

**Instructor: Dr. Wendy Wood**

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**Office Hours:** by appointment

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**Women’s Studies Center:** (270)745-6477

**Required Texts:** Susan M. Shaw and Janet Lee *Women’s Voices Feminist Visions*

**Course Overview:** 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 & 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.

**GWS 200 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 central to gender & women’s studies, including sex, gender, sexuality, feminism, patriarchy, and oppression;
- Apply conceptual frameworks important to the field of gender & 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.

**Colonnade Explorations Student Learning Outcomes:**

- Demonstrate knowledge of at least one area of the social and behavioral sciences (SBS).
- Apply knowledge, theories, and research methods, including ethical conduct, to analyze problems pertinent to at least one area of the SBS
- Understand and demonstrate how at least one area of the SBS conceptualizes diversity and the ways it shapes human experience.
- Integrate knowledge of at least one area of the SBS into issues of personal or public importance.
- Communicate using the language and terminology germane to at least one area of the SBS.

**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](http://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/>.

**Course Requirements:**

2 exams (100 each)	200 points
2 events (50 each)	100 points
Project	200 points
Weekly Discussions	375 points
<u>Class assignments</u>	<u>650 points</u>
TOTAL	1525 points

**Grading Scale:**

1525 – 1372 – A  
1371-1220 - B  
1219-1067 - C  
1066-915 - D  
914 - F

- ⌘ Assignments and Discussion Boards: This course will be made of TWO components. Each week students will post a minimum of 250 word post on the assigned readings, topic, etc. You must post your initial post each **WEDNESDAY BY 11:59** PM. Students must also make a **well thought out comment** on at least TWO of their classmates posts by **FRIDAY AT 11:59 PM**.

Additionally, students are responsible for completing each week’s assignment (listed under “Content”). These assignments on Blackboard are to be completed by no later than Saturday at 11:59 pm.

- ⌘ 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.
- ⌘ Project Students will create a unique and creative semester project that deals with a women’s/gender issue. This project will include a 2 page research component that gives the background and current status of the issue that the project deals with. Students will then create a project (i.e, a blog, art work, poetry, etc.) that raises awareness on the issue.
- ⌘ Event Attendance: **GWS Events:** Students must attend two events during the semester sponsored or cosponsored by WKU GWS or the Department of Diversity & Community Studies OR a community event that deals with Gender/Women’s Issues. The GWS Department will post event announcements throughout the semester. Students must attend the 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.
- ⌘ 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. The phone number is 270.745.5004 [270.745.3030 V/TTY] or email at [sarc@wku.edu](mailto:sarc@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](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.

## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

*Each student should have the assigned readings by class time on the day listed. . This schedule may change but students will have plenty of notice. All readings listed are in your textbook Women’s Voices; Feminist Visions. Each student is responsible for reading the assigned chapters in the text. Handouts will be given a week prior to the discussion date. THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE THE ONLINE READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS. PLEASE REFER TO BLACKBOARD.*

**Week 1 – August 27-Sept. 1 – Feminism**

**Week 2 – Sept. 2- Sept. 8 What is Feminism**

**Week 3 – Sept. 9- Sept. 15 Gender and Theoretical Perspectives – Chapter 3**

**Week 4 – Sept. 16-Sept. 22 – Gender and the Body – Chapter 4**

**Week 5 – Sept. 23-Sept. 29 – Gender/Socialization/Media- Chapter 5**

**Week 6 – Sept. 30-Oct. 6 – Privilege and Inequality – Chapter 2**

**Week 7 – Oct. 7-Oct. 13 - Sex, Power, and Intimacy – Chapter 6**

**Week 8 – Oct. 14-Oct. 20 – Gender and Power**

**Week 9 – Oct. 21-Oct. 27 – Sexualities – Chapter 6**

**Week 10 – Oct. 28-Nov. 3 – Gender Violence – Rape - Chapter 10**

**Week 11 – Nov. 4-Nov. 10 – Gender Violence – Domestic Violence -Chapter 10**

**Week 12 – Nov. 11-Nov. 17 – Law and Gender - Chapters 7 and 11**

**Week 13 – Nov. 18-Nov. 24 - Gender and Work - Chapter 9**

**Week 14 – Nov. 26-Dec. 1 – PROJECTS DUE**

**Week 15 – Dec. 2-Dec. 8 – wrap up**

**Week 16 – Dec. 9-13 – Finals Week**