

GN100: Introduction to Gender Studies

Winter 2009
TR 12:00-1:40PM
221 Jamrich Hall

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F 11am-12pm

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Office Hour: M 12-1pm

Readings

Pilcher, J., & Whelehan, I.
(2004). *50 Key Concepts in
Gender Studies*. London: Sage
Publications.

Additional articles on WebCT

Grading

3 Exams (100 pts each): 300 pts
Movie Paper: 60 pts
Presentation: 100 pts
Presentation Responses: 40 pts
In-class Activities: 50 pts

A	93-100%	C	73-76%
A-	90-92%	C-	70-72%
B+	87-89%	D+	67-69%
B	83-86%	D	63-66%
B-	80-82%	D-	60-62%
C+	77-79%	F	< 60%

Disability Services: If you have a need for disability-related accommodations or services, please inform the Coordinator of Disability Services in the Disability Services Office at 2001 C. B. Hedgcock (227-1700). Reasonable & effective accommodations and services will be provided to students if requests are made in a timely manner, with appropriate documentation, in accordance with federal, state, and University guidelines.

Course Goals

The goal of this course is to provide you with an overview of some of the many ways in which gender is studied. This is a survey course, in which we will examine the ways that different disciplines study gender. We will cover topics such as gender stereotypes, gender similarities & differences, history, religion, literature, popular culture, relationships, sexuality, work, and health. By the end of the course, I would like you to be able to think critically about gender issues, and recognize and apply the issues we discuss to your everyday lives. I also hope that you will leave the course with an appreciation for the diversity of human experience, & for the differences and similarities between the sexes.

Course Expectations

I expect you to keep up to date on the readings. The readings constitute a significant portion of the course material. Lectures are intended as supplements to & elaborations on the readings. Because this is a survey course, we will not go into the topics in depth. If you are interested in learning about any of the topics in more detail, you are encouraged to take more courses from the Gender Studies minor, or to become a Gender Studies minor.

You are strongly encouraged to attend class. Consistent absences will likely affect your grade in two ways. First, you are responsible for material covered in class. Not all material covered in class will be in your readings. ***If you must miss a lecture, it is your responsibility to get the lecture notes from another student in the class.*** Second, there will be group activities and discussions during many of the classes, which will count towards your grade.

This course will be primarily a discussion course. Some of the material that we will be discussing will be of a personal or sensitive nature, and people will have diverse opinions on these topics. I expect you to show respect for the contributions of your classmates and to listen to and consider their ideas. You do not have to agree with each other, in fact, respectful disagreement can be helpful to liven up a discussion. However, I will **not** tolerate any show of contempt or bullying.

You may find some of your views or "common-sense" notions about gender challenged in this course. This is to be expected. Try to use scientific/research evidence, material from the readings, and personal experience to back up your views, and present them in a persuasive manner. Be prepared to question the sources of your beliefs, the interests they serve, and whether you can sustain them in the face of arguments and evidence to the contrary. It will be helpful to think through your arguments before presenting them. However, please do not refrain from stating your viewpoint simply because you feel it may be controversial. I value the different experiences and perspective of the class, and I encourage you to contribute them to the class discussions. If you feel uncomfortable discussing your beliefs, you can always bring them up anonymously on WebCT.

Exams & Assignments

Exams: There will be three exams, with multiple-choice, short-answer, & essay questions. All exams will be closed book. Exams will emphasize material covered in the lectures and discussion, but may cover material from any section of the course (videos, etc.). To do well on these exams, you need to understand the concepts, theories, terms, controversies, & findings presented in readings & class. You must be able to apply this knowledge. Regular class attendance, good note-taking, preparing for discussions, keeping up-to-date on your reading, & actively participating in discussions will help you prepare for the exams.

Movie Paper: You will write a 3- to 4-page (typed, double-spaced) paper, in which you will discuss and analyze a popular movie with regards to gender. You may choose one of the listed movies, or another one that you have approved by me. See WebCT for more details.

Presentation: You will work alone or in pairs on this assignment. You have two options – you can (1) choose a topic related to gender that we do not cover in much detail in class, or (2) choose a book from the list. You need to get your topic approved by February 12th. Your presentation should be approximately 15 minutes long, & you should be prepared to lead the class in discussion of your topic for another 5 to 10 minutes. It should be accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation, which you will submit on the date of your presentation. See WebCT for more details.

Presentation Responses: You will write a response/critique of two presentations (other than your own). This paper should be about 2 pages long (typed, double-spaced). See WebCT for more details.

In-class Activities: There will be several in-class activities, which will vary in what they entail. These activities will be graded as "satisfactory" or "unsatisfactory", and your final in-class activity grade will be based on the percent of these projects on which you received a "satisfactory" grade. *You will not be able to make up these activities.*

Extra Credit: You can earn up to 10 points by finding examples of gender issues in everyday life. If you see anything in the media (TV, WWW, newspapers, magazines, movies, comic strips) or in your day-to-day life that is related to gender, you may submit it with a 1-page write-up in which you summarize the example & compare it to the course material. Each is worth up to 5 points.

Course Policies

- ***You must keep copies of all assignments until final course grades have been posted.***
- You must submit all of your assignments through the Assignment Dropbox on WebCT.
- If you have a serious problem that affects your performance in class, please contact me immediately. I can do much more to help you if you let me know what is happening before you miss deadlines.
- Laptops may be used as long as you are not distracting other students.
- Cell phones must be put on silent.

Academic Dishonesty: ***No sort of academic misconduct will be tolerated in this course.*** You are required to be familiar with the University Student Code on Academic Dishonesty (<http://webb.nmu.edu/dso/SiteSections/OurServices/HandbookSection2.shtml#section2subsection3>). The expectation is that the work you submit will reflect your individual efforts (with the exception of any group work for the presentations).

Students who violate the policy will receive a zero on the assignment or test, and in most cases will receive a failing grade in the course. There will be no provisions for making up or revising the assignment or test. All incidents of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students. See the Writing Guidelines link on WebCT for a more specific description of what constitutes plagiarism. *When in doubt, ask!*

Late Assignments: All assignments should be turned in by the due date. Assignments will lose five percentage points for each 24 hours that they are late.

Make-up Examinations: Exam attendance is mandatory. Make-up examinations will be given at my discretion, and will only be allowed in the case of a serious & unavoidable problem, such as confining illness (documentation from a professional person required – e.g., physician, psychologist) or family emergency. You must contact me before the time of the exam to schedule a time for the make-up exam. If I am unavailable, leave a message at my office or on email.

Incompletes: Incompletes will be granted only in rare cases, and must be requested IN WRITING before the final. If an incomplete is granted, you have one year to complete the required work, as per University policy.

Note: Schedule subject to change.

Revised Schedule

Week	Date	Day	Topic	Readings/ Due Dates
1	Jan 13	Tues	Introduction	Read Syllabus
	Jan 15	Thurs	What is Gender? – Biology	KC: essentialism, gender, gendered; on WebCT
2	Jan 20	Tues	What is Gender? – Socialization	KC: socialization, stereotype; on WebCT
	Jan 22	Thurs		KC: sexuality; on WebCT
3	Jan 27	Tues	What is Gender? – wrap-up Start Movie: <i>Iron-Jawed Angels</i>	Remaining readings will be listed on WebCT
	Jan 29	Thurs	Finish Movie: <i>Iron-Jawed Angels</i>	
4	Feb 3	Tues	What is Gender Studies? – Women’s Studies	
	Feb 5	Thurs		
5	Feb 10	Tues	Exam 1	
	Feb 12	Thurs	Movie: <i>Mars, Venus, or Planet Earth?</i>	
6	Feb 17	Tues	MIGRAINE	
	Feb 19	Thurs	SNOW DAY	
7	Feb 24	Tues	What is Gender Studies? – Men’s Studies	Topic Due
	Feb 26	Thurs	What is Gender Studies? – LGBTQ Studies	
8	Mar 3	Tues	SPRING BREAK	
	Mar 5	Thurs	SPRING BREAK	
9	Mar 10	Tues	What is Gender? – Sexuality	
	Mar 12	Thurs	Movie: <i>we will vote on this</i>	
10	Mar 17	Tues	Gender in Popular Culture – Movies & Literature	
	Mar 19	Thurs	Gender in Popular Culture – TV & Advertising	
11	Mar 24	Tues	Exam 2	
	Mar 26	Thurs	Gender in Other Times & Cultures	
12	Mar 31	Tues	Gender in Other Times & Cultures	Movie Paper Due
	Apr 2	Thurs	Gender in Other Times & Cultures	
13	Apr 7	Tues	Gender in Other Times & Cultures	
	Apr 9	Thurs	Gender in Other Times & Cultures	
14	Apr 14	Tues	Exam 3	
	Apr 16	Thurs	Presentations	
15	Apr 21	Tues	Presentations	
	Apr 23	Thurs	Presentations	
Finals	Apr 28	Tues	Presentations	Presentation Responses Due