we imagine a future in which we largely ignore gender or envision gender and sexuality in more expansive, fluid or egalitarian ways?

In this class, you will become acquainted with many of the critical questions and concepts feminist scholars have developed as tools for thinking about gender. We will explore the complex ways in which gender intersects with class, race, and sexuality within various spheres and institutions of society. Through successfully completing this course, students will be better prepared to participate in and contribute effectively to the larger public conversation about the role of gender in society; to apply the critical tools of women's and gender studies in their academic, personal and occupational lives; and to take more advanced classes in this field.

Student Learning Outcomes

In this class you'll learn how to critically examine the world we live in through a feminist perspective. You'll become more aware of how power relations influence our lives, and you'll become more critical in how you approach social institutions, such as the media and law. You'll gain a fundamental understanding of feminism and gender, and you'll learn how to apply these concepts, and the debates surrounding them, to your lives and experiences.

Required Texts

1. bell hooks, *Feminism is for Everybody: Passionate Politics* (Routledge, 2014)
2. Ngozi Adichie, "We Should All Be Feminists" (Anchor, 2015)
3. Articles, Websites, Videos (eLearning and links on syllabus)

General Policies

Our classes rely heavily on participation and discussion; therefore, students are expected to bring their texts and/or eLearning readings to class, attend class regularly, and be prepared to share thoughts, opinions, and ideas. This class also includes participation through the eLearning class forum. It is your responsibility to pay attention to announcements in class and to find out what information you missed if you are late for class or miss class. If you come to class after attendance has been taken, it is your responsibility to see me after class to make sure you have been marked present. If you are not in class on the day you are scheduled to give a presentation, you will receive an automatic 0 as your grade. In fairness to the students who turn in their papers on time, late papers will be graded 1/2 percentage point lower for each hour the paper is turned in late.

This class will be a safe space to explore new ideas and opinions. All students should expect to be able to make mistakes and work through complex concepts without any pressure or fear of embarrassment. This class will have a “call-in” rather than a “call out” culture, and will be respectful of identities and experiences. You each have different backgrounds and perceptions of the world, and your differences will be a great asset to the learning we do in our class together.

Note: Gender is not just a social concept; like any identity, it can also be very personal. As we explore gender throughout this course, please be mindful of your peers’ multiple and intersecting race, class, gender, and sexual identities—particularly in relation to your own positionality. Critical perspectives are encouraged in this course, which includes any challenges to the course material.

Assignments

This course will have a midterm and final exam, both of which will be in-class written exams. There are also three other grade components in this course: (i) attendance and participation; (ii) Gender Trouble online analysis; and (iii) group project. Full details for the Gender Trouble analysis and group project assignments are on the eLearning course website, and we will discuss these assignments in class.

Students with Disabilities

Please discuss any special needs or accommodations with me at the beginning of the semester. Students will also need to have documentation on file with Diane Schowalter in the Advising Center (x5802). This information will be kept confidential.

Grading

Class Participation and Attendance: 15% Group Project: 20% Final Exam: 25%
Gender Trouble Analysis: 20% Midterm Exam: 20%

Grading Scale:

A+	97-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	0-59
A	93-97	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66		
A	90-92	B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62		

Schedule

Note: The following schedule—and this syllabus as a whole— is subject to change. Given that we will share collective decision-making responsibilities for many aspects of our course, our actual schedule is likely to change as we move through the term. Bring your syllabus with you to each class session to write down any changes to our schedule.

We will share responsibility for opening class each day. For each class session in which reading is due, you will bring a quote and a brief reflection on that quote (Q&R) from one of the day's readings. This will help guide our class discussion and will be a mechanism through which attendance will be taken. All readings, other than the required texts, are listed below and are available on our course eLearning site, or via the website provided (they are subject to change).

Week	Date	Class Themes/Activities	Readings	Assignments
1	9/8/16	Introduction Review Syllabus Key Themes and Concepts		
2	9/13/16	<i>We Should All Be Feminists</i> Questions on Syllabus Discuss Reading	N. Adichie, <i>We Should All Be Feminists</i>	Q & R
	9/15/16	<i>We Should All Be Feminists</i> Reading Discussion	1. b. hooks, <i>Feminism is for Everybody</i> , 'Introduction' & 'Feminist Politics' (xi-6) 2. N. Van der Gaag, <i>Feminism and Men</i>	Q & R
3	9/20/16	<i>Intersecting Identities</i> What is Intersectionality? Reading Discussion Group Project Introduction	1. K. Crenshaw, 'Why Intersectionality Can't Wait' 2. b. hooks, <i>Feminism is for Everybody</i> , 'Race and Gender' (55-60) 3. Watch: Laci Green and Francesca Ramsey: www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-nmxnmt_XU	Q & R
	9/22/16	<i>Intersecting Identities</i> Reading Discussion	1. P. McIntosh, 'White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack' 2. M. Bruce Pratt, 'Identity: Skin Blood Heart' 3. C. Moraga, 'La Guera'	Q & R
4	9/27/16	Social Construction of Gender Reading Discussion Group Project Meeting	1. Lorber, 'Night to His Day: The Social Construction of Gender' 2. Watch and take notes: www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-rRjjQJcTQ	Q & R
	9/29/16	Gender Stereotyping Reading Discussion	R. Cook and S. Cusack 'Understanding Gender Stereotyping'	Q & R
5	10/4/16	Gender Stereotyping Watch 'Misrepresentation'		Group Project Topic
	10/6/16	Gender Violence Reading Discussion Group Project Meeting	1. b. hooks, <i>Feminism is for Everybody</i> "Ending Violence" (61-66) 2. Jackson Katz 'Violence Against Women-It's a Men's Issue' (www.youtube.com/watch?v=KTvSfeCRxe8)	Q & R
Week	Date	Class Theme/Activities	Readings	Assignments
	10/11/16	MIDTERM REVIEW		

6	10/13/16	MIDTERM (In class)	Gender Trouble Analysis and Comments Due	
7	10/18/16	Men and Masculinities Reading Discussion	1. D. Schrok & M Schwalbe 'Men, Masculinity, and Manhood Acts' 2. R. Connell 'Masculinities' (www.raewynconnell.net/p/masculinities_20.html)	Q & R
	10/20/16	Religion and Feminism Return/Review Exams Reading Discussion	1. Explore and Take Notes: http://www.islamandfeminism.org/-start-exploring.html 2. C. Riswold 'Feminism and Christianity'	Q & R
8	10/25/16	Global Feminism Reading Discussion Group Project Meeting	1. C. Mohanty, 'Under Western Eyes'	Q & R
	10/27/16	Global Feminism Reading Discussion	1. L. Abu-Lughod, "Do Muslim Women Really Need Saving?" 2. G. Anzaldua 'Borderlands/La Frontera'	Q & R
9	11/1/16	Women and Work Reading Discussion	b. hooks, <i>Feminism is for Everybody</i> "Feminist Class Struggle" (37-43) & "Women at Work" (48-54)	Q & R
	11/3/16	Women and Family Reading Discussion Group Project Meeting	1. S. Chant 'Gender, Families, and Households' 2. Read and Take Notes: https://revisesociology.com/2014/02/10/feminist-perspectives-on-the-family/	Q & R
10	11/8/16	Identity and Sexuality Reading Discussion	1. Explore and Take Notes: www.ourbodiesourselves.org/health-topics/sexual-orientation-gender-identity/ 2. M O'Flaherty and J. Fisher, 'Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and International Human Rights Law'	VOTE! Q & R
	11/10/16	Group Project Prep Day		
11	11/15/16	Women's Rights and Gender Justice Reading Discussion	1. CEDAW, United Nations 2. H. Charlesworth, 'What are 'Women's International Rights?''	Q & R
	11/17/16	Medical Intervention and Women's Bodies Reading Discussion	1. Silliman and others 'Native American Women Resist Genocide and Organize for Reproductive Rights' 2. <i>María Mamerita Mestanza Chávez v Peru</i> 3. Watch: www.youtube.com/watch?v=v2vq-SARlFA and www.youtube.com/watch?v=CIKADICQCZc	Q & R
12	11/29/16	Group Project Prep Day		
	12/1/16	Presentation Day 1 Take Notes on Presentations		Group Folders Due
13	12/6/16	Presentation Day 2 Take Notes on Presentations		
	12/8/16	Presentation Day 3 Take Notes on Presentations		Presentation Notes
14	12/13/16	FINAL EXAM REVIEW		
	12/15/16	FINAL (In Class)	Gender Trouble Analysis and Comments Due	

Cool feminist blogs/sites to follow:

1. Latina Rebels: <http://latinarebels.tumblr.com/>
 2. Guerilla Feminism: <http://www.guerrillafeminism.org/>
 3. Francesca Ramsey: <http://www.franchesca.net/>
 4. Laci Green: <https://www.youtube.com/user/lacigreen>
 5. Rookie: <http://www.rookiemag.com/>
 6. Feministing: <http://feministing.com/>
 7. Everyday Feminism: <http://everydayfeminism.com/>
 8. Black Girl Dangerous: <http://www.blackgirldangerous.org/>
 9. Brown Girl Magazine: <http://www.browngirlmagazine.com/>
 10. Rewire: <https://rewire.news/>
 11. Ms. Magazine: <http://msmagazine.com/>
 12. Incite!: <http://incite-national.org/>
 13. The Good Men Project: <https://goodmenproject.com/>
- ... there are tons more too: <https://bitchmedia.org/links>