WGSS 1105-20 (1594) Gender and Sexuality in Everyday Life

Syllabus information may be subject to change. The most up-to-date syllabus is located within the course in HuskyCT.

Course and Instructor Information

Course Title: Gender and Sexuality in Everyday Life
Credits: 3
Format: online
Prerequisites: None
Professor: Nikki McGary

Email: The best way to contact me is via my e-mail. Nikki.mcgary@uconn.edu. Type “WGSS 1105” in the subject line and I will respond as quickly as I can (definitely within 48 hours). You can also email me through the HuskyCT site, but the response time might not be quite as prompt (although it will certainly still be within 48 hours).

Course Materials

Required Materials:

Course readings and media are available within HuskyCT, through either an Internet link or Library Resources, and will be made available through the Course Readings tab. Each and every Module will provide you with the appropriate links to readings, assignment details, streaming films, etc...

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce you to the key concepts of gender and sexuality studies. We will examine how gender and sexuality shape our everyday experiences and are shaped by our everyday experiences. We will also examine how gender and sexuality organize the institutions we engage with on a regular basis, from schools to the workplace and beyond.

This course is taught from an intersectional perspective, which means that while gender and sexuality are centralized in our considerations, we always keep in mind that other social and political identities such as class and race influence how our gender and sexuality are experienced.

Simone de Beauvoir once said, “One is not born a woman, but becomes one.” What does this mean? How is gender shaped and maintained by society? How is gender lived and experienced? WGSS 1105: Gender in Everyday Life explores how the biological fact of sex is transformed into a system of gender stratification in our everyday lives. This class will examine the social position of women in the family, economy, media, and politics while remaining sensitive to the diversity of women's experiences across class, racial-ethnic groups, cultures, and regions.

Because this class uses a feminist perspective to critically examine gender, it is founded on the premise that gender inequality is unjust. This class seeks to critically examine how gender inequalities are created, maintained and perpetuated. After providing an historical context of feminism(s) and an overview of important feminist historical critiques, the course will
focus on particular feminist concerns regarding gender and work, sexuality, family, violence, politics, health, and gendered representations. Each topic addressed in the course will draw on historical analysis and remain attentive to the variety of women’s experiences.

Gloria Steinem once said, “The problem for all of us, men and women, is not to learn, but to unlearn.” I understand “unlearning” as the complex process of learning how to think critically, listen for silenced histories, challenge societal norms, question cultural ideals and assumptions, and be self-reflexive in relation to personal realities and ideologies. In other words, “unlearning” is a tool for intervention as it forces us to critically examine what has been engrained in us as individuals and communities. Therefore, this is a class of “unlearning.” Unlearning takes place through consciousness raising, critical thinking, application, integration and passion. Feminism is a useful framework for accelerating learning through unlearning.

This course meets the requirements for CA 2 and CA 4; see geoc.uconn.edu for an explanation of these areas.

### Course Objectives
By the end of this class, students should be able to think critically about gender relations, summarize key historical events related to the Women’s Movement(s), synthesize and discuss central feminist issues and debates, and identify some of the myriad ways in which sexism exists both systemically and within specific contexts. You will learn what it means for gender to be socially constructed; and you will examine the complex intersections of gender, sexuality, race and class. Furthermore, you will learn how gender and sexuality are related to social inequalities, power relations, knowledge production and access to resources. For each Module Online, you will also see a list of specific objectives for each week that will help us to obtain these course objectives listed here.

### Course Outline
Please see HuskyCT for details concerning all assignments, rubrics, etc…

Reminder: Modules are released each Friday by 9PM, and are due by midnight the following Sunday. So technically, you will have two weekends to work on each Module (the only exception is the first week of class, which starts on a Monday… and the last week of class, which ends on a Friday). So for those of you who work full-time, this schedule should still work well for you. The only deadlines that you have to worry about during the week are your discussion posts and replies, which are not terribly time consuming (but reinforce “classroom” community, and ensure that you are logging into HuskyCT regularly for any important updates).

**Welcome Module and Module 1: Inequalities, Heterosexism and Power**
*Mon 7/11 – Sun 7/17*
- Read any HuskyCT Announcements (do this every time you log-in)
- Complete the Welcome Module before doing anything else
- Complete Module 1 Readings
- Complete Module 1
  - Welcome Module Discussion and Quick Quiz due Mon 7/11 (5 points)
Discussion POST for Module 1 due Mon. 7/11 (3 points)
Discussion REPLY for Module 1 due Wed. 7/13 (2 points)
Module 1 Assignment(s) due Sun. 7/17 (10 points)

Module 2: Masculinities and Gendered Representations
Fri 7/7 – Sun 7/24
- Complete Module 2 Readings
- Complete Module 2
  - Discussion POST for Module 2 due Mon 7/18 (3 points)
  - Discussion REPLY for Module 2 due Wed 7/20 (2 points)
  - Module 2 Assignment(s) due Sunday 7/24 (10 points)

Module 3: Intersectionality, Beauty, Commodification and Exoticization
Fri 7/22 – Sun 7/31
- Complete Module 3 Readings
- Complete Module 3
  - Discussion POST for Module 3 due Mon 7/25 (3 points)
  - Discussion REPLY for Module 3 due Wed 7/27 (2 points)
  - Module 3 Assignment due Sunday 7/31 (10 points)

Module 4: Reproduction
Fri 7/29 – Sun 8/7
- Complete Module 4 Readings
- Complete Module 4
  - Discussion POST for Module 4 due Mon 8/1 (3 points)
  - Discussion REPLY for Module 4 due Wed 8/3 (2 points)
  - Module 4 Assignment(s) due Sunday 8/7 (10 points)

*Module 5: Labor and Consumerism
Fri 8/5 – Fri 8/12
- Complete Module 5 Readings
- Complete Module 5
  - Discussion POST for Module 5 due Mon 8/8 (3 points)
  - Discussion REPLY for Module 5 due Wed 8/10 (2 points)
  - Module 3 Assignment due FRIDAY 8/12 (10 points)

FINAL EXAM DUE FRIDAY 8/12 by midnight (20 points) (*reminder: this is a shorter week, so please plan your time accordingly).

Course Requirements and Grading

Congratulations! Right now, you have an A in this class. (This is the mentality you should have for every class you take!). It is up to you to keep it. This class is designed using a points system. The total number of points for this class equals 100 (so you don’t have to be a math wizard to find out your percentage grade at the end). I have listed the values with the corresponding assignments below, so that you can see what is headed your way (they are also listed on the Course Outline above). Details and rubrics for each assignment will be provided for you online.
But generally speaking, each Module will be worth 15 points. The assignment(s) in each Module will vary – ranging from film reviews, worksheets, quizzes, essays, or basic reading questions. Each assignment in each Module is designed to help you be best prepared for the final exam. Generally speaking, there is only one assignment in each Module. But occasionally, there might be two smaller assignments. The Module will make the assignment details and due dates very clear, and will prompt you to submit each assignment through HuskyCT.

Every week, you are also expected to contribute to a Discussion Board. There are clear deadlines for when you will need to post or reply to other’s postings. Prompts for the Discussion Board will be provided for you in that week’s Module. There is also a grading rubric available online about the requirements for discussion posts (as will be discussed in the Welcome Module). But the most important thing to remember about the discussion posts is that you have to incorporate class content (and use class concepts correctly) in order to get full credit.

Are you wondering what a Module is? Great question! A Module is essentially a lesson for that particular week. Each Module focuses on different themes or topics (as listed above in the Course Outline), and HuskyCT will guide you through each lesson plan.

Here is a list of point values with corresponding assignments.

- Welcome Module = 5 points
- Module 1 = 15
- Module 2 = 15
- Module 3 = 15
- Module 4 = 15
- Module 5 = 15
- Final Exam = 20

**TOTAL POINTS = 100**

**Grading Scale:**
Because I grade in points (rather than percentages), it is very easy for you to keep track of your grade. You will be able to find your grade by clicking on the My Grades tab in HuskyCT. I will enter grades as quickly as possible, and they will reflect how many points you earned. For instance, an assignment worth 10 points might be marked: 8. This is not the same as 80%; it means you lost 2 points off the 100 points with which you started the class, and you retained 8 points. Your grade might then be a 98%, or 98 points out of 100 points. You can simply go through your grades and add up all the points listed to see where you stand. You are free to email me if you have any questions about your grade, but do not email me to ask what your grade is… because that shows me that you didn’t read this part of the syllabus, or pay attention during the Welcome Module, and that you aren’t looking at the My Grades section on HuskyCT. (Can you tell that’s happened before?)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94-100</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-93</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>84-86</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Letter Grade</td>
<td>GPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-83</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74-76</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-73</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>64-66</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-63</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;60</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Due Dates and Late Policy**

All course due dates are clearly identified in Course Schedule section of your Syllabus, as well as in the introduction of each Module, and on your Calendar in HuskyCT. Deadlines are based on Eastern Standard Time; if you are in a different time zone, please adjust your submittal times accordingly. The instructor reserves the right to change dates accordingly as the semester progresses. All changes will be communicated in an appropriate manner.

In order to receive full credit for your course work, you must turn assignments in by their specified due date/time. There is no extra credit.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Late work is not accepted, EVER. Technically, you have 7-9 days to complete your assignments (that is plenty of time!). Like any class, you need to plan your time accordingly. If you miss an assignment, it is over, done, let it go. Because this is a summer class, it moves fast. Keep up!!

Do NOT email me your work, (all assignments should be submitted through the appropriate Module). Please. I repeat: submit your assignments through the appropriate Module on HuskyCT. Things fall through the cracks all too easily if they are emailed or messaged. Submit it correctly. And just a word of advice: always check that you submitted the correct document before you click “submit.”

You are an adult – I trust that you will take your education seriously, but I also understand that life happens…you don’t need to justify anything to me, just get your work in on time and understand that your grade will be affected if you don’t. The module closes when it closes; if your assignment is not in, you lose all credit. If you are having trouble getting an assignment submitted, it is your responsibility to contact me AT LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE of the due date/time. So that means you shouldn’t be waiting until the last minute to submit your assignments! If you are having trouble with an assignment, by all means, contact me and I can help you. Also, reach out if you already predict a problem in the coming weeks, and I can help you think through some solutions regarding time management.
Assessment and Feedback
All written work must be double spaced, 12 point font with one inch margins. Assignments will be graded for substantive content, style and command of all the technical aspects of writing (including grammar, punctuation and organization). Spell check is only the first step in editing your papers! You must cite all sources using ASA citation format (if you don’t know what that is, you can look it up online https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/583/01/… or you are welcome to use MLA or any other professional formatting option as long as you are consistent). You must quote words that are not your own, and cite the page number. If you summarize a key point that is not your own, you still must cite the page – even if it is in your own words!

Once I hand a grade back to you, that is it! You cannot rewrite any papers in an attempt to raise your grade… but you most certainly can try better next time! If you have a legitimate grievance about your grade, you can submit it to me in writing within 48 hours of receiving your grade. Please attach a copy of your graded paper to your letter. Also, the Writing Center is an excellent resource on campus, and can work with you on your assignments. If you plagiarize, I will not read any more of your assignment, and I will give it a zero. If it happens more than once, you will fail the class. (I am very serious about the importance of using your own words… that is how people learn best!!).

Student Responsibilities and Resources
As a member of the University of Connecticut student community, you are held to certain standards and academic policies. In addition, there are numerous resources available to help you succeed in your academic work. This section provides a brief overview to important standards, policies and resources.

Student Code
You are responsible for acting in accordance with the University of Connecticut’s Student Code Review and become familiar with these expectations. In particular, make sure you have read the section that applies to you on Academic Integrity:

- Academic Integrity in Undergraduate Education and Research
- Academic Integrity in Graduate Education and Research

Cheating and plagiarism are taken very seriously at the University of Connecticut. As a student, it is your responsibility to avoid plagiarism. If you need more information about the subject of plagiarism, use the following resources:

- Plagiarism: How to Recognize it and How to Avoid It
- Instructional Module about Plagiarism
- University of Connecticut Libraries’ Student Instruction (includes research, citing and writing resources)

Copyright
Copyrighted materials within the course are only for the use of students enrolled in the course for
purposes associated with this course and may not be retained or further disseminated.

Netiquette and Communication

At all times, course communication with fellow students and the instructor are to be professional and courteous. It is expected that you proofread all your written communication, including discussion posts, assignment submissions, and mail messages. If you are new to online learning or need a netiquette refresher, please look at this guide titled, The Core Rules of Netiquette.

OUR CLASSROOM COMMUNITY: The topics and ideas that we discuss “in” class will often relate to our daily lives. Because gender, sexism, heterosexism, classism, ableism, racism, homophobia, and ethnocentrism touch each one of us on some level, the topics in this class will challenge students on a personal level and might incite disagreement, sadness, anger, passion, etc… It is important to remember that this class offers a safe environment that fosters learning, respect and community. We are here to take risks, stay open-minded, speak up, ask questions and try out new ideas, but the conversations must always remain respectful. Moreover, we should attempt to digest and understand material that makes us uncomfortable before reacting, and be ready to learn and study perspectives that sometimes might be different from what we have learned in the past. People with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and priorities will enrich class discussions and activities. This class values each student’s personal knowledge based on life experiences and prior educations. It should also be noted that although the class welcomes personal stories, it is not required; and all discussions should remain connected to our course readings and lecture material.

Note: If you have ANY issues with this class, please come to me sooner rather than later. I really have no way of knowing what is going on with you unless you tell me. I am not a mind reader. But I am very approachable! And I am very sincerely here for you.

Additional Resources: some additional contact information for campus services is below…
Counseling and Mental Health Services: (860) 486-4705 (after hours: 486-3427)
Student Health Services: 486-4700
Alcohol and Other Drug Services: 486-9431
Dean of Students Office: 486-3426
Women’s Center and VAWPP: 486-3748
Women’s, Gender and Sexualities Studies: 486-1134
The Community Response Team (has a lot of other useful contact information)
http://www.dosa.uconn.edu/community_response_team.html

Adding or Dropping a Course

If you should decide to add or drop a course, there are official procedures to follow:

● Matriculated students should add or drop a course through the Student Administration System.
● Non-degree students should refer to Non-Degree Add/Drop Information located on the registrar’s website.

You must officially drop a course to avoid receiving an "F" on your permanent transcript. Simply discontinuing class or informing the instructor you want to drop does not constitute an official drop of the course. For more information, refer to the:
Academic Calendar

The University's Academic Calendar contains important semester dates.

Academic Support Resources

Technology and Academic Help provides a guide to technical and academic assistance.

Students with Disabilities

Students needing special accommodations should work with the University's Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD). You may contact CSD by calling (860) 486-2020 or by emailing csd@uconn.edu. If your request for accommodation is approved, CSD will send an accommodation letter directly to your instructor(s) so that special arrangements can be made. (Note: Student requests for accommodation must be filed each semester.)

Blackboard measures and evaluates accessibility using two sets of standards: the WCAG 2.0 standards issued by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act issued in the United States federal government.” (Retrieved March 24, 2013 from http://www.blackboard.com/platforms/learn/resources/accessibility.aspx)

Software Requirements and Technical Help

- Word processing software
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Internet access

This course is completely facilitated online using the learning management platform, HuskyCT – meaning that everything we do in class from discussions and assignments to accessing readings and watching films will be done through HuskyCT. If you have difficulty accessing HuskyCT, online students have access to the in person/live person support options available during regular business hours in the Digital Learning Center (www.dlc.uconn.edu). Students also have 24x7 access to live chat, phone and support documents through www.ecampus24x7.uconn.edu.

You can link to HuskyCT through http://go.uconn.edu. You will need your NetID and your password. Some course content as presented in HuskyCT is not fully supported on mobile devices at this time. While mobile devices might provide convenient access to check in and read information about your courses, they should not be used to perform work such as taking tests, quizzes, completing assignments, or submitting substantive discussion posts.

Minimum Technical Skills

To be successful in this course, you will need the following technical skills:
- Use electronic mail with attachments.
- Save files in commonly used word processing program formats.
- Copy and paste text, graphics or hyperlinks.
- Work within two or more browser windows simultaneously.
- Open and access PDF files.

University students are expected to demonstrate competency in Computer Technology. Explore the Computer Technology Competencies page for more information.

### Evaluation of the Course

Students will be provided an opportunity to evaluate instruction in this course using the University's standard procedures, which are administered by the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness (OIRE).

Additional informal formative surveys may also be administered within the course as an optional evaluation tool.