

SYLLABUS
INTRODUCTION TO GENDER & WOMEN'S STUDIES
Spring 2018

Course: GWS 200-701 CRN 43829

Instructor: Anne Radspinner

Email: anne.radspinner@wku.edu

Office Hours: The best way to reach me is by e-mail

Required Texts: *Women's Voices, Feminist Visions: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, Sixth Ed. Susan M. Shaw and Janet Lee Editors, McGraw Hill, 2015. ISBN 978-0-07-802700-0

Course Overview: This class introduces students to the interdisciplinary field of Gender & Women's Studies. Drawing on historical perspectives and socio-cultural analysis, this course will consider some of the major issues that have concerned gender and women's studies including the social construction of gender and the intersections of gender with race, ethnicity, class, and sexuality. We will be concerned with the ways in which these constructions and intersections shape women's lives. Our investigation will proceed through reading the work of a diverse group of primarily American feminist scholars, writers, and activists.

Student Learning Outcomes: Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to do the following:

- Recognize ways that gender functions as a social institution;
- Explain how socially constructed categories of gender, race, class, and sexual identity function together to formulate systems of oppression;
- Define basic terms and concepts central to gender and women's studies including *sex, gender, sexuality, feminism, patriarchy and oppression*;
- Apply conceptual frameworks important to the field of gender and women's studies to life experiences as they relate to the broader society.

General Education/Colonnade: Under the Colonnade Program, this course fulfills the Social and Behavioral requirement under Explorations (E-SB). If you are using the old general education requirements, this course fulfills Category C (Social and Behavioral Science). It will help students to attain a stronger understanding of society and human behavior.

Gender & Women's Studies Minor: GWS 200 Introduction to Gender & Women's Studies is a core course requirement for the Gender & Women's Studies Undergraduate Minor. For more information on the minor, visit www.wku.edu/womensstudies.

Diversity & Community Studies Major: GWS 200 is a core course for the undergraduate major in

Diversity & Community Studies. For more information on the major, visit <http://www.wku.edu/dcs/>.

Students with Disabilities: In compliance with University policy, students with disabilities who require academic and/or auxiliary accommodations for this course must contact the Student Accessibility Resource Center located in Downing Student Union, 1074. SARC can be reached by phone at 270-7455004, [270-745-3030 TTY] or email at sarc.connect@wku.edu. Please do not request accommodations directly from the professor or instructor without a Faculty Notification Letter (FNL) from The Student Accessibility Resource Center.

Academic Integrity: It is understood that students will present their own work for all assignments. Student work will be checked using plagiarism detection software. Plagiarism, cheating, or any other form of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty will result in either failure of the assignment or failure of the course and will be reported to the WKU Office of Judicial Affairs. Please refer to the *WKU Student Handbook* for more information.

WKU Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy: Western Kentucky University (WKU) is committed to supporting faculty, staff and students by upholding WKU's Title IX Sexual Misconduct/Assault Policy (#0.2070) at <https://wku.edu/eoo/documents/titleix/wkutitleixpolicyandgrievanceprocedure.pdf> and Discrimination and Harassment Policy (#0.2040) at https://wku.edu/policies/hr_policies/2040_discrimination_harassment_policy.pdf.

Under these policies, discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct based on sex/gender are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct, you are encouraged to report it to the Title IX Coordinator, Andrea Anderson, 270-745-5398 or Title IX Investigators, Michael Crowe, 270-745-5429 or Joshua Hayes, 270-745-5121.

Please note that while you may report an incident of sex/gender based discrimination, harassment and/or sexual misconduct to a faculty member, WKU faculty are —Responsible Employees of the University and MUST report what you share to WKU's Title IX Coordinator or Title IX Investigator. If you would like to speak with someone who may be able to afford you confidentiality, you may contact WKU's Counseling and Testing Center at 270-745-3159.

Blackboard: Blackboard is the primary means to conduct this course—please visit <https://blackboard.wku.edu>. Read the instructions and select login. Once logged in students will see a list of the courses they are enrolled in that are also using Blackboard. Select —Intro Gender/Women's Studies to enter GWS 200. Students will have access to the course site by the first day of the semester the course is being offered. If you have technical issues, please call WKU IT Help Desk (270) 745-7000.

My Contact Information: I am available on e-mail at anne.radspinner@wku.edu. I will respond within one business day (24 hours) during the week and within 48 hours over the weekend. If you need to meet with me, I will schedule an appointment time that is convenient for both of us.

Your Contact Information: Since my only means of contacting you personally is via e-mail, it is important that you check your student e-mail on a regular basis. I will communicate important

information using Blackboard announcements and e-mail. If you are experiencing difficulties with Blackboard, contact WKU IT Help (270)745-7000.

Course Requirements: Students must satisfactorily complete the following requirements in order to pass this course. Please remember that if you are having difficulties, speaking with me is the best way to resolve them.

Weekly Discussions	325 Points
Mid-Term Essay	175 Points
Final Exam Essay	200 Points
GWS Events	100 Points
Total	800 Points

Evaluation Criteria: Your final grade will consist of discussion grades, presentation grade, GWS Event grade, and essays. A total point system will be used to determine a percentage grade using the following scale:

A	90-100% (720-800 Points)
B	80-89% (640-719 Points)
C	70-79% (560-639 Points)
D	60-69% (480-559 Points)
F	Below 480 Points

Attendance: Our class week runs from Monday to Saturday at 11:59 p.m. Your weekly participation in our discussions is important because our online class is grounded in discussion-based learning. Discussions are also how I keep track of your attendance. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to find out the assignments you missed and be prepared for the next class. **Discussions cannot be made up.**

Weekly Discussions: A significant portion of your grade is based on your participation in class discussions. This is your opportunity to engage with the readings and exchange ideas, interpretations and insights with each other. Successful participation requires that you prepare for class by completing the reading, doing your homework, and actively engaging with the course material.

Each week, you are required to post a minimum of three (3) discussions—two (2) are your original discussions based on your reading of the week’s assigned readings and one (1) is your response to a posting made by a classmate. **Your three posts should total at least 700 words.** Your first original post for each week must be submitted by Wednesday of each week to receive full credit.

GWS Events: Students must attend two events during the semester sponsored or co-sponsored by WKU GWS or the Department of Diversity & Community Studies. I will distribute event announcements throughout the semester.. Students must attend an event and write a two-page response describing their

experience and connecting it to topics/readings discussed in class. You must include reference and citation to at least one assigned reading from the course. Responses must be submitted no later than one week after the event date. Each event is worth 50 points for a total possible of 100 points.

Essays: The essays, including the final exam, consist of essay questions that will require you to recall and synthesize material from the assigned readings and class discussion.

Format for Written Assignments: All written assignments must be typed in a standard 12-point font size and double-spaced, with one-inch margins on all sides. Each written assignment should have a title. Your name, the course name and section, the due date, and my name should appear in the upper left-hand corner. Pages should be numbered and you should use MLA format for incorporating and citing outside sources.

Late Work: You are expected to stay on schedule. Assignments submitted after the due date will be penalized one letter grade for each business day it is late. Assignments late more than five business days will not be accepted unless there are extreme circumstances and you discuss them with me.

Writing Center Assistance: The Writing Center is your friend!!! The Writing Center is located in Cherry Hall 123 on the Bowling Green campus and also offers online consultations for students who live at a distance or who cannot visit during our operating hours. Our writing tutors have been trained to provide helpful feedback to students at all phases of a writing project: they can help you brainstorm ideas, structure your essay, clarify your purpose, strengthen your support, and edit for clarity and correctness. But they will not revise or edit the paper for you. See instructions on the website www.wku.edu/writingcenter for making online or face-to-face appointments. Or call (270) 745-5719 during our operating hours (which are also listed on our website) for help scheduling an appointment.

Student Assistance/Tutoring: Should you require academic assistance with this course, or any other general education course, there are several places that can provide help. The Learning Center, located in the Academic Advising and Retention Center, DUC A-330, has tutors in most major undergraduate subjects and course levels throughout the week—they can also direct you to one of many tutoring and assistance centers across campus. To make an appointment, or request a tutor for a specific class, call (270) 745-6254 or stop by DUC A-330. Log onto TLC's website at <http://www.wku.edu/tlc> for tutoring for students at a distance. TLC hours are Monday – Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Sunday 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Counseling and Testing Center: We believe that the university experience should be challenging, not overwhelming, and that universities have a duty to support students as they are being challenged. To this end, the WKU Counseling and Testing Center is committed to promoting the academic mission of the university by providing a variety of psychological services to students that will augment recruitment, retention and graduation by strengthening students' capacity to tolerate distress, form healthy relationships, and seek healthy expressions of their ideals and values. The Counseling and Testing Center also advances the university's mission by providing educational programming, training, and consultation to the students, faculty, staff and constituents of WKU.

The Counseling and Testing Center is open from Monday – Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Emergency and after hours appointments made be made by calling (270) 745-3159. The Counseling and Testing Center is open throughout the calendar year and closed during holidays and other specified dates found in the Academic Calendar.

I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus and schedule as needed; I will notify you if I do so.

Week 1	1/22/18	Introductions Review Syllabus and Discussion Guidelines Watch Part I of PBS Documentary <i>Makers: Women Who Make America</i> —AwakeningI
Week 2	1/29/18	Chapter 1 —Women’s Studies: Perspectives and PracticesI
Week 3	2/5/18	Chapter 2 —Systems of Privilege and InequalityI
Week 4	2/12/18	Chapter 3 —Learning GenderI
Week 5	2/19/18	Chapter 4 —Inscribing Gender on the BodyI
Week 6	2/26/18	Chapter 5 —Media and CultureI Documentary <i>Killing Us Softly</i>
Week 7	3/5/18	Mid-Term Essay Due
	3/12/18	Spring Break
Week 8	3/19/18	Chapter 6 —Sex, Power, and IntimacyI
Week 9	3/26/18	Chapter 7 —Health and Reproductive JusticeI PBS Documentary Part 2 <i>Women Who Make America</i> —Changing the WorldI
Week 10	4/2/18	Chapter 9 —Work Inside and Outside the HomeI Part 3 of <i>Makers: Women Who Make America</i> —Charting a New CourseI
Week 11	4/9/18	Chapter 10 —Resisting Gender ViolenceI
Week 12	4/16/18	Chapter 11 —State, Law, and Social PolicyI
Week 13	4/23/18	Chapter 12 —Religion and SpiritualityI

Week 14	4/29/18	Chapter 13 —Activism, Change, and Feminist Futures
Week 15	5/7/18	Final Exam