

Gender & Difference: Critical Analyses

WOMENSST 203.03, 38073

Class time: T/Th 1:00-2:15pm

Classroom: Bartlett 302

Instructor: Dawn Lovegrove

Office: E36, Machmer

Office Hours: T/Th 2:30-3:45pm & by appt.

Email: dlovegro@comm.umass.edu

Course Information

Course Description:

This course introduces you to feminist analysis by examining fundamental questions, concepts and connections regarding economic and cultural aspects of gender, sexuality, class, and race. Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies is highly interdisciplinary and as such we will draw from a wide range of scholarship to investigate issues including:

- How are individuals, institutions, and social processes gendered?
- How do biological, cultural, and political frameworks communicate understandings of sex, gender, and sexuality?
- How do performances of gender differences vary according to race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, and nationality?
- How do we utilize integrated categories in analyzing identities and social positions?
- How can an understanding of gendered processes empower us to act as agents of personal and social change?

Objectives:

1. To gain an understanding of major intellectual concepts and debates in interdisciplinary feminist studies.
2. To become skilled in basic tools of feminist inquiry, including: the ability to identify gendered processes, pose theoretical questions, & interrogate methods of research.
3. To critique your own gendered positionality within communicative practices and institutional frameworks and to situate that position in conversation with others.
4. To develop verbal and written skills for expressing and exchanging ideas academically and broadly.

Required Readings:

- **Text:** An Introduction to Women's Studies. Gender in a Transnational World. 2nd Edition. Grewal, Inderpal & Kaplan, Caren Eds. McGraw-Hill. (Referred to as *Text*)
Available at Amherst Books, 8 Main Street Amherst, 413-256-1547.
<http://www.amherstbooks.com/>
- **Additional Readings:** Other required readings can be found on Moodle

Required Access:

This course will utilize Moodle for course communications, assignments, documents, and grading. It is the students responsibility to regularly check Moodle regularly throughout the semester.

- **Moodle:** <https://moodle.umass.edu/>

Assignments:

Critical analysis- Using course readings, this paper will critically analyze aspects of gender.

Exams- 2 exams covering course concepts. Each may include: multiple choice, true/false, short answer &/or essay.

Leading Discussion- Each student will sign up to lead a discussion of readings (assignment will include a brief writing component). There will be 2-3 discussants during each session.

Panel presentations- Students will describe their Critical Analysis paper as a *works in progress* presentation. Each discussant will respond to questions following the panel.

Participation- This course is designed to utilized class time to discuss concepts, themes and theories of gender and difference thoughtfully and respectfully. In addition to regularly contributing to classroom discussions and activities, to receive full credit for participation students must be in attendance regularly and have completed all readings, homework, and MOODLE activities prior to the due dates.

Examination papers- 2 short papers which connect theories and concepts between readings.

Virtual Project- This project highlights an organization involved with issues associated with gender & difference.

**Additional information regarding these assignments may be provided in class and posted to Moodle.*

General Class Policies

Discussion: Class time is intended to discuss, examine and explore feminist concepts and theories. It is necessary that everyone have read all the readings and be prepared to work through them in class. We will want to work together to create an academic space to discuss our readings openly with regard to others. Any student should contact the instructor directly regarding any class/Moodle discussion at any time throughout the semester should it be necessary.

Attendance: Students are expected to attend all regularly schedule classes. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class via an attendance sign it sheet. It is the student's responsibility to make sure to sign in each day (including late arrivals). No student may sign anyone else in.

Absences should be due to emergency situations only and be accompanied by college approved documentation in order to be considered excused. 2 late arrivals/early departures typically equal 1 un/excused absence.

Make up Policy:

General Information- All work must be made up according to the instructions listed.

- Any foreseen absences (collegial activities, scheduled appointments, Religious observances) must be discussed with the instructor prior to the date missed. Some assignments must be turned in prior to the absence.
- No make-up work will be accepted for a grade via the instructor’s mailbox, unless prior arrangements have been made.
- Unless otherwise determined, if make-up work is not completed by one week after the absence, the grade may be assessed as zero.
- If the instructor cannot open your document it will be considered *unexcused/late* until rectified by the student.
- Unless otherwise determined, all make up work must be completed by Thursday 12/5.
- Additional information for specific assignments will be given.

EXCUSED: In order for an absence to be excused, each must be accompanied by college approved documentation (Medical, Judicial, Military Service, etc.) for the day(s) missed and must be presented on the day the student returns to class. Religious absences require that the student notify the instructor prior to the date missed. Make up work must be completed in a timely manner. Provided the work is completed within the agreed upon time frame there is no grade deduction.

UNEXCUSED: If there is no college approved documentation for date(s) missed or work submitted late, then the absence or late assignment will be deemed as unexcused. All unexcused work will be subject to point deduction or a grade of zero.

Academic Honesty: Academic integrity is a fundamental component of this course, as such all guidelines for academic honesty will be followed. University policy and procedure can be reviewed at: <http://www.umass.edu/ombuds/honesty.php/> .

Grading Information:

Critical analysis	15
Exam 1	5
Exam 2	10
Leading Discussion	15
Panel Presentations	10
Participation	30
Examination Papers (2 @ 5% each)	10
Virtual Project	5
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Course Schedule (Subject to change)

<u>Week 1:</u>		<u>Introduction & Overview</u>
T	9/3	Introduction to the Course
Th	9/5	Readings on Moodle: (En)Gendered (& Endangered) Subjects: Writing, Reading, Performing, and Theorizing Feminist Criticism. Capo & Hantzis
		Discuss assignment: Examination Paper
<u>Week 2:</u>		<u>Part 1- Social & Historical Constructions of Gender</u>
T	9/10	Text Readings: <i>Sex Differences and Changing Ideas of Gender</i> Section 1, p6: A, B, C, D, E
		Discuss assignment & Sign up: Leading Discussion
Th	9/12	Text Readings: <i>The Rise of Western Science</i> Section 2, p33: A, B, C, E
		Sign up: Leading Discussion
<u>Week 3:</u>		<u>Part 1- Social & Historical Constructions of Gender</u>
T	9/17	Text Readings: <i>The Making of Race, Sex, and Empire</i> Section 3, p52: A, B, C, D, E
Th	9/19	Text Readings: <i>Medicine in a Historical Perspective</i> Section 4, p75: B, C, D
By	FRIDAY 9/20	DUE: Examination Paper 1 by 11:55pm on MOODLE
<u>Week 4:</u>		<u>Part 1- Social & Historical Constructions of Gender</u>
T	9/24	Text Readings: <i>Population Control & Reproductive Rights</i> Section 5, p99: A, B, D
Th	9/26	Text Readings: <i>Strategizing Health Education and Advocacy</i> Section 6, p119: A, B, F, G
<u>Week 5:</u>		<u>Part 2- Gendered Identities in Nations & States</u>
T	10/1	Text Readings: <i>Citizenship & Equality: The Private/Public Divide</i> Section 7, p155: A, B, C, D

Th 10/3 Text Readings: *Gender & the Rise of the Modern State*
Section 8, 174: A, B, C, D

Week 6: Part 2, cont/ Part 3- Representations, Cultures, Media & Markets

T 10/8 Text Readings: *New Social Movements & Identity Politics*
Section 9, p195: A, C, D, E

Text Readings: *Feminist Organizing across Borders*
Section 11, p240: A, D

Th 10/10 Text Readings: *Ways of Seeing: Representation & Art Practices*
Section 12, p265: Representations, Culture, Media & Markets, A, C, D

Text Readings: *Artistic Production & Reception*
Section 13, p282: A, D

By FRIDAY 10/11 DUE: Examination Paper 2 by 11:55pm on MOODLE

Week 7: Part 3- Representations, Cultures, Media & Markets

T 10/15 NO CLASS- Monday Schedule

Th 10/17 Text Readings: *Representing Women in Colonial Context*
Section 15, p314: A, B, C

Text Readings: *Consumer Culture & the Business of Advertising*
Section 16, p329: A, B

Week 8: Part 3- Representations, Cultures, Media & Markets & Exam 1

T 10/22 Exam #1

Th 10/24 Text Readings: *Consumer Beauty Culture: Commodifying the Body*
Section 17, p345: A, B, E, F

Week 9: Part 4- Gendering Globalization & Displacement

T 10/29 Text Readings: *Diasporas*
Section 21, p427: A, B

Text Readings: *Women, Work, & Immigration*
Section 22, p444: A, B, C

Th	10/31	Text Readings: <i>The Gender Politics of Economic Globalization</i> Section 23, p463: A, B
		Text Readings: <i>Global Food Production & Consumption</i> Section 24, p479: A, B, C, D
Week 10:		Panel Presentations & Discussion
T	11/5	Panel Presentations & Discussion
Th	11/7	Panel Presentations & Discussion
Week 11:		Panel Presentations & Discussion
T	11/12	Panel Presentations & Discussion
Th	11/14	Panel Presentations & Discussion
Week 12:		Panel Presentations & Discussion/ Virtual Project
T	11/19	Panel Presentations & Discussion
Th	11/21	Text Readings: <i>Cyberculture</i> Section 18, p369: A, B, C
		DUE: Virtual Project- Part 1
Week 13:		Virtual Project/ Thanksgiving Break
T	11/26	Text Readings: <i>Travel & Tourism</i> Section 19, p388:
		DUE: Virtual Project- Part 2
Th	11/28	NO CLASS- Thanksgiving Break
Week 14:		Final Reading/Exam #2/Critical Essay
T	12/3	Text Reading: <i>Feminist Futures: Transnational Perspectives</i> P496: Concluding Comment, A
Th	12/5	Exam #2
by	FRIDAY 12/6	DUE- Critical Analysis Essay