

Syllabus: WGS 201 Introduction to Women's Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Fall 2015 T/H 4:00PM-6:20PM

Professor: Caleb Pendygraft
Office: Bachelor Hall 272
Office Hours: M 12:00-3:30, or by appointment; Email prior to arriving
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Course Description:

WGS201 is an interdisciplinary introduction to the scholarly field of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies. We will examine what gender is, how it differs from sex and sexuality, what sexism and heterosexism are, and how all of these concepts have material effects on human societies in diverse locations, dispelling the notion that there is a universal experience for all women. We will study feminisms of the past, present, and global future, considering how women and men have fought—and continue to fight—for equality and social justice in the areas of women's health and safety, reproductive justice, employment and equal pay, and individual and artistic freedom. We will also consider how gender is represented in works of art, music, history, literature, film, and television. This course will give you a solid foundation for the further study of gender and its intersection with other categories of difference, such as race, class, ethnicity, sexual orientation, ability, etc., within wider social, economic, political, and cultural networks of power in multiple contexts and at various geographic locations.

Course Goals and Objectives:

- Reflect and recognize one's own positions and assumptions in relation to others across multiple contexts of power and privilege.
- Generate questions and approaches that enables the ideological critique of gender as it intersects with difference in the form of race, class, sexuality, age, culture, nation and ability.
- Utilize interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary intellectual tools to investigate gender as a lens/analytic tool.
- Analyze social relations (understanding gender and its intersection with other categories of difference in the context of power).
- Identify opportunities and engage in learning activities aimed at empowerment and transformation.

Assignments and Grade Distribution:

You will have an opportunity to earn a total of 1,000 points for the semester. The 1,000 points will be made up of the following: 2 exams, 2 essays, daily assessments, a presentation, and a weekly blog post, along with participation.

Midterm	200 points
Final	300 points
Essay 1	100 points
Essay 2	200 points
Daily Assessment and Attendance	100 points

Weekly Blog	100 points
Total	1,000 points

Grading:

Grading is based on a point system. I reserve the right to use discretion in applying the point system to individual students, depending on extraordinary circumstances. **I will not accept late assignments.** Extensions on papers will require emailing me and receiving approval of said extension at least twenty-four hours prior to the assignment being due. Extra credit offered at the whim of the instructor.

A	930-1000	B-	800-820	D+	670-690
A-	900-920	C+	770-790	D	630-660
B+	870-890	C	730-760	D-	600-620
B	830-860	C-	700-720	F	0-590

Daily Assessment and Attendance:

Since our class is large, there will be quizzes given daily to ensure that the readings are completed. These quizzes will also act as a means of taking attendance. Each quiz is worth 4-6 points, equaling a total of 100 points of your final grade. The quizzes may be given individually or in groups depending on my choice for any particular day. I also retain the right to forgo a quiz at any time, and if that is the case I will give everyone the full amount of points for the day if they are present.

Weekly Blog:

Each week you will post one response to CANVAS. These are due the day before the class. This means you can choose to write either for Tuesday or Thursday's readings. It is up to you which day you write for. Write approximately 200 words in response to the readings for the week. I may assign specific questions for you to consider. Your discussion responses will be evaluated on how thoughtfully you respond to the readings and/or questions, but they are not formal papers. You are encouraged to pose questions that you would like to ask in class, or point out passages that you would like us to discuss. Bring a copy of your journal to class each week.

Attendance:

You are expected to attend regularly and to participate in class conversation since this is a discussion-based course. Assessments are based in large part on class notes, however, so it's a good idea to show up. I will not provide class notes to absent students. If you must miss a class, arrange to get the class notes from another student. Please let me know if anything will greatly affect your attendance, but I don't need or want to see notes from doctors, parents, children, or court officials.

Plagiarism:

Do not do it. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarizing someone else's work or unsure if what you are doing would count as such, please do not hesitate to ask me. Generally, if you are doing any of the following, stop and properly cite your source: submitting another's published or unpublished work, in whole, in part, or in paraphrase, as one's own without fully and properly crediting the author with footnotes, citations, or bibliographical reference.

Accommodations for Persons with Disabilities:

If you are a student with a documented disability that necessitates special accommodations, please notify me as soon as possible so that we can make the necessary arrangements in a timely fashion. The university requires students with disabilities to register with Student Disabilities Services in order to receive academic accommodations such as extra time to take exams, an alternate format, or a note-taker. Student Disabilities Services is located in Room 19 in the Campus Avenue Building or you can contact them at (513) 529-1541 or sds@MiamiOH.edu.

March
Week 1

Tuesday 8th **Intro to course and syllabus.**

Thursday 10th **Susan Shaw. “Women’s and Gender Studies: Perspectives and Practices.”**

bell hooks. *Feminism is for Everyone*. pgs i-13

Week 2

Tuesday 15th **Simone de Beauvoir. “Childhood.” *The Second Sex*. 330-394**

Thursday 17th **Patricia Collins. “The Social Construction of Black Feminist Thought.”**

Audre Lorde. “There is No Hierarchy of Oppressions.”

Week 3
SPRING BREAK: NO CLASS TUESDAY 22ND/THURS 24TH

Week 4

Monday 28th **ESSAY 1 DUE**

Tuesday 29th **Adrienne Rich. “Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence.”**

Thursday 31st **Chandra Talpade Mohanty. "Under Western Eyes"**

Peggy McIntosh. “White Privilege and Male Privilege.”

April

Week 5 CALEB OUT OF TOWN FOR CONFERNCES

Tuesday 5th **ONLINE CLASS MIDTERM REVIEW**

Thursday 7th **MIDTERM: Submitted via Canvas by 6:20pm**

Week 6

Tuesday 12th **Judith Butler. *Gender Trouble*. Intro-Chapter 1**

Thursday 14th **Emily Martin. "The Egg and the Sperm: How Science Has Constructed A Romance Based on Stereotypical Male-Female Roles."**

Deboleena Roy. "Feminist Theory in Science: Working toward a Practical Transformation."

Week 7

Tuesday 19th **Cordelia Fine. Selections from *Delusions of Gender: How Our Minds, Society, and Nuerosexism Create Difference*.**

Thursday 21st **Evin Taylor. "Cisgender Privilege"**

Evelyn Blackwood. "Trans Identities and Contingent Masculinities: Being Tombois in Everyday Practice"

Week 8

Monday 25th **ESSAY 2 DUE**

Tuesday 26th **Michel Foucault. "Repressive Hypothesis." *History of Sexuality, Vol.1***

Thursday 28th **Annamarie Jagose. "Feminism's Queer Theory"**

May

Week 9

Tuesday 3rd **Angela McRobbie. "Post-Feminism and Popular Culture."**

Thursday 5th **TBD**

Week 10 FINALS

TUESDAY 10TH FINAL: Submitted via Canvas by 5:00pm