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WST 2309G-600: Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies

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WST2309G – Introduction to Women’s & Gender Studies

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What does it mean to be female? To be male? To be gender-nonbinary? How are gender roles created and challenged? How have they varied over time and across cultures? These and other questions will be addressed. In addition, students will look at how gender is reflected in the way we communicate and the experiences we have with various social organizations and institutions.

(Writing Intensive; Cultural Diversity Requirement)

STUDENT LEARNING OBJECTIVES: In this course, you will:

1. Demonstrate critical thinking about gender issues;
2. Articulate how political, social, economic, and/or religious factors influence gender role expectations;
3. Demonstrate awareness of comparative gender differences within and across cultures and subcultures;
4. Demonstrate an appreciation of the diverse experiences and perspectives that shape human culture, in service of global citizenship;
5. Improve your public speaking skills through course discussions and in-class presentations;
6. Improve your writing skills through formal and informal writing assignments

COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION: Examines gender roles and development in a historical context from a variety of theoretical and disciplinary perspectives and within a variety of frameworks: political, economic, cultural, religious, and social.” In this section of WST 2309G, we will examine these frameworks through a focus on body politics and reproductive justice.

TEXTBOOKS:

Notify Textbook Rental Services immediately if you do not have all of the following:

Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid’s Tale*

Kate Bornstein, *My New Gender Workbook*

Launius and Hassel, *Threshold Concepts in Women’s and Gender Studies*

Arin Andrews, *Some Assembly Required*

TECH SUPPORT: If you need assistance with D2L, call D2L Support toll free at 1-877-325-7778. Support is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Email and Chat options are also available on the "My Home" page after logging in to D2L. Other D2L resources including a D2L Orientation course for students are available on the same page. For technical questions regarding other software, hardware, network issues, EIU NetID/password, or Panthermail, contact the ITS Helpdesk at 217-581-4357 during regular business hours or submit a help ticket at <https://techsupport.eiu.edu/>. If you have a question regarding course content, contact your instructor.

DISABILITY SERVICES: If you have a *documented* disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services ((217) 581-6583) as soon as possible. I will ensure you are accorded all the aid you require.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

YOU MUST COMPLETE ALL WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS TO PASS THIS COURSE. Do not skip any assignments and make sure all assignments are turned in to the proper place by midnight of the due dates. This course moves very quickly; there are a lot of assignments, a lot of due dates and a lot of reading. It is easy to fall behind and hard to catch up once you do, so do your best to keep up! The day-to-day work of this course is divided into 16 Modules. They are all posted already in the “Content”

section of D2L. Each module has specific due dates and will consist of a reading assignment which will usually be accompanied by one or more writing assignments. You will have three different types of writing assignment and each type is explained below: 1) Essays; 2) Dropbox questions; 3) Discussion questions. If you have any questions, that's great; feel free to ask them. Post them to the "Questions" folder in the Discussion board so that the whole class can see the answer: often, you are not the only one who wants to ask that question, so posting your questions helps me clarify things for the whole class. Of course, if your questions are personal in nature or specific only to you, you can either email me (through D2L or through my EIU account at the top of the syllabus) or text my cell (at the top of the syllabus).

READINGS: Each Module will give you a reading assignment, referred to by the author's last name. Readings that are not in your textbooks have been uploaded to the Content section of D2L. You can find those readings in the corresponding module folder.

ESSAYS: You will write four short (one page, single spaced) essays. Each essay has a different topic and assignment. I have posted a specific assignment sheet for each essay and you can view them at any time and complete them as early as you wish. Just be sure to turn them in to the correct Dropbox in the Dropbox section of D2L **by midnight on the due date.**

SHORT ANSWERS TO DROPBOX:

Some modules ask you to answer questions about the readings and post them to the dropbox for that module. Follow the instructions carefully because the length of required answer varies, as do the questions being asked. Stay focused on the question; don't ramble. If you have questions about any of the assignments, post them to the "Questions" discussion board.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Because we do not meet in real time, your answers to these questions will take the place of class discussion. For that reason, you will post those answers to the corresponding Discussion board for that module. Sometimes you will have a single question to answer, sometimes more. The important thing to remember is that you **must answer the question.** Don't simply ramble on; longer does not necessarily mean better. Rather, focus your writing on the task of answering the question and providing ample textual evidence (quotations and examples from the reading) to prove your point. Your answers should be organized, in paragraphs and complete sentences. In other words, these are mini essays.

You will also need to read and respond to the answers that other students in the class provide. You do not need to respond to every single student every time, but there should be a good deal of give and take between you, just as there would be in a classroom setting. And I will chime in occasionally as well, but I will not dominate the conversation. Because this course moves so quickly from topic to topic, it is **vital** that you adhere to the posted due dates. If you respond late, we will have moved on to another topic or work and your answers will no longer be helpful to the class.

FINAL EXAM: The exam will test both basic knowledge of the texts and class discussion/responses, and your ability to understand and analyze what you have read. It will include essays and short answer.

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

Essays (4 @ 10% each)	40%
Short Answers to Dropbox	20%
Discussion Board Responses	20%
Final Exam	20%

POLICIES:

Written Assignments: You must complete ALL written assignments listed below in order to pass; even if you could *mathematically* get a passing grade without turning in a shorter assignment, you must turn it in or you will not pass.

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as de-fined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be re-reported to the Office of Student Standards.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is defined as appropriating words or ideas that are not your own without giving proper credit. The temptation to plagiarize can be great, particularly in the advent of extensive computer technology and the collaborative nature of our class. However, the consequences of plagiarism are dire and can result in a grade of F for the assignment and even for the course. It will also result in a report to the Judicial Affairs Office.

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

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|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| M June 10 | Module 1: Read syllabus and materials and read Launius, Chapter 1: Introduction. |
| W June 12 | Module 2: Read: 1) Johnson, 2) Lorber, 3) Fausto-Sterling |
| F June 14 | Module 3: Read: Bornstein, Chaps. 1-4 |
| M June 17 | Module 4: Read: Launius, Chap. 2: Social Constructionism |
| W June 19 | Module 5: Read: 1) Chodorow, 2) Valenti (Blame and Shame) |
| F June 21 | Module 6: Read: 1) Ross, "Reproductive Justice", 2) Jilani "Colorado"; 3) Valenti "Abortion" |
| M June 24 | Module 7: Read; Atwood, <i>Handmaid's Tale</i> , Essay 1 due |
| W June 26 | Module 8: Watch: <i>Killing Us Softly</i> (link can be found in the Module 8 folder) |
| F June 28 | Module 9: Read: Bornstein, Chaps. 5-7, Essay 2 due |
| M July 1 | Module 10: Read: Launius, Chap. 3: Privilege |
| W July 3 | No New Module – July 4 Break |
| F July 5 | Module 11: Read: Bornstein, Chaps.8-10, Watch: <i>Tough Guise 2</i> (link in Module 11) |
| M July 8 | Module 12: Read: Launius, Chapter 4: Intersectionality, Essay 3 due |
| W July 10 | Module 13: Read: 1) Kimmel "Masculinity", 2) Chemaly & Burnett "Rape Culture", 3) Loofbourow, "Male Pleasure", 4) Wright "Incels" |
| F July 12 | Module 14: Read: 1) Launius, Chapter 5: Feminist Praxis, 2) Beinart |

- M July 15 Module 15: Read: Andrews. *Some Assembly Required*
- W July 17 Module 16: **Final Exam Review (independent study time), Essay 4 due**
- F July 19 **Final Exam due by 11:59pm**