

Gender & Difference: Critical Analyses

WOMENSST 201.02, 72186

Class time: T/Th 10:00am-11:15am

Classroom: Bartlett 201

Instructor: Dawn Lovegrove

Office: Bartlett 102

Office Hours: 9:15am- 9:55am T/Th & by appointment

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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, 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 historical, biological, cultural, and political frameworks communicate understandings of gender?
- How does communication and performances of gender vary according to race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, and nationality?
- How do categories 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 and written skills for expressing and exchanging ideas academically and broadly.

Required Readings:

- **Moodle 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 and MOODLE for course communication, assignments, documents, and grading. It is the student's responsibility to regularly check UMass Email/MOODLE regularly throughout the semester.

Assignments:

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

Discussion Questions- These questions are designed to promote conversation about assigned readings and to begin to enter in the academic conversation. Students will compose 3 questions for each reading assigned. Questions will be turned in during each class in which readings are assigned.

Exams- Two exams covering course information will be given. Each may include: multiple choice, true/false, short answer &/or essay.

Leading Discussion- Each student will lead a discussion of readings (noted by “*” in Course Schedule, individual grading, & 3-4 discussant leaders per session). There is brief writing component with this assignment.

Participation- This course is designed to utilize 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.

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 an academic space to discuss our readings openly with regard to 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 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.

Make up Policy:

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* until rectified by the student.
- All make up work must be completed by the last day of regular scheduled classes.
- Rescheduling of unexcused exams will be subject to a point deduction.
- Additional information on specific assignments 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	30
Discussion Questions	10
Exam 1	15
Exam 2	15
Leading Discussion	10
Participation	<u>+20</u>
	100

Grade 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

Tuesday 9/2 Introduction to the Course

Thursday 9/4

Readings

Doing Gender, by Candace West; Don H. Zimmerman

A Cultural Approach to Communication, by James Carey

Week 2: Performance, Gender, & Difference

Tuesday 9/9

Readings

Rethinking Sex and Gender, by Christine Delphy

"Night to his Day" The Social Construction of Gender, by Judith Lorber

During Class: Discuss & Sign up for assignment- Leading Discussion. Available Sections are noted in this outline by *, from dates 9/16 through 10/9.

Thursday 9/11

Readings

Deconstructing Equality-Versus-Difference: Or, The Uses of Poststructuralist Theory for Feminism, by Joan Scott

Commonalities and Differences, by Johanetta B. Cole

Week 3: Feminism, Patriarchy, & Race

Tuesday 9/16*

Readings:

Getting my story Straight, Masculinity through a Feminist Lens, by Peter Hennen

Patriarchy, the System: An It, Not a He, a Them, or an Us, by Allan Johnson

Review Sheet for Exam #1- Posted to Moodle

Thursday 9/18*

Readings

Feminism: A movement to end sexist oppression, by bell hooks

Theorizing Difference from Multiracial Feminism, by Mazine Baca Zinn and Bonnie Thorton Dill

Week 4: Exam #1, Feminist Methods and Performance

Tuesday 9/23 Exam #1 (Readings: 9/4-9/18)

Thursday 9/25*

Readings

Feminist Methodology, by Kim Golombisky

Performance and Cultural Politics, by Elin Diamond

Week 5: Difference, Intersection & Resistance

Tuesday 9/30*

Readings

La Conciencia de la Mestiza, by Gloria Anzaldua

The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House, by Audre Lorde

Age, Race, Class and Sex: Women Redefining Difference, by Audre Lorde

Thursday 10/2*

Readings

Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness, and the Politics of Empowerment, by Patricia Hill Collins

A Black Feminist Statement, by The Combahee River Collective

Week 6: Science, Knowledge, & Body Image

Tuesday 10/7*

Readings

The Biological Connection, by Anne Fausto-Sterling

Situated Knowledges, by Donna Haraway

Thursday 10/9*

Readings

You are what you (don't) eat: Leda Cooks

Cutting Ourselves Down to Size, Jean Kilborne

Review Sheet for Exam #2- Posted to Moodle

Week 7: Exam #2

Tuesday 10/14 No Class, Monday Schedule followed

Thursday 10/16 Exam #2 (Readings 9/25-10/9)
Dates for Screening Preferences Submitted

Week 8: Reading & Digital Story Workshops

Tuesday 10/21 **DUE-** Concepts & Theories Workshop: bring articles for Project,
First meeting of Digital Working Groups

Reading
Digital testimonio, Rina Benmayor

Thursday 10/23 **DUE-** Digital Storyboard Workshop

Reading
Ways of Seeing, by John Berger

Week 9: Reading & Digital Story Workshops

Tuesday 10/28 **DUE-** Digital Story Script Workshop, PT 1

Reading
Introduction: Who Needs 'Identity'? by Stuart Hall

Thursday 10/30 **DUE-** Digital Story Script Workshop, PT 2

Reading
Whiteness as a Performative Accomplishment, by John Warren

In Class Reading: *White Privilege*, by Peggy Macintosh

Week 10: Reading & Digital Story Workshops

Tuesday 11/4 **DUE-** Digital Story Visual Workshop

Reading
(En)Gender (and Endangered) Subjects: Writing, Reading, Performing, and Theorizing Feminist Criticism, by Kay Ellen Capo & Darlene M. Hantzis

Thursday 11/6 **DUE-** Editing & Review Workshop

Reading
TBA

Week 11:			Digital Story Screening & Discussion
Tuesday	11/11	Holiday, No class	
Wednesday	11/12	Session 1- Screening & Discussion	
Thursday	11/13	Session 2- Screening & Discussion	
Week 12:			Digital Story Screening & Discussion
Tuesday	11/18	Session 3- Screening & Discussion	
Thursday	11/20	Session 4- Screening & Discussion	
Week 13:			Digital Story Screening & Discussion
Tuesday	11/25	TBA	
Thursday	11/27	Holiday, No Classes	
Week 14:			Concluding Thoughts & Critical Paper Due
Tuesday	12/2	Final Discussion, Make up Screenings	
<u>Reading</u>		TBA	
Thursday	12/4	Concluding thoughts DUE: Digital Story Critical Paper	