

Gender & Difference: Critical Analyses

WOMENSST 201

Class Day/Time: 10:10am-11:00am

Classroom: Bartlett 201

Instructor: Dawn Lovegrove

Office: Bartlett 102

Office Hours: F 11:00am- 12:00pm & by appointment

Email: dlovegro@comm.umass.edu

Course Information

Course Description:

This course introduces students to feminist analysis by examining fundamental questions, concepts and connections regarding cultural and social aspects of gender and difference. 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 historical, biological, cultural, and political frameworks communicate understandings of gender?
- How do performances of identification work to structure 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, theories 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 one's own gendered positionality within communicative practices and institutional frameworks and to situate that position in conversation with others.
4. To develop verbal, written, and digital skills for expressing and exchanging ideas academically and broadly.

Required Readings: All readings for this course will be located on MOODLE. Readings must be read prior to, and brought to, class each day they are assigned.

Required Access: This course will utilize UMass Email, MOODLE, & APPS at UMASS Amherst for course communication, assignment submissions, documents, and grading. It is the student's responsibility to regularly check UMass Email/MOODLE regularly throughout the semester.

Assignments: Additional information for some assignments may be given.

Digital Story Project (30%): *Construction & Representation: Gender & Difference.* Each student will workshop, create, screen, and discuss a short digital story (3-5 minutes) that interrogates gender and difference. A brief paper (3-4 pages) utilizing course concepts and theories will rationalize choices in constructing and representing gender and difference in the video.

Exams (30%): Two exams (15% each) covering course information will be given. Each may include: multiple choice, true/false, short answer &/or essay.

Journal (10%): Students will write a reflection on the readings, class discussion &/or activity for the week and write 250-350 word entry. Journal entries should demonstrate your ability to *reflect* (not summarize) on what you are reading and learning and how that applies to your life &/or your understanding of cultural, political or social structures &/or identity.

- ❖ All weeks available for journal entries, except WEEK 1 & 15
- ❖ 10 entries needed total at only one entry per week
- ❖ **HEADING:** Label weeks/dates & readings/material covered

Participation (30%):

Discussion Preparation (10%): Each class in which there is a reading assigned, students must print out and complete a *Discussion Preparation Sheet* (located on MOODLE). Sheets must be turned in within the first 5 minutes of class to be considered for a grade. Pass/no credit grading.

In class (20%): In order to receive full credit for participation, students will be expected to actively engage course concepts, contribute to discussions on readings, and participate in classroom activities. Sleeping, texting, reading non related material, etc. is not acceptable at any time during class and will result in a grade of zero or lowering of participation grade.

General Class Policies

Lecture & Discussion: Class time is intended to 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 work together to create a constructive academic space to discuss our readings openly with respect and regard for others. *Any student may contact the instructor directly regarding any discussion at any time throughout the semester should it be necessary.*

Attendance: Students are expected to be in attendance for, and on time to, all regularly scheduled 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.

Any absence/lateness should be due to emergency situations only, and be accompanied by college approved documentation in order to be considered excused. Any absence/lateness without documentation will be subject to point deduction or a grade of zero for participation.

Course Accommodations: All paperwork must be given to instructor immediately upon either: entrance into the course, or when status is formalized during the semester. It is the student's responsibility to meet with the instructor within one week of date received.

Make up Policy: Additional information on specific assignments may be given.

Participation

Excused absences must be accompanied by a written analysis (500 words) of the article covered for that day (Post to Moodle) and a Discussion Preparation Sheet (bring to class). If there is no reading for the day, student must meet with instructor for alternative make up assignment.

Any work not made up will result in the excused absences turning into an excused absence (all grades will be assessed as zero).

Unexcused absences will earn a grade of zero for both daily participation points & Discussion Preparation Sheet, workshops, etc.

General Information

- Any foreseen absences (collegial activities, scheduled appointments, religious observances) must be discussed with the instructor prior to the date missed. Some assignments must be completed 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.
- If the instructor cannot open your document it will be considered *unexcused/late/not received* until rectified by the student.
- All make up work must be completed by the last day of regular scheduled classes.
- Any rescheduling of unexcused exams will be subject to a point deduction.

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 Scale:

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

Course Schedule

(Subject to change)

Week 1:		Introduction & Guidelines
WED	1/21	Introduction to the Course
FRI	1/23	Workshop: Classroom Expectations and Guidelines
Week 2:		Communication, Feminism, Patriarchy
MON	1/26	<i>A Cultural Approach to Communication</i> , by James Carey
WED	1/28	<i>Feminism: A movement to end sexist oppression</i> , by bell hooks
FRI	1/30	<i>Patriarchy, the System: An It, Not a He, a Them, or an Us</i> , by Allan Johnson
Week 3:		Feminist Methodology, Locating Gender & Sex
MON	2/2	<i>Feminist Methodology</i> , by Kim Golombisky
WED	2/4	<i>An Introduction to Transgender Terms & Concepts</i> , by Susan Stryker
FRI	2/6	<i>Introduction (pgs 1- 13)</i> . In <i>Doubting Sex: Inscriptions, Bodies and Selves 19th Century Hermaphrodite Case Histories</i> , by Mac Geertje http://site.ebrary.com/lib/umassa/detail.action?docID=10623252
Week 4:		Gender & Difference
MON	2/9	<i>Using Gender to Undo Gender: A Feminist Degendering Movement</i> , by Judith Lorber
WED	2/11	<i>Commonalities and Differences</i> , by Johanetta B. Cole
FRI	2/13	<i>Deconstructing Equality-Versus-Difference: Or, The Uses of Poststructuralist Theory for Feminism</i> , by Joan Scott
Week 5:		Race, Privilege & Intersectionality and Test #1
MON	2/16	No Class
TUESDAY	2/17	(Monday Schedule Followed) <i>Intersectionality as a Buzzword: A sociology of science perspective on what makes a feminist theory successful</i> , by Kathy Davis

WED	2/18	<i>La Conciencia de la Mestiza</i> , by Gloria Anzaldua <i>White Privilege</i> , by Peggy Macintosh
FRI	2/20	TEST #1 (WK2-WK4)
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Week 6:		Gender, Queer Epistemology, & Performance
MON	2/23	<i>Time for Gender Rights</i> . Riki Anne Wilchins
WED	2/25	<i>Performance and Cultural Politics</i> , by Elin Diamond
FRI	2/27	<i>"Homo"-work: Queering Academic Communication and Communicating Queer in Academia</i> , by Ragan Fox
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Week 7:		Representation & Digital Media
MON	3/2	<i>Excerpt from Ways of Seeing</i> , by John Berger <i>Making Things Mean: Cultural Representation in Objects</i> , by Catherine King
<u>Digital Media Project: Discussion & Assignment of Sessions</u>		
WED	3/4	<i>The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House</i> , by Audre Lorde <i>Chicana/Latina Testimonios: Mapping the Methodological Pedagogical, and Political</i> , by Dolores Delgado Bernal, Rebeca Burciaga, & Judith Flores Carmona
FRI	3/6	<i>Digital testimonio</i> , Rina Benmayor <u>Meetings</u> : times/day assigned
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Week 8:		Digital Media Instruction Sessions
MON	3/9	Digital Media Session 1
WED	3/11	Digital Media Session 2
FRI	3/13	Digital Media Session 3
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Week 9:		Spring Recess
MON	3/16	No Class
WED	3/18	No Class
FRI	3/20	No Class

Week 10:			Meetings & Exam #2
MON	3/23	Meetings, DUE: Session Preference Sheet	
WED	3/25	Meetings, DUE: Session Preference Sheet	
FRI	3/27	EXAM #2 (WK5-WK7)	
Week 11:			Digital Story Workshops
MON	3/30	Concepts and Theories	
WED	4/1	Storyboard	
FRI	4/3	Visual	
Week 12:			Digital Story Workshops
MON	4/6	Script	
WED	4/8	Editing & Final Review	
FRI	4/10	Editing & Final Review	
Week 13:			Digital Story Screenings
MON	4/13	Session 1- Screening & Discussion	
WED	4/15	Session 2- Screening & Discussion	
FRI	4/17	Session 3- Screening & Discussion	
Week 14:			Digital Story Screenings
MON	4/20	Session 4- Screening & Discussion	
WED	4/22	Session 5- Screening & Discussion	
FRI	4/24	Session 6- Screening & Discussion	
Week 15:			Course Conclusion
MON	4/27	TBA	
WED	4/29	DUE posting to Moodle: Digital Story Paper by 11:55pm DUE posting to Moodle: Journal by 11:55pm	