Gender, Women & Cultural Representation

GWS 101- SPRING 2013
MW 9:55-10:45
5106 Social Science
1180 Observatory Drive

Professor: Pernille Ipsen
pipsen@wisc.edu - (608) 770-9843
Office: 3307 Sterling
Office hours (Spring 2013): Wed 1-3 or by appointment.

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.

Email policy: You may also use e-mail to ask questions, share ideas, or make suggestions. However, I will NOT respond to emails that can be easily answered by reading the syllabus. 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. I only respond to email during normal daytime work-hours – that is, not in the evening or on the weekend between Friday afternoon and Monday morning.

Teaching assistants & discussion sections

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assistant</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Office hours</th>
<th>Locations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>E Ornelas</td>
<td><a href="mailto:eornelas@wisc.edu">eornelas@wisc.edu</a></td>
<td>Wed 11-1 and by appointment in Sterling 3405</td>
<td>301 2319 Sterling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danielle Henderson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:dehenderson@wisc.edu">dehenderson@wisc.edu</a></td>
<td>Thurs 11-1 and by appointment in Sterling 3405</td>
<td>304 1335 Sterling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pernille Ipsen</td>
<td></td>
<td>(Honors Section) Wed 11:00 - 11:50, 3304 Sterling</td>
<td>307 3304 Sterling</td>
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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 is for sale at the Social Science Copy Center: 6120 Social Science Building.

The one required book: Melody Berger (ed.), We don’t need another wave. Dispatches from the next generation of feminists (2006) [Berger. WDN] is for sale at Room of One’s Own Bookstore: 315 W. Gorham St.

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!

- Wednesday 1/23 Introduction to the class.

Week 2: FROM SEX TO GENDER

- Monday 1/28 What is sex and what is gender?
- Wednesday 1/30 … and what is the relationship between the two?

Week 3: FEMININITY

- Monday 2/4 Media representations of women; Film: MissRepresentation [2010].
- Wednesday: 2/6 Women and their bodies.

Week 4: MASCULINITY
Readings: Pascoe. *Dude, You’re a Fag* [2007]; Califia. “Manliness”

- Monday 2/11 Media representations of Men; Film: *ToughGuise* [1999].
- Wednesday 2/13 Men and their bodies.

**Week 5 TRANS AND QUEER GENDERS**


- Monday 2/18 Transgender; Passing; Film (excerpt): *Transgeneration* [2005] **Midterm one paper questions given out at the end of lecture.**
- Wednesday 2/20 Gender Queering; Heteronormativity.

  *Writing workshop in sections this week!*  

* MIDTERM 1 responses are due Sunday 2/24 NO LATER THAN 9 PM – posted on learn@UW in dropbox under “Midterm 1 responses.”

**UNIT 2: THE HISTORY OF WESTERN FEMINISM IN WAVES**

**Week 6: FEMINISM**


- Monday 2/25 Feminism; Film (10 min): *The F Word* [1994]
- Wednesday 2/27 Waves of feminist: why and how do we say it came in waves?

**Week 7: FIRST WAVE FEMINISM or Before the Second Wave**


- Monday 3/4 Fighting for citizenship; Fighting for recognition as sane and human.
- Wednesday 3/6 Film: *The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter* [1980]

**Week 8: SECOND WAVE FEMINISM – 1**


- Monday 3/11 Liberating the American housewife
- Wednesday 3/13 Redstockings: liberating everybody else?

**Week 9: SECOND WAVE FEMINISM – 2**


- Monday 3/18 Race and the second wave; intersectionality. **Midterm 2 paper questions given out at the end of lecture.**
- Wednesday 3/20 Sexuality and the second wave; women only?; Film excerpt: *Radical Harmonies* [2002].
Writing workshop in sections this week!

* MIDTERM 2 responses due are due Sunday 3/24 NO LATER THAN 9 PM – posted on learn@UW in dropbox under “Midterm 2 responses”.

Week 10: SPRING BREAK (3/23 - 3/31)

UNIT 3: BEYOND THE WAVES: CONTEMPORARY WESTERN GENDER ISSUES

Week 11: CONSTRUCTING CATEGORIES OF DIFFERENCE
- Monday 4/1 Intersectionality: Gender, Race, Class, Sexuality, and Disability
- Wednesday 4/3 “Room for Maneuver”; individual choices in social worlds

Week 12: CULTURAL CAPITAL & PRIVILEGE
- Monday 4/8 Cultural capital & privilege
- Wednesday 4/10 Cultural capital & privilege II; Film (excerpt): Race – the power of an illusion

Week 13: GENDER, RACE, CLASS, SEXUALITY in WORK & ACADEMIA
- Monday 4/15 The labor market
- Wednesday 4/17 Academia

Week 14: SEXUALITY & VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN
- Monday 4/22 Domestic abuse
- Wednesday 4/24 Sexual violence

Week 15: GENDER & REPRODUCTIVE POLITICS
- Monday 4/29 Film: The Last Abortion Clinic [2005]
- Wednesday 5/1 Gender and Reproductive Politics

Week 16: GENDER & ADOLESCENT SEX
Monday 5/6 Film: *The purity myth* [2011] Final exam questions given out at the end of lecture.

Wednesday 5/8 Sexual double standards.

Writing workshop in sections this week!

*Final exams* are due Wed Tues 5/14 NO LATER THAN 2:25 PM - posted on learn@UW in dropbox under “Final exam responses”.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS & POLICIES**

**Attendance & participation**

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 2 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 papers 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 2 times over the course of the semester.

**Active participation in sections:** The subjects discussed in class all require active engagement to fully understand readings and lectures, and simply attending sections is therefore not enough to do well in the class. As part of your active participation in sections we will give you weekly reading responses to post on learn@UW and present in sections.

**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 get to know you, to integrate your stories and perspectives in the lectures and to monitor how the course is going.

**Two midterm and one final paper**

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 paper 1: Sunday 2/24 @ 9 PM.
- Midterm paper 2: Sunday 3/24 @ 9 PM.
- Final paper: Wednesday 5/15 @ 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.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Grade breakdown</th>
<th>Grading Scale</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance in lecture</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance in sections</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation and active engagement in section</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm paper 1</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm paper 2</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
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**Gradings Scale**

- A: 93-100
- AB: 88-92
- B: 83-87
- BC: 78-82
- C: 70-77
- D: 60-69
- F: 59>

**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.