Gender, Women & Cultural Representation

GWS 101- SPRING 2012
TuTh 11:00-11:50
1310 Sterling Hall

Professor: Pernille Ipsen
pipsen@wisc.edu - (608) 770-9843
Office: 3307 Sterling

Though your primary contact in this class will be with your TAs, I really enjoy getting to know you and encourage you to show up in my office hours – even if you have nothing specific to ask me, and just want to introduce yourself. In Spring 2012 my office hours are every Tuesday from 1-3 or by appointment. You may also use e-mail to ask questions, share ideas, or make requests. However, I will NOT respond to emails that can be easily answered by reading the syllabus or asking a fellow class member. If you did not get an answer from me within about 24 hours, and suspect the answer to your question may be on the syllabus, please read it again.

Teaching assistants & discussion sections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abigail Nappier</th>
<th>Section 304</th>
<th>Section 305</th>
<th>Section 306</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:nappier@wisc.edu">nappier@wisc.edu</a></td>
<td>Th 3:30PM - 4:20PM INGRAHAM 113</td>
<td>Th 1:20PM - 2:10PM BIRGE 348</td>
<td>Th 2:25PM - 3:15PM STERLING 3425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office hours: Wed 10-12 and by appointment in Sterling 3405</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Danielle Henderson</th>
<th>Section 301</th>
<th>Section 302</th>
<th>Section 303</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:dehenderson@wisc.edu">dehenderson@wisc.edu</a></td>
<td>Fr 9:55AM - 10:45AM STERLING 1339</td>
<td>Fr 11:00AM - 11:50AM STERLING 1335</td>
<td>Fr 12:05PM - 12:55PM STERLING 1335</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office hours: Thur 12-2 and by appointment in Sterling 3405</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DESCRIPTION

*Gender, Women & Cultural Representation* is a humanities-oriented analysis of cultural representations of women and men within the social and historical contexts of race, class, gender and sexuality. The class engages with a range of traditions and modes of representation including literature, mass media and popular culture. The course is open to first year students. Students may not receive credit for both GWS 101 and GWS 102.

The course has a particular focus upon the experiences and representations of women in the United States, but will also bring in comparisons with other geographical and historical contexts as well as the perspectives of male and transgender/genderqueer people. The content is organized into three sections: The Social Construction of Gender, The History of Western Feminism in Waves, and Beyond the Waves: Contemporary Western Gender Issues. In each section, we will study a range of cultural contexts to explore how gendered representations produce social, political, and personal implications.
OBJECTIVE
The primary goal of the course is to train you in the art of critical and analytical reading, thinking, and speaking about gender, feminism and women’s position in society in the past, the present, and the future.

Remember, it is unlikely that you will agree with everything you read or hear in this class — in fact, we welcome diverse viewpoints as we delve into the central questions of this class. Critical disagreement is often exactly the response from which we all learn the most. Important requirements for this class are therefore an open mind, respect for different viewpoints, and the ability to listen thoughtfully and compassionately to each other.

REQUIRED TEXTS
A course packet and one required book is for sale at Room of One’s Own Bookstore on 307 W Johnson St. The book is: Melody Berger (ed.), We don’t need another wave. Dispatches from the next generation of feminists (2006) [Berger. We Don’t Need].

Notebook: I advise you to get an old-fashioned paper notebook for the class. You will not be allowed to bring a laptop to class, and your notes will be useful for your midterms and final. If you have special reasons why you MUST use a laptop for notetaking, please contact me. I will require that you sit in one of the front rows and that you do not have an internet browser open.

For other COURSE REQUIREMENTS and POLICIES – See below course schedule

COURSE SCHEDULE

UNIT 1: THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF GENDER

Week 1: INTRODUCTION - Sections will meet starting this week!
• Tuesday 1/24 Introduction to the class.
• Thursday 1/26 From sex to gender: how are the two connected?

Week 2: FEMININITY
• Tuesday 1/31 Media representations of women; Film (in class): Killing Us Softly [2010].
• Thursday: 2/2 Women and their bodies.

Week 3: MASCULINITY
• Tuesday 2/7 Men and their bodies.
Week 4: SPECIAL VALENTINES FEATURE: DIVORCE, WEDDINGS & MARRIAGE


- Thursday 2/16 White weddings & marriage a heterosexual privilege?

Week 5 TRANS AND QUEER GENDERS

- Tuesday 2/21 Passing; Transgender; Film excerpt (in class): TransGeneration [2005]

- Thursday 2/23 "We're Here, We're Queer, We're in Academia? The Beginnings of US Queer Theory" Guest lecture by Karma R. Chávez, Assistant Professor, Dept of Communication Arts, UW-Madison

* MIDTERM 1 responses are due Sunday 2/26 NO LATER THAN 8 PM – posted on learn@UW in dropbox under “Midterm 1 responses”.

UNIT 2: WESTERN FEMINISMS IN WAVES

Week 6: FEMINISM

- Tuesday 2/28 Feminism: Film (in class): The F Word [1994]

- Thursday 3/1 What is feminism and why do we say it came in waves?

Week 7: FIRST WAVE FEMINISM or Before the Second Wave

- Tuesday 3/6 Fighting for citizenship.

- Thursday 3/8 Fighting for recognition as sane and human; Film excerpts (in class): The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter [1980]

Week 8: SECOND WAVE FEMINISM – 1

- Tuesday 3/13 Liberating the American housewife
- Thursday 3/15 Redstockings

Week 9: SECOND WAVE FEMINISM – 2

- Tuesday 3/20 Sexuality and the second wave; women only?; Film excerpts (in class): Radical Harmonies [2002]
- Thursday 3/22 Race and the second wave; intersectionality

* MIDTERM 2 responses due are due Sunday 3/25 NO LATER THAN 8 PM – posted on learn@UW in dropbox under “Midterm 2 responses”.

UNIT 3: BEYOND THE WAVES: CONTEMPORARY WESTERN GENDER ISSUES

Week 10: INTERSECTING HIERARCHIES OF DIFFERENCE

- Tuesday 3/27 Race/gender/sexuality/class (intersectionality cont.): white & heterosexual privilege
- Thursday 3/29 “Representations of women in the media revisited.” Guest lecture by Abigail Nappier, TA & MA student in GWS.

Week 11: SPRING BREAK (4/3 + 4/5)

Week 12: GENDER IN WORK AND ACADEMIA

- Tuesday 4/10 Gender & the labor market
- Thursday 4/12 Gender & academia

Week 13: GENDER AND ADOLESCENT SEX

- Tuesday 4/17 Adolescent sex & the purity myth
- Thursday 4/19 Sexual double standards
Week 14: GENDER AND REPRODUCTIVE POLITICS

- Tuesday 4/24 Reproductive Rights in the US: Film excerpt (in class): The Last Abortion Clinic [2005]
- Thursday 4/26 “Abortion Wars” Guest lecture by Jennifer Holland, PhD student in the History Department, UW-Madison

Week 15: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

- Tuesday 5/1 Domestic abuse
- Thursday 5/3 Sexual violence

Week 16: LAST WEEK

- Tuesday 5/8 Gender in a Global Perspective: helping women world-wide.
- Thursday 5/10 Final exam questions will be given and explained in lecture.

* Final exams are due Wed 5/15 NO LATER THAN 2:25 PM - posted on learn@UW in dropbox under “Final exam responses”.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES

Attendance
Attendance is required in both lectures and discussion sections. The TAs will pass attendance sheets around in sections and during lecture. Make sure that you sign one every time! You may miss lecture 3 times – and sections 1 time – without it directly affecting your grade. For any absence beyond that we will reduce your final grade by 2 points. However, not attending lecture or section will also give you an incomplete grasp of the material. Midterms and the final exam will be based on lectures as well as readings for class. Some information from lecture will be posted on learn@UW, but in general power points, film-clips and/or lecture notes will not be posted. We do not have any way for you to “make up” for lectures you have missed – but remember that you can miss up to 3 times over the course of the semester.

Active engagement in sections: The subjects discussed in class all require active engagement to fully understand readings and lectures, and your active engagement in section will account for 25% of your final grade.

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

Notecard responses to readings and lectures
During lecture I will sometimes pass out notecards for you to respond to smaller questions about readings and lectures. You will get a few minutes to make your written response on the notecards before they are collected, and I will use these notecards to integrate your stories and perspectives in the lectures and to monitor how the course is going.

Two midterms and a final exam
There will be two shorter take-home midterms and a final take-home exam on material covered in lectures and readings up until that point. If you have done all your readings and participated in discussions in section, there will be no need to study further for the exams. Your responses are to be posted on learn@UW in the dropbox – in the appropriate folder.

Due dates:
- Midterm 1: Sunday 2/26 @ 8 PM.
- Midterm 2: Sunday 3/25 @ 8 PM.
- Final: Wednesday 5/12 @ 2:25 PM.

Policy on late responses
Midterms and exams turned in late will be penalized by 5% - and an additional 5% for each 24 hours that they are late after that. No responses to midterms or exams will be accepted more than one week after the due date.

Grade breakdown
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance in lecture</th>
<th>25%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance &amp; active engagement in section (including discussion questions and brief oral presentation)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm 2</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading scale
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB</td>
<td>88-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC</td>
<td>78-82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59&gt;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Classroom conduct
Please respect your fellow students’ right to a quiet non-distracting learning environment. LAPTOPS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN LECTURE. If I had a device that would allow me to turn off the wi-fi in the lecture hall, then I would do that. Since I do not, the next best solution is to ban laptops. That way you do not have to wonder if you should buy shoes, play solitaire, read the paper, send an email to your student counselor, or pay attention to the lecture, and my TAs don’t have to police which page you are on. If you cannot take notes by hand for some reason
and must use a laptop, please contact me. I will request that you sit in one of the front rows and do not at any time have an internet browser open.

Cell phones are to be turned off during class – neither texting nor phoning is allowed during lectures or sections. You will be expelled from class for using a phone during lecture or sections!

**Statement on accessibility**

It is very important to fully include all students with disabilities, chronic health issues, or learning difficulties in this course. Please let me or your TA know as early in the semester as possible if you need any accommodation in order to enable you to participate fully.

**Statement on grade appeals**

If you have any questions about a grade, please speak first to your TA, and then, if needed, to me. If the question is not resolved, speak with the Chair, Jane Collins. She will attempt to resolve the issue informally and inform you of the appeals procedures if no resolution is reached informally.

**Academic misconduct (plagiarism and cheating)**

This class will strictly follow and enforce the rules defined in UWS 14 through our own "Student Academic Misconduct Campus Procedures." UWS 14.03 defines academic misconduct as follows:

Academic misconduct is an act in which a student:
- seeks to claim credit for the work or efforts of another without authorization or citation;
- uses unauthorized materials or fabricated data in any academic exercise;
- forges or falsifies academic documents or records;
- intentionally impedes or damages the academic work of others;
- engages in conduct aimed at making false representation of a student's academic performance;
- assists other students in any of these acts.

Examples include but are not limited to: cutting and pasting text from the web without quotation marks or proper citation; paraphrasing from the web without crediting the source; using another person's ideas, words, or research and presenting it as one's own by not properly crediting the originator; signing another person's name to an attendance sheet; hiding a book knowing that another student needs it to prepare an assignment.

Plagiarism and other misconduct are NOT WORTH IT. It will create a lot of unnecessary work for both you and me and may cause you to be expelled from this class or college in general!

**Course website**

I will use learn@UW to post additional readings, links, messages etc.