**Course Description**

This course is an introduction to the interdisciplinary feminist study of sexuality and race. Its primary goal is to provide a forum for students to consider histories of the concepts of sexuality and race in the U.S. We will explore these concepts through theoretical frameworks within and outside of WGSS. It will emphasize the links rather than differences between theory and practice and between cultural, material, and historical approaches to bodies, race, gender, and sexuality. Throughout the course, we will consider contemporary U.S. politics in light of histories of racial and sexual formations, and how these formations shape our own subjectivities.

**Course Objectives**

- To provide a critical introduction to the concepts of sexuality and race in the U.S.
- To provide an introduction to the historical interconnectedness of formations of race and sexuality in the U.S.
- To emphasize the role of sexuality and race in the formation of the modern self and its social, legal, political, and cultural frames of reference
- To insist on the necessary relationship between theory and lived experiences of bodies

**Readings**

I have assigned a mix between journal articles, think pieces, book chapters, and other texts. Readings should be done for the date they are listed under on the syllabus. Sometimes I assign only excerpts of a reading, so please pay careful attention to page numbers. Lastly, note that all readings are available for free either on Moodle or online (links provided in the syllabus).

Anytime during the week – Spend at least 20 minutes on Slack reading and commenting on various discussions (we’ll review slack during the first week, don’t worry if you’re not familiar). Channels for you to engage in include: readings (what stands out, favorite quotes, questions, etc), discussion questions (start and/or continue the conversation), and general (how do you see the content connecting to the news or other aspects of your life? Share and discuss outside sources).

**Course Requirements & Evaluations**

1. Active Participation (25%)
   Based on 1) attending and participating in Wednesday discussion groups, 2) your participation on the Slack workspace (students should spend at least 20 minutes on Slack/week, reading others people’s comments and posting your own), and 3) coming to office hours during Weeks 2 or 3. The participation grade will be based, in part, on several self-evaluations throughout the semester.

2. Unit Response Papers (50%) – Prompts + rubrics available at least two weeks before deadline
   - Paper 1 (Due 9/14) – 10% (2-3 Pages) – Reflection on Key Terms
   - Paper 2 (Due 10/7) – 10% (2-3 Pages) – TBD
   - Paper 3 (Due 11/4) – 15% (4-5 Pages) - Either individual or group research paper
     Proposal due by 10/14 (3%). Paper due by 11/4 (12%).
   - Paper 4 (Due 12/4) – 15% (4-5 Pages) – Reflection Paper
3. Midterm Exam (10%)
Midterm will include 3-5 short answer questions (~paragraph per question) that cover readings, lecture, and our discussion questions. The exam will be posted on Moodle at 5pm EST on Wednesday October 23rd and will be due on Friday October 21st at 5pm EST.

I’ll provide some sort of study guide at least one week before the exam.

4. Final Exam (15%) – Date of the Final Exam TBD by University.
Final will include 4-6 short answer questions (~paragraph per question) that cover readings, lectures, and our discussion questions. You will have 48 hours to complete the exam, and I will provide some sort of study guide at least one week before the exam.

Academic Honesty & Writing Support
I expect you to write your own original content and adhere to high levels of academic honesty. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty or plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary action and will receive an “F” in the course. You are encouraged to read and discuss these issues widely; however, make sure to use your own words and cite others when you’re referencing ideas that are not your own. If you’re overwhelmed, please don’t plagiarize! I’m a resource, as well as the research librarians and the Writing Center, which provides free, 1-on-1 help by appointment.

Disability & General Accommodations
Whether or not you have official disability accommodations, I encourage you to meet with me in office hours or via email to discuss any issues you may anticipate this semester. The sooner we talk, the better! I understand that we’re living in a pandemic and that you all are not only taking other classes, but negotiating a wide range of other stressors and responsibilities. Which is to say that I’ll do my best to reasonably accommodate your needs. Don’t hesitate to reach out.

Note: For privacy reasons, I will not be recording our classes. I will, however, post my lecture notes/outlines for the information I plan on presenting at the beginning of class. You should also be in the practice of asking friends for notes for the weeks that you miss.

Course Schedule

Unit 1: Introductions + Key Terms

Week One – Intersecting Systems of Oppression

Mon. August 24th – This is the one Monday we will meet.

Please Read this Syllabus in Full.
Create Profile on Slack (check inbox for complete instructions)

Wednesday August 26th.


Week Two – Key Terms: Race & White Supremacy

Mon. Aug 31st


Wednesday Sept 2\textsuperscript{nd}

\textit{Week Three – Key Terms: Sex and Sexualities}

Mon Sept 7\textsuperscript{th} **Last Day of Add Drop (Labor Day – Classes Held)

Wed Sept 9\textsuperscript{th}

\textbf{Unit 2: Producing “Other-ness”: A Historical Perspective}

\textit{Week Four – Eugenics & Reproductive Justice}

Mon Sept 14\textsuperscript{th}
2. “America Created Eugenics, Not Hitler.” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FxPCBNuNQoc

Wed Sept 16\textsuperscript{th}
2. 10 Reasons to Rethink Overpopulation – Population & Development Program @ Hampshire

\textit{Week Five – Immigration, Nation, Producing “the Other”}

Mon Sept 21\textsuperscript{st}

Wed Sept 23\textsuperscript{rd}

\textit{Week Six – Policing Bodies, Constructing “Normal”}

Mon Sept 28\textsuperscript{th}

2. Henderson, Kevin. 2020. “J.K. Rowling and the White Supremacist History of “Biological Sex.” shorturl.at/suvK3 [copy and paste this link – it should work!]

Wed Sept 30th

Unit 3: Contemporary Sexual and Racial Politics

Week Seven – Black Sexual Politics & Black Feminism

Mon Oct 5th

Wed Oct 7th

Week Eight – “Just Not Attracted to People Like You”: Manufacturing Desire

Mon Oct 12th

Wed Oct 14th

Week Nine – Creating the Modern LGBT Movement

Mon Oct 19th

Wed Oct 21st
1. Read all three “Against Equality” Memos (they’re each extremely short!)
3. Willis, Raquel. 2020. “I Was Born for This Time: Angelica Ross is Black, Trans, and Fearless.” shorturl.at/fgxA7 (copy and paste the link!) - *this is so good!*

*Week Ten – Sex Work & Racial Justice*

Mon Oct 26th

Wed Oct 28th

*Unit 4: Anti-Racism & Solidarity*

*Week Eleven – Politicizing Everyday Life*

Mon Nov 2nd

Wed Nov 4th

*Week Twelve – Transnational Feminisms*

Mon Nov 9th

Wed Nov 11th

Week Thirteen – To be Determined Based. Check Newest Version of Syllabus
Mon. Nov 16th and Wed. Nov. 18th