

WOMS 2310

Introduction to Women's & Gender Studies

Fall 2012

MWF 10-10:50am

COBA 251

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 11-12pm, or by appointment

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the fields of Women's and Gender Studies through the examination of history, culture, and current events as they shape and are shaped by women's and gender issues. Throughout the semester we will apply three central questions to contemporary American culture: How is gender represented or constructed? Are gender norms reinforced or challenged? And, what are the implications for individuals and society as a whole? We address these questions by exploring critical or theoretical conceptions of women's experience and gender identity from a variety of disciplines, including history, philosophy, political science, sociology, anthropology, and literary criticism. Above all, the course emphasizes how a feminist critical approach sheds light on the complex role of gender in modern society.

Required Books: Susan Shaw & Janet Lee, *Women's Voices, Feminist Visions* (McGraw Hill) 5th edition, 2011. ISBN: 978-0-07-351232-7

Please note that students must use this edition – earlier editions will not suffice.

Learning Outcomes: Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

- Define feminism and its key concepts.
- Explain the major debates within women's and gender studies.
- Present a feminist critique of texts, culture, and current events.
- Explain and apply women's and gender studies criticism to cultural analysis.
- Develop and present an original analytical argument about the role of gender in modern society.

COURSE POLICIES

Grading Policy/Requirements:

Participation/Reading Quizzes 10%

Test 1 15%

Test 2 20%

Test 3 25%

Writing Assignments (4) 20%

Group Project 10%

Descriptions of major assignments and examinations with due dates:

The major assignments are in the form of three tests and a final group oral presentation. Students will also complete several short writing assignments (2-3 pages). Due Dates are provided below on the Assignment Schedule. All requirements and due dates are subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.

Attendance Policy: Attendance is mandatory and late arrival is not acceptable. Students are granted 3 unexcused absences during the semester. Any additional absences will result in a loss of points as detailed below. *Points will be deducted from the student's final grade.* In order to claim an excused absence, you must submit written confirmation (copy of doctor's note, written excuse, etc.) that clearly states your name and the date(s) you were absent. Only a limited number of excused absences will be granted.

# of Unexcused Absences	Points Deducted
0-3	0
4	2
5	4

Excessive absences (6 or more) will result in an automatic F in the course.

Expectations for In-Class Participation: Class participation is a very important part of this class. Good participation can significantly improve your course grade. This includes: participating in class discussion, asking questions, responding to questions, attending office hours, being polite and respectful to classmates, and generally being alert and interested. Reading quizzes will be administered throughout the semester, as well.

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study: Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional **nine** hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

Late Policy: All writing assignments are deducted 5 points every class day they are late, with 10 points per weekend. No missed reading quizzes, short homework, or in-class assignments can be made up. Missed tests can only be made up with evidence of family or medical emergency. *Assignments will not be accepted over email unless specified by the professor. Assignments submitted over email are not considered turned in until a hard copy has been submitted.*

Electronics Policy: Turn cell phones off before class. NO TEXTING DURING CLASS. No electronic items of any kind, including laptops, tape recorders, iPods, iPads, cell phones, etc. should be used during class without instructor permission. Violating this rule can effect your Participation grade and may result in an academic dishonesty investigation.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic Integrity: All students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington's tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.

I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.

Instructors may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System Regents' Rule 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university's standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student's suspension or expulsion from the University.

Americans With Disabilities Act: The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at www.uta.edu/disability or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

Drop Policy: Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance.** Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/ses/fao>).

Electronic Communication Policy: UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

Student Support Services Available: UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource

Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to resources@uta.edu, or view the information at www.uta.edu/resources.

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as lecture, seminar, or laboratory shall be directed to complete a Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student's feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington's effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

Final Review Week: A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

Librarian to Contact: Diane Shepelwich, dianec@uta.edu, 817.272.7521. Please refer to the following LIBGUIDES for research guidance:
Women's & Gender Studies <http://libguides.uta.edu/gender>
LGBTQA <http://libguides.uta.edu/LGBTQA>

WOMS 2310 Reading and Assignment Schedule Fall 2012

All assignments subject to change at instructor's discretion.

WV = *Women's Voices, Feminist Visions*; only the first page number of each reading is provided but, of course, students are expected to read the entire essay.

BB = Blackboard. Students are expected to bring copies of the Blackboard materials to class on the days they are assigned.

Online = Available online. These reading assignments will have internet links provided; students should cut & paste the links into their browsers to access the materials. Students are not required to print these materials.

I. THEORIES, TERMS, AND CONCEPTS

Week Zero

8/24 Introduction

Week One

8/27 What is feminism?

- ☐ Chapter 1 "Women's Studies: Perspectives and Practices" (WV 1)
- ☐ Baumgardner and Richards, "A Day without Feminism" (WV 30)
- ☐ hooks, "Feminist Politics" (WV 33)
- ☐ Quindlen, "Still Needing the F Word" (WV 39)

8/29 Key Concept 1: Social Construction Theory

- ☐ Chapter 3 "Learning Gender" (WV 105)
- ☐ Lorber, "Social Construction of Gender" (WV 126)
- ☐ Fine, "Unraveling Hardwiring" (WV 129)

8/31 Key Concept 2: Patriarchy

- ☐ Johnson, "Patriarchy, the System" (BB)
- ☐ Smith, "Dismantling Hierarchy" (WV 205)
- ☐ Kimmel, "Real Men Join the Movement" (WV 662)

Week Two

9/3 Labor Day Holiday

9/5 Key Concept 3: Intersectionality

- ☐ Chapter 2 "Systems of Privilege and Inequality" (WV 42)
- ☐ Collins, "Toward a New Vision" (WV 60)
- ☐ Lorde, "There is no Hierarchy of Oppression" (WV 70)
- ☐ McIntosh, "White Privilege and Male Privilege" (WV 75)

9/7 Key Concept 4: The History of American Feminism(s)

Writing Assignment #1 due.

- ☐ Kesselman, "First and Second Waves of Feminism"; Seneca Falls Convention; Truth's Defense of the Rights of Women [all one file] (BB)
- ☐ Rosen, "Epilogue: Beyond Backlash" (WV 667)

II. BODIES

Week Three

9/10 Sex(es) & Gender(s)

- ☐ Fasto-Sterling, "The Five Sexes, Revisited" (WV 121)
- ☐ Rosenberg, "(Rethinking) Gender" (WV 158)

9/12 Disrupting Gender Norms

- ☐ Gould, "X: A Fabulous Child's Story" (BB)
- ☐ Padawer, "What's so bad about a boy who wears a dress?" (ONLINE)
http://www.nytimes.com/2012/08/12/magazine/whats-so-bad-about-a-boy-who-wants-to-wear-a-dress.html?_r=1&ref=magazine
- ☐ Conlin, "Choosing a Pronoun" (ONLINE)
http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/02/fashion/choosing-a-pronoun-he-she-or-other-after-curfew.html?_r=1&scp=3&sq=gender+language&st=nyt

9/14 Sexualities

- ☐ Chapter 4, "Sex, Power, and Intimacy" (WV 163)
- ☐ Rich, "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence" (BB)
- ☐ Baumgardner, "What is Bisexuality" (WV 189)

Week Four

9/17 Test #1

9/19 The Sex Debate Part 1

- ☐ McKinnon, "Sexuality" (BB)
- ☐ Levy, "Female Chauvinist Pigs" (BB)

9/21 The Sex Debate Part 2

- ☐ Rubin, "Thinking Sex" (BB)
- ☐ Springer, "Queering Black Female Heterosexuality" (WV 207)

Week Five

9/24 The Sex Debate Part 3

- ☐ Leigh, "The Strange Relationship between Feminism and Sex Work" (WV 446)
- ☐ Lenhart, "Sexting" (WV 493)
- ☐ "'Slutwalk' Goes Global To Protest Sexual Assault" (ONLINE: audio)
<http://www.npr.org/2011/06/09/137080514/slutwalk-goes-global-to-protest-sexual-assault>

* Special Event: 9/25 THE WOMAN'S VOTE: THEN & NOW 6pm
 Central Library 6th floor

9/26 Reproductive Politics Then

- ☐ Chapter Six "Heath and Reproductive Rights" (WV 279)
- ☐ Sanger, "My Fight for Birth Control" (WV 310)
- ☐ Cooney, "The Way It Was" (WV 312)

9/28 Reproductive Politics Now

- ☐ "States Enact Record Number of Abortion Restrictions in 2011" (ONLINE)
<http://www.guttmacher.org/media/inthenews/2012/01/05/endofyear.html>
- ☐ Belluck, "Women in Texas Losing Options for Health Care in Abortion Fight" (ONLINE)
http://www.nytimes.com/2012/03/08/us/texas-womens-clinics-retreat-as-finances-are-cut.html?_r=1&hp
- ☐ Parks, "Rethinking Radical Politics" (WV 333)
- ☐ Wolf, "Our Bodies, Our Souls" (BB)

Week Six

10/1 Beauty Myths & Media

Writing Assignment #2 due.

- ☐ *Miss Representation* in class viewing

10/2 Beauty Myths & Media cont.

- ☐ Chapter 5 "Inscribing Gender on the Body" (WV 213)

10/5 Commodifying Beauty

- ☐ Taylor & Johnston, "Feminist Consumerism and Fat Activists" (BB)
- ☐ Weil Davis, "Designer Vaginas" (WV 270)
- ☐ Goldman, "Why Women Pay More" (ONLINE)
<http://www.marieclaire.com/world-reports/news/why-do-women-pay-more>

Week Seven

10/8 Body (Mis)Perception

- ☐ Grossman, "Beating Anorexia and Gaining Feminism" (WV 241)
- ☐ Martin, "Love Your Fat Self" (WV 265)

10/10 Race, Ethnicity, Body

- ☐ Rubin, et al., "Body Ethics and Aesthetics" (WV 243)

10/11 Class cancelled

III. INSTITUTIONS

Week Eight

10/15 Test #2

10/17 Marriage Myths

- ☐ Valenti, "Cult of Virginity" (WV 181)
- ☐ hooks, "Romance: Sweet Love" (WV 186)
- ☐ Goldman, "Marriage and Love" (WV 372)
- ☐ Morrison, "Bridal Wave" (BB)

* Special Event: 10/18 LUNAFEST: Films by, for, about Women 7pm Lonestar Auditorium, \$5 student tickets

10/19 Against Marriage

- ☐ Chambers, "Feminism, Liberalism, and Marriage" (only pp. 1-10) (BB)
- ☐ Card, "Against Marriage" (only pp. 1-15) (BB)

Week Nine10/22 Same-Sex Marriages & Families

- ☐ Callahan, "Same Sex Marriage" (BB)
- ☐ Gomes, "Partners as Parents" (WV 380)

10/24 Women and Religion

- ☐ Chapter 12 "Religion and Spirituality" (WV 595)
- ☐ McCarthy Brown, "Fundamentalism and the Control of Women" (WV 610)
- ☐ Riswold, "Feminist Questions of Christianity" (WV 628)

10/26 Women and Religion cont.

- ☐ Almirzanah, "The Prophet's Daughters" (WV 621)
- ☐ *Wearing Hijab*, in class viewing

* Special Event: 10/26 HERMANN'S Lecture Series

Week Ten10/29 Working Women

- ☐ Chapter 8 "Women's Work Inside and Outside the Home" (WV 391)
- ☐ Hochschild, "Second Shift" (BB)
- ☐ Mainardi, "The Politics of Housework" (WV 414)

10/31 Can Women Have it All?

- ☐ Slaughter, "Why Women Still Can't Have it All" (ONLINE)
<http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2012/07/why-women-still-cant-have-it-all/309020/>
- ☐ Google "response to Anne-Marie Slaughter" and read any two articles/blog entries

11/2 Domestic Labor

- ☐ Ehrenreich, "Maid to Order" (WV 429)

Week Eleven11/5 Gender & Violence

- ☐ Chapter 10 "Resisting Violence Against Women" (WV 503)
- ☐ Anderson, "All American Rape" (BB)

November 6: ELECTION DAY

11/7 Gender & Violence cont.

- ☐ Smith, "Beyond the Politics of Inclusion" (WV 525)
- ☐ Swartz, "Lost Girls" (WV 528)

11/9 Class cancelled

Week Twelve11/12 Gender & Violence cont.

- ☐ Manuahl and Bekoe, "Confronting Violence" (WV 537)

11/14 Violence and LGBTQ

☐ Bates, "Let's Not Get it Twisted" (BB)

11/16 Test #3

Week Thirteen

11/19 The Feminist Blogosphere

Writing Assignment #3 due.

☐ Nussbaum, "The Rebirth of the Feminist Manifesto" (ONLINE)

<http://nymag.com/news/features/feminist-blogs-2011-11/>

11/21 TBA

* Thanksgiving Holiday 11/22-11/25

Week Fourteen

11/26 In class group work

11/28 Group Presentations

11/30 Group Presentations

Week Fifteen

12/3 Group Presentations

12/5 Group Presentations

Writing Assignment #4 due