



WOMS 2310: Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies
Fall 2016

Instructor: Dr. Wendell A. (Alex) Hunnicutt

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Office Hours: T-Th, 1:30 -1:55 p.m.; M-W-F, 9:30 – 9:55 a.m.; .or by appointment

Section Information: WOMS 2310-001 (Fall 2016)

Time and Place of Class Meetings: MWF, 10:00 a.m.-10:50 a.m., PKH-107

Teaching Assistant (TA): Ms. Alaina Behan.

TA's Email Address: alaina.behan@mavs.uta.edu

TA's Office Hours: M & F, 11:00 – 12:00, UH-223.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE CONTENT: The course provides an introduction to Women's and Gender Studies as fields that place women and gender at the center of inquiry. We will examine topics such as work, family, reproduction, sexuality, politics, art, literature, and contemporary media. The course also covers the diverse of methods and theories employed in Women's and Gender Studies scholarship, emphasizing the intersection of gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, and class. 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. We will examine critical or theoretical conceptions of women's experience and gender identity from a variety of disciplines, including history, philosophy, political science, sociology, anthropology, and science. We will also pay particular attention to the intersection of gender and race in the role of women's studies. Above all, the course emphasizes how a feminist critical approach sheds light on the complex role of gender in modern society.

CLASS PREREQUISITES: No special requirements or prerequisites.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

There is one required book for this class:

Susan M. Shaw, Janet Lee. *Women's Voices, Feminist Visions: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, (6th edition). McGraw Hill. ISBN: 978-0-07-802700-0.

In addition to these texts, I will provide short readings through blackboard.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

During this course, students will learn how to:

- Define feminism and its key concepts
- Explain the major debates within women's and gender studies
- Describe how the wider world shapes views on gender and society
- Understand the intersectionality of race, gender, sexual preference, class and ethnicity
- 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

FACULTY EXPECTATIONS:

I expect that students will

- not cheat, plagiarize, collude or commit other acts of academic dishonesty
- participate fully by attending class regularly and being prepared for discussions and other assignments. Being prepared means doing your reading assignment or other class prep *before* the class session
- do college-level work in all written assignments. You will receive specific and detailed instructions for all assessments within this course, follow them. Proofread for grammar and prose (turning in

sloppy work with many grammatical errors is not college level - if you have problems with writing on a college level, utilize the services of the Writing Center)

- turn in work on time
- show respect to your instructor and your fellow students in all interactions
- ask for help when needed – Ask questions if something is not clear.
- be courteous during class lectures and discussions, as well as in online communications
- do not sleep in class
- do not read anything in class other than class materials
- do not use earphones or headphones in class unless you have written permission from the office of student disabilities..
- turn off phones during class period. (If you employer or medical or family reasons require you to maintain phone contact, please put it on vibrate so it will not disturb the class and alert me at the beginning of the semester of your situation. If you must respond to an emergency, please leave the classroom, attend to the situation, and return quietly when you have taken care of it.)

CLASS FORMAT: Although there will be some traditional lectures, this course relies mostly on class discussions, individual presentations, and other activities. Students should have read the material prior to class and be prepared to participate. Some course content and all assignments are provided through Blackboard. I welcome an engaged classroom where students feel free to ask questions and express their ideas and opinions. However, I ask that students maintain proper classroom etiquette. Students should come to class fully prepared. If you find yourself concerned about any aspect of the course, please come to talk with me, at office hours or by appointment. At any reasonable time your arguments and comments will be most welcome. Especially with respect to quick questions (e.g. what is included on a quiz), I encourage you to get in touch with me by email. Email usually is not appropriate for answering more complex questions -- for instance a clarification on a major topic discussed in class. If you do not understand a point made in a lecture, please feel free to raise your hand at that time. Informed, intelligent questions are welcome. Should you wish to discuss a topic at greater length or to explore other treatments of a particular subject, I will be available to discuss these and related matters during office hours.

ASSIGNMENTS AND ASSESSMENTS:

Reflection Papers

There are four reflection papers (essays) in which you will discuss a particular topic. Specific prompts and instructions for these will be found in Blackboard and you will submit the finished paper in Blackboard. Each of the four reflection papers counts as 10% of the course grade for a total of 40%.

Objective Quizzes

There will be two small objective quizzes – multiple choice or matching – that will assess your grasp of definitions and application of concepts and terminology as they relate to WGS. Each of the two quizzes counts as 5% of the course grade for a total of 10%.

Group Project

Each student will participate in and contribute to a group project on a topic relating to Women's and Gender Studies. This project counts as 20% of the course grade.

Semester Final Paper

You will submit a larger, final paper near the end of the semester. This paper will tie together the many threads of the course. It should rely all of the course texts, the lecture notes, and other class discussions and activities. It is not intended as a research paper and should not require extensive recourse to additional sources. The goal is to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of how feminism and feminist theory matter today. Specific instructions and prompts, as well as a rubric, will be available in Blackboard. This paper counts as 20% of the course grade. Guidelines and specifics will be available in class and on Blackboard.

Classroom Discussion and Participation

Within the class periods, time will be available to for discussions, either in small groups or as an entire class. In addition, there will be occasional exercises in class, possibly short paragraphs or small group projects. And, I will check roll. Your mere presence will count at least to some small extent toward your participation grade.

But this portion of the grade is based primarily upon active, engaged, and prepared participation. Classroom discussion and participation count as 10% of the course grade.

In summary, the final grade for the course will be based on the following:

GRADED ASSIGNMENTS

Type	Name	Points / Percentage
Objective Quizzes	Quiz 1	5.0%
	Quiz 2	5.0%
	Quiz Total	10.0%
Reflection Papers	Reflection Paper 1	10.0%
	Reflection Paper 2	10.0%
	Reflection Paper 3	10.0%
	Reflection Paper 4	10.0%
	Content Quiz Total	40.0%
Group Project		20.0%
Comprehensive Final		20.0%
Class Participation		10.0%

Check the **Course Calendar** for dates of these assignments, quizzes, and exams.

The essays and projects will be accessible and available for several days prior to the due date. **You do not have to wait until the due date to complete these assignments.** If the due date conflicts with your schedule, then complete the assignment early, or contact me *beforehand*. If you do not like the day it is due, then do it some other day.

In other words, "I forgot," or "I had a conflict that prevented me from completing the assignment at the time it was due," is not a valid excuse except in cases of genuine, unforeseeable, and verifiable emergencies.

Technical problems are also not good excuses, because there was ample time to complete the assignment and to resolve any technical issues. If Blackboard itself becomes unavailable, then extensions will be granted. Blackboard administrators always make announcements regarding Blackboard outages.

Make Up Contingencies.

Students are expected to complete all assignments on time. If a student is unable to make a class presentation at the scheduled time, he or she should contact the professor to see **if** a make-up presentation will be allowed or an extension can be arranged. There is no guarantee of a make-up or an extension implied. The individual presentations will be made up either at the mutual convenience of the student and professor or else at the time of the final exam. Missing an individual presentation and presenting as a make-up affects the subsequent schedule of the course and affects other students. The overall class progress will not be sacrificed to accommodate a student make-up.

LATE SUBMISSION PENALTIES:

Unless some extraordinary circumstances apply, an assignment that is submitted late will receive a 10% reduction in grade per day late. I will apply this on a pro-rated scale down to the minute.

Exceptions to due dates will be given only in unusual or prearranged circumstances.

GRADES / POINTS (Total Accumulated Points)

Total Points Accumulated	Percent	Grade	Translation
9000 and above	$\geq 90\%$	A	Excellent
8000 – 8999	80% - 89%	B	Good
7000 – 7999	70% - 79%	C	Average
6000 – 6999	60% - 69%	D	Passing
Below 6000	$< 60\%$	F	Failing

Students are expected to keep track of their performance throughout the semester and seek guidance from available sources (including the instructor) if their performance drops below satisfactory levels.

EXTRA CREDIT

If there are any other extra credit opportunities along the way, I will make an announcement both in class and through Blackboard. If there are such opportunities, they would be available to all students and a general announcement will be forthcoming.

EXPECTATIONS FOR OUT-OF-CLASS STUDY: A general rule of thumb is this: for every credit hour earned, a student should spend 3 hours per week working outside of class. Hence, a 3-credit course might have a minimum expectation of 9 hours of reading, study, etc. Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 6-9 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

Attendance Policy:

Regular attendance is **STRONGLY** recommended. Though regular attendance does not guarantee success in the class, years of teaching experience has shown me that

STUDENTS DO NOT DO WELL WITHOUT ATTENDING EVERY LECTURE.

Students who miss a class meeting should get the notes for the class they miss from a fellow student. If you have any questions about the notes you receive, you should feel free to ask me for clarification.

Since exams are based on assigned readings, lecture material, and class discussions, obviously class attendance is important. Students need to come to class, be on-time, and remain in class until dismissed. I expect your complete attention. Do not sit in class and text-message. Turn off and put away your cell phones, headphones, etc. before you enter the classroom. If a student is unable to comply with this, that individual should drop the class.

Thank you for your courtesy to me and to the rest of the class.

Grade Grievances: Any appeal of a grade in this course must follow the procedures and deadlines for grade-related grievances as published in the current undergraduate catalog.

http://wweb.uta.edu/catalog/content/general/academic_regulations.aspx#19.

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/aao/fao/>).

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.

Non-Discrimination Policy: *The University of Texas at Arlington does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, genetic information, and/or veteran status in its educational programs or activities it operates. For more information, visit uta.edu/eos.*

Title IX Policy: The University of Texas at Arlington ("University") is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment that is free from discrimination based on sex in accordance with Title IX of the Higher Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in educational programs or activities; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII), which prohibits sex discrimination in employment; and the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE Act). Sexual misconduct is a form of sex discrimination and will not be tolerated. *For information regarding Title IX, visit www.uta.edu/titleIX or contact Ms. Jean Hood, Vice President and Title IX Coordinator at (817) 272-7091 or jmhood@uta.edu.*

Academic Integrity: 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.

UT Arlington faculty members 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.

Student Support Services: 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.

Electronic Communication: 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>.

I try to answer all emails within a few hours of receiving them. If as much as 24 hours pass without a reply from me, please write me again. Chances are, I did not receive it or else I am dead or held captive.

Campus Carry: Effective August 1, 2016, the Campus Carry law (Senate Bill 11) allows those licensed individuals to carry a concealed handgun in buildings on public university campuses, except in locations the University establishes as prohibited. Under the new law, openly carrying handguns is not allowed on college campuses. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/news/info/campus-carry/>

Student Feedback Survey: At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” shall be directed to complete an online 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.

Emergency Exit Procedures: Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located at the center and the East end of the building. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

Course Schedule.

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Wk	Date		Readings	Lecture / Discussion Topic	Graded Items Due	Points
0	8/26	Fri	Women's Voices, Feminist Visions, pp 1-27.	Introduction & Syllabus		
1	8/29	Mon	Women's Voices, Feminist Visions = WVFV WVFV, Readings, 1 - 5.	Introduction to WGS What is Feminism? What's the difference between feminism, womanism, and women's rights?		
	8/31	Wed				
	9/2	Fri				
2	9/5	Mon	WVFV, Readings, 6, 7, 8, 9			
	9/7	Wed				
	9/9	Fri				
3	9/12	Mon	WVFV, pp 49-71.	Privilege, Inequality, and Oppression	Reflection 1	1000
	9/14	Wed	WVFV, Readings, 10, 12, 13, 14.			
	9/16	Fri				
4	9/19	Mon	WVFV, Readings, 16 - 19.	Patriarchy		
	9/21	Wed				
	9/23	Fri				
5	9/26	Mon	WVFV, pp 116-135.	Learning and	Quiz 1	500

	9/28	Wed	WVFFV, Readings, 20 - 27.	Constructing Gender Sex or Gender?		
	9/30	Fri				
6	10/3	Mon	WVFFV, pp 181-204.	The Gendered Body	Reflection 2	1000
	10/5	Wed	WVFFV, Readings, 28 - 37.			
	10/7	Fri				
7	10/10	Mon	WVFFV, pp 250-275.	Media and Culture		
	10/12	Wed	WVFFV, Readings, 38 - 48.			
	10/14	Fri				
8	10/17	Mon	WVFFV, pp 313-333.	Sex, Power, and Intimacy	Reflection 3	1000
	10/19	Wed	WVFFV, Readings, 49 - 55.			
	10/21	Fri				
9	10/24	Mon	WVFFV, pp 362-394.	Health and Reproductive Justice		
	10/26	Wed	WVFFV, Readings, 56 - 61.			
	10/28	Fri				
10	10/31	Mon	WVFFV, pp 49-71. (Review)	Intersectionality		
	11/2	Wed	WVFFV, Readings, 11, 15			
	11/4	Fri				
11	11/7	Mon	WVFFV, pp 433 -451.	Family Systems, Family Lives	Reflection 4	1000
	11/9	Wed	WVFFV, Readings, 62 - 68.			
	11/11	Fri				
12	11/14	Mon	WVFFV, pp 470 -499.	Women and Labor: Paid and Unpaid	Quiz 2	500
	11/16	Wed	WVFFV, Readings, 69 - 77.			
	11/18	Fri				
13	11/21	Mon	WVFFV, pp 582 -605.	Feminist Praxis	Group Project	2000
	11/23	Wed	WVFFV, Readings, 85, 88			
	11/25	Fri	Thanksgiving Holiday - No Class Today			
14	11/28	Mon	WVFFV, pp 692 -714.	Law, Religion, Everyday Life: What can we do?		
	11/30	Wed	WVFFV, Readings, 103 - 109.			
	12/2	Fri				
15	12/5	Mon	WVFFV, pp 635 - 649.			
	12/7	Wed	WVFFV, Readings, 93 - 102.			
	12/9	Fri				
	12/12	Mon	Official Final Exam: 8:00-10:30 a.m.		Comprehensive Final Exam	2000
					Participation	1000
					Course Total	10000

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Librarian to Contact: Jody Bailey, jbailey@uta.edu, 817.272.7516

Library Home Page..... <http://www.uta.edu/library>

Subject Guides..... <http://libguides.uta.edu>

Subject Librarians..... <http://www.uta.edu/library/help/subject-librarians.php>

Database List	http://www.uta.edu/library/databases/index.php
Course Reserves	http://pulse.uta.edu/vwebv/enterCourseReserve.do
Library Catalogue	http://discover.uta.edu/
E-Journals	http://liblink.uta.edu/UTAlink/az
Library Tutorials	http://www.uta.edu/library/help/tutorials.php
Connecting from Off- Campus	http://libguides.uta.edu/offcampus
Ask A Librarian	http://ask.uta.edu

The following URL houses a page where we have gathered many commonly used resources needed by students in online courses: <http://www.uta.edu/library/services/distance.php>

Finally, the subject librarian for your area can work with you to build a customized course page to support your class if you wish. For examples, visit <http://libguides.uta.edu/os> and <http://libguides.uta.edu/pols2311fm> . If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Coordinator for Information Services, Suzanne Beckett, at sbeckett@uta.edu or at 817.272.0923.