

Gender & Difference: Critical Analyses

WOMENSST 201.02, 57791

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

Classroom: Bartlett 202

Instructor: Dawn Lovegrove

Office: E36, Machmer

Office Hours: Wednesday 11:00am-1:00pm & 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. All readings must be printed out & brought to class when due.

- 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 the last day of regular scheduled classes.
- See Moodle for additional information on specific assignments which may 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 or prior for anticipated absences. 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:

Course Components

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>%</u>
Critical project	25
Exam 1	15
Exam 2	15
Leading Discussion	15
Participation	<u>+30</u>
	100

Grade Scale:

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