Women, Culture, and Representation

Gender and Women’s Studies 101
MW 11:00-11:50
Sterling 1310
Spring, 2010

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Office Hours: W 12-1, Th. 12-1
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Sec. 305. Th. 9:55 23 Ingraham
Sec. 306. Th. 11:00 214 Ingraham

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Office Hours: M 12-1, Th. 3:30-4:30
Sec. 302. Th. 12:05 52 Bascom
Sec. 303. Th. 1:20 52 Bascom
Sec. 304. Th. 2:25 123 Ingraham

OVERVIEW

This course is an introduction to gender and women's studies from a humanities perspective. We will develop a critical gender analysis by studying cultural representations ranging from literary (novels, memoirs, poems) to mass media (TV, internet, music) to material (clothing, cosmetics, toys) to political (speeches, law, grassroots organizing). Our analysis will be shaped by an intersectional approach, which means that gender will always be examined in interaction with race, class, sexuality, and dis/ability to reveal how identities and systems of power are shaped by multiple forces. This course has a particular focus upon the experiences and representations of women in the United States, but places that focus in relation to many other contexts, including global gender relations and the perspectives of male and transgender/genderqueer people.

The course is organized into four sections: Gender, Sex, and Power; Bodies and Culture; Feminist Movements; and Beyond the Third Wave. In each section, we will study a range of cultural texts to explore how gendered representations produce social, political, and personal implications. We will also consider how feminist thought has evolved in the past and present, and what futures lie ahead for feminist movements.

It is not necessary to embrace a certain political or ideological attitude in this class. We welcome diverse viewpoints as we delve into the central questions of this class: How do meanings of gender shape self and society? How does gender intersect with race, class, sexuality, and dis/ability? What is the role of representation in reflecting or producing social change?

Remember, it is unlikely that you will agree with everything you read or hear in this class—and sometimes a critical disagreement is exactly the response from which we all learn the most. The most important requirements for this class are an open mind, respect for different viewpoints, and the ability to listen thoughtfully and compassionately to each other.
REQUIRED TEXTS:


Plus **ONE** of the following, to be decided in your first section:

Maxine Hong Kingston. *The Woman Warrior.*
Audre Lorde. *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name.*

You **MUST** have the 4th edition of *Women: Images and Realities*. For the other books, any standard edition is acceptable.

Books have been ordered at A Room of One’s Own bookstore, 307 W. Johnson St., 257-7888.

All books are also on reserve at College Library (Helen C. White).

All other course readings are available as Electronic Reserves (ER) which can be accessed through the class Learn@UW page under the “Content” tab.

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COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1) **Attendance:** Attendance in this class is required in both lectures and sections.

   **Lectures:** Attendance will be taken in every lecture. Each lecture absence above three (3) per semester will result in a five (5) percentage point reduction of your semester grade (i.e. a 90% AB would become an 85% B). Lecture notes and powerpoint slides will not be posted online or shared. If you must miss lecture, please obtain notes from a classmate or meet with your T.A. or Prof. Samuels to go over lecture material.

   **Discussion Sections:** TAs will take attendance in every section. Each section absence above two (2) per semester will result in a five (5) percentage point reduction of your semester grade. In cases of serious illness, absences may be excused, but students are still responsible for making up all missed work in a timely fashion.

   **Religious Holidays:** Absences from either lecture or section due to religious holidays will not be penalized. However, you must inform either the professor or your TA **at least two weeks in advance** if you are missing a lecture or section for religious reasons, and you are responsible for finding out what happened in class that day and for turning in assignments.

2) **Discussion Questions (DUE: Weekly):** You must post a discussion question each week via Learn@UW. Instructions will be given in the first week’s section. Discussion questions must be posted by 7 p.m. each Monday, beginning **Mon. Sep. 13** and
ending Mon. Nov. 29, for a total of eleven questions. Each question is worth 10 points out of a total of 100 (so one week is a bonus/free question). Late questions receive 5 points.

3) **Response Paper (DUE Sep. 23):** A 2-3 page paper responding to material covered in class so far. Guidelines for this paper will be distributed in class.

4) **Midterm Exam (In class: Oct. 13):** This in-class exam will consist of essays and short answers based on readings and lectures from the first half of the semester.

5) **Critical Analysis Paper (DUE: Nov. 4):** A four (4) page paper critically analyzing course readings. Prompts and guidelines for this paper will be distributed in class.

6) **Memoir Presentation (In section: Dec. 2 or Dec. 9):** A short (10-15 minute) group presentation in section on the feminist memoir you read this semester. You will meet with your memoir group throughout the semester in section.

7) **Final Exam (DUE: Dec. 16):** This take-home exam will consist of essays and short answers based on readings and lectures from the second half of the semester. The final exam will include an essay question on your feminist memoir.

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<tr>
<th>Grade Breakdown:</th>
<th>Grading Scale:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation/Attendance: 10%</td>
<td>A: 93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Questions: 10%</td>
<td>AB: 88-92</td>
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<tr>
<td>Response Paper: 10%</td>
<td>B: 83-87</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memoir Presentation: 10%</td>
<td>BC: 78-82</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam: 20%</td>
<td>C: 70-77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critical Analysis Paper: 20%</td>
<td>D: 60-69</td>
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<td>Final Exam: 20%</td>
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**COURSE POLICIES AND RESOURCES:**

1) **Classroom Conduct:** Please respect your fellow students’ right to a quiet and non-distracting learning environment. Cell phones, texting, Ipods, and other distractions of modern life are NOT allowed during class. If you use a laptop computer during class, you MAY NOT BE HAVE A WEB BROWSER OPEN AT ANY TIME. You may be asked to show your screen at any time, and if you are doing anything other than taking notes, your attendance will be zeroed for that day, and you will be banned from using a laptop in class.

2) **Emails and Office Hours:** The professor and section leaders will endeavor to respond to emails within 48 hours of receipt. Please do not rely entirely upon email to communicate with instructors: Emails are fine for short questions, but to discuss papers and exams, it is necessary to meet in person. We welcome you to office hours, and suggest you plan ahead to make appointments for the busy weeks before deadlines. Questions about grades will only be discussed during office hours or appointments, not over email or before/after class.
3) **Late Paper Policy:** Papers and exams turned in late will be penalized by five (5) percentage points for each 24-hour period after the due date. No late papers or exams will be accepted more than one week after the due date.

4) **Academic Misconduct (Plagiarism and Cheating):** This class will strictly follow and enforce the university’s policies on academic misconduct. UWS 14.03 defines academic misconduct to include acts in which a student seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation. Examples include but are not limited to:
   a. Cutting and pasting text from the web without quotation marks or proper citation.
   b. Paraphrasing from the web or written texts without crediting the source.
   c. Using notes in an exam when such use is not allowed.
   d. Using another person’s ideas, words, or research and presenting it as one’s own.

   Complete information on academic misconduct is at [www.wisc.edu/students/saja/misconduct/academic_misconduct.html](http://www.wisc.edu/students/saja/misconduct/academic_misconduct.html).

5) **Writing Center:** For additional help with papers, visit the Writing Center at any stage during the writing process. Stop by 6171 Helen C. White, call for an appointment (263-1992), or consult the Center’s resources online at [www.wisc.edu/writing/](http://www.wisc.edu/writing/).

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**Statement on Accessibility:**
It is very important to us to fully include all students with disabilities, chronic health issues, or learning differences in this course. Please let both Prof. Samuels and your T.A. know as early in the semester as possible if you need any accommodations in the curriculum, instruction, or evaluation procedures in order to enable you to participate fully. The McBurney Center can provide useful assistance and documentation. The syllabus and all course materials are available in large print or electronic formats on request.

**Statement on Grade Appeals:**
If you have questions about a grade, please speak first to your T.A., and then, if needed, to Prof. Samuels. If the question is not resolved, speak with the Chair, Jane Collins, or Associate Chair, Christine Ewig. They will attempt to resolve the issue informally and inform you of the Appeals Procedures if no resolution is reached informally.

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**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**WEEK 1: INTRODUCTION: PERSPECTIVES ON GENDER AND WOMEN’S STUDIES**

- **Sep. 8:** Film (in class): *The F-Word*
- **Sep. 9:** Section
WEEK 2:  **GENDER, SEX, AND POWER: WHERE DID FEMINISM(S) COME FROM?**

**Sep. 13:** Film (in class): *The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter* (part 1)

*Discussion Question #1 Due on Learn@UW by 7 p.m.*

**Sep. 15:** *The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter* (part 2)
WIR: Kesselman, “The First and Second Waves of Feminism in the U.S.” (542-548)

**Sep. 16:** Section

WEEK 3:  **GENDER, SEX, AND POWER: BIOLOGY, IDENTITY, LANGUAGE**

**Sep. 20:** WIR: Gould, “X: A Fabulous Child’s Story” (108-113)

*Discussion Question #2 Due*

**Sep. 22:** WIR: Tatum, “Defining Racism” (380-385); Chrystos, “I Am Not Your Princess” (387-388); McIntosh, “White Privilege” (388-392); Langston, “Tired of Playing Monopoly?” (394-398)
ER: Katz, “Heterosexual Privilege”

**Sep. 23:** Section

**RESPONSE PAPER DUE**

WEEK 4:  **BODIES AND CULTURE: THE MEANINGS OF BEAUTY**

ER: Galler, “The Myth of the Perfect Body”

*Discussion Question #3 Due*

**Sep. 29:** WIR: Higginbotham, “Teen Mags” (93-96)
Film (in class): *Killing Us Softly 3*

**Sep. 30:** Section

WEEK 5:  **BODIES AND CULTURE: FOOD AND POWER**

Discussion Question #4 Due


Oct. 7: Section

WEEK 6: BODIES AND CULTURE: ON DISPLAY/ON SALE
Oct. 11: WIR: Gilman, “Klaus Barbie” (72-75); Pozner, “The Unreal World” (93-98)
ER: Douglas, “Epilogue” from Where the Girls Are; Levy, “Raunch Culture”

**No Discussion Question Due

Oct. 13: MIDTERM EXAM (in class)

Oct. 14: No Section

WEEK 7: FEMINIST MOVEMENTS: THE FIRST WAVE, 1840s-1920s
Oct. 18: WIR: Kesselman, “The First and Second Waves of Feminism in the U.S.” (review); “Seneca Fall’s Women’s Rights Convention, 1848”; Middleton, “What Feminism Means to Me” (542-553)

Discussion Question #5 Due


Oct. 21: Section

WEEK 8: FEMINIST MOVEMENTS: THE SECOND WAVE, 1960s-1980s
Oct. 25: WIR: Friedan, “The Problem that Has No Name” (46-49); Sarachild, “Consciousness Raising”; Brownmiller, “The Boston Women’s Health Book Collective” (553-558); Griffin, “Rape: The All-American Crime” (499-507); Shange, “With No Immediate Cause” (510-511)
ER: Friedan, excerpt from The Feminine Mystique (part 1, WIR has part 2)

Discussion Question #6 Due

Oct. 27: WIR: Lorde, “Age, Race, Class, and Sex” (454-459); Roth, “The
Oct. 28: Section

WEEK 9: FEMINIST MOVEMENTS: MARRIAGE, FAMILY, MOTHERHOOD
Nov. 1: WIR: Wolf, “Brideland” (61-62); Ackelssberg, “Why We're Not Getting Married” (274-275)
ER: Ingraham, excerpt from White Weddings; Rauch, “For Better or Worse?”; Browning, “Why Marry?”; Effinger-Weintraub, “We Do—On Our Terms.”

Discussion Question #7 Due


Nov. 4: Section
** CRITICAL PAPER DUE **

WEEK 10: FEMINIST MOVEMENTS, THE THIRD WAVE, 1990-??
Nov. 8: WIR: Faludi, “Blame It on Feminism” (577-581); Walker, “Becoming the Third Wave”(599-601); Ramsby, “Black Feminism at 21”(601-604); Baumgardner, “Manifesta” (627-632); Geiser, “Why Race Matters” (468-469)
ER: Hurdis, “Heartbroken”

Discussion Question #8 Due

Nov. 10: WIR: Grossman, “Girls” (67-68)

Nov. 11: Section

WEEK 11: BEYOND THE THIRD WAVE: GLOBAL AND TRANSFATIONAL FEMINISMS

Discussion Question #9 Due

Nov. 17: Film (in class): The Global Assembly Line
Nov. 18:  Section

**WEEK 12: BEYOND THE THIRD WAVE: EXPLORING/EXPLODING GENDER AND SEXUALITY**

Nov. 22:  WIR: Walker, “Lusting For Freedom” (141-144); Espiritu, “We Don’t Sleep Around” (144-152); Tharps, “In Search of the Elusive Orgasm”; Ochs, “Bisexuality, Feminism, Men, and Me” (161-167)
ER: Vance, “Pleasure and Danger”

*Discussion Question #10 Due*

Nov. 24:  Catch-up Day

*Happy Thanksgiving!*

**WEEK 13:  Nov. 29:**
WIR: Yuen Thompson, “Fence Sitters, Switch Hitters, and Bi-Bi Girls” (459-464)
ER: Lamm, “Private Dancer”; Kennedy, “Postbinary Gender Chores”

*Discussion Question #11 Due*

Dec. 1:  Film (in class): TBA
WIR: Greve, “Courage from Necessity” (432-433)

Dec. 2:  Section: Memoir Presentations (Howey, Panzarino)

**WEEK 14: BEYOND THE THIRD WAVE: FEMINIST MEMOIR AND AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

Dec. 6:  Panzarino, *The Me in the Mirror*
Kingston, *The Woman Warrior*

Dec. 8:  Howey, *Dress Codes*
Lorde, *Zami*
**Begin Course Review**

Dec. 9:  Section: Memoir Presentations (Kingston, Lorde)

**WEEK 15: BEYOND THE THIRD WAVE: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?**

Dec. 13:  WIR: “Voices of Women’s Studies Graduates” (632-635)
ER: Lakshmi, “A Time to Hole Up and a Time to Kick Ass”
**Course Review**

**FINAL EXAM DISTRIBUTED**

Dec. 15:  **Course Review**
Dec. 16: Section: FINAL EXAMS DUE