

Gendered Lives & Societies

Winter Session 2024

WGS 1800 080

3 Credits

Department of Community and Social Justice Studies, Atrium 110, (973) 720-3027

COURSE SYLLABUS - ON LINE SECTION

December 18, 2023 - January 24, 2024

COURSE NUMBER: WGS 1800-080

PROFESSOR: Atola Gerri Budd, Ph.D.

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OFFICE HOURS: By appointment

REQUIRED TEXT: Estelle Disch

Reconstructing Gender: A Multicultural Anthology. 5th Edition.

Publisher: McGraw-Hill, 2009.

ISBN-13: 978-0073380063

ISBN-10: 0073380067

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

Students must have access to a personal computer running Windows 7 or above (or the Apple equivalent) with 32 MB of RAM (64MB recommended), and Internet access. You can use your own Internet Service Provider (ISP) or William Paterson for Internet access. You should understand how to navigate the Internet, and know how to use e-mail, send attachments, and work with a word processor like Microsoft Word.

COURSE PREREQUISITES: none.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introduction to understanding how societies, identities and social relations are shaped by sex, gender and sexuality. It will explore how gender is a socially constructed concept that affects men and women in different ways and shapes social relations, how gender is related to "race", class, age and disability, and how social institutions reproduce gender inequality.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

In this course, students will explore how gender and gender identities are constructed in society; analyze the construct of patriarchy using feminist theory; explore how gender oppression is linked to other forms of oppression like racism, class and disability; develop critical ways of reading media representation (images, cultural values, populations); examine how institutions such as the economy, media, healthcare, law and education affect ideas of gender; and understand the history of social movements that challenge patriarchy and heterosexism.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Through online discussion, journal entries and essays, students will demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key theoretical approaches to social constructionism, identity and role formation, as well as critique the ethical dimensions of patriarchy, sexism and heterosexism as forms of inequality. Students will also be able to integrate knowledge and ideas by demonstrating an understanding of how particular social institutions reproduce and transform gendered inequalities, and discuss individual modes of engagement and collective strategies for resisting patriarchy, sexism and heterosexism.

UNIVERSITY CORE CURRICULUM:

This course satisfies UCC Area 3C (Ways of Knowing; Social and Behavioral Sciences). Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of major intellectual approaches and methodologies in the social and behavioral sciences; Identify ethical dimensions of various approaches in the social and behavioral sciences; ask meaningful questions regarding human behavior and social problems; and understand and employ social science theories, evidence and data to address complex social problems.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**Discussion Board – 30%**

Students will participate in graded online discussions of the texts and interpretive questions provided by the teacher. Your grade for class participation depends mainly on three things. First, you will be graded on the content of your commentary, which should show a thoughtful grasp of the discussion topic as well as reflection on other students' responses. You should post with respect when it comes to differences of personal experience, and differences of opinion on sensitive issues such as reproductive choice, sexual orientation, health issues, violence and the criminal justice system, and other questions. Second, you must post at least once to each of the forums when they are active. Finally, your forum posts will be evaluated according to their timeliness, as well as their insight and meaningful return comments to your classmates. Please check the [Grading Standards](#) link to see the rubric for how the discussion posts are graded.

2 Essays – 50% total

Students will write two essays, based on any combination of research and critique of women's images in movies, literary works, music, and other media. At least one of the required essays will rely upon a personal interview that the student will conduct. Please check the [Grading Standards](#) link for how essays are graded.

Journals – 20%

Students will keep journals of their academic responses to the readings and any other assigned work. The journal is not a personal diary, but an extension of the course work. A journal entry should include a very brief summary of each reading assignment. You may write an informal reader response log/journal in which you can move between the text and your ideas, feelings, life experiences and observations. You must submit your journal on time to receive credit. Please check the [Grading Standards](#) link for how journals are graded.

Writing assignments must emphasize sound principles of English. Assignments are due by midnight of the due date. **Without exception**, late essays will be downgraded 10 points for each late day.

ACADEMIC HONESTY – PLAGIARISM, CHEATING, AND USING AI:

Students caught or suspected of dishonest academic conduct such as cheating on a test or plagiarism (copying) on the research papers will receive a grade of 0 for that assignment. In the event of a second offense, the student will fail the course and the matter will be brought to the attention of the Department Chair.

Copying and pasting your essay from a text generator, like chat GPT or any other text generator, is academic dishonesty and will be treated as such. At the instructor's discretion, assignments will be checked to see if they have been written using AI software. If the use of AI has been detected and confirmed, the assignment will receive a grade of 0.

GRADING:

There is no grade curve or "extra credit."

The final grade will be calculated as follows:

Essays..... (2 papers, 25% each)	50%
Discussion board participation.....	30%
Journals.....	20%
	100%

COURSE OUTLINE:

December 18, 2023 - January 24, 2024

Unit 1 – December 18 - 22: Introductions, syllabus review, definitions.

Part I: It's Not Just About Gender; Part II: Gender Socialization

Readings: pp. 1-155

Journal Entry 1 due: December 22

Essay 1 Due: Friday, December 29

Essay 1 is an interview essay. The instructions for the assignment are at the [Essay 1](#) link under the Assignments tab.

Unit 2 – January 8 - January 13 Part VI: Families; Part VII: Education

Readings: pp. 156- 220; pp. 297-352; pp. 353-412 (combine all of the readings into one journal entry)

Journal Entry 2 due: January 5

Essay 2 Due: Friday, January 12

Essay 2 is a short research paper. The instructions for the assignment are at the [Essay 2](#) link under the Assignments tab.

Unit 3 – January 17 – 19 Part VIII: Paid Work and Unemployment

Readings: pp. 413-495

Journal Entry 3 due: January 19

Course Summation - January 23-24: Part IX: A World that is Truly Human

Readings: pp. 628-667

Journal Entry 4 due: January 23

A concluding discussion forum will be required. There is no final exam in this course.