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WGS 2309G-001: Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies

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WGS2309G – Introduction to Women’s & Gender Studies

Professor: Dr. Marjorie Worthington
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Email: mgworthington@eiu.edu

Class: Coleman Hall 3150, MW, 3:00-4:15
Office Hours: MW 12:00-3:00, F 12:00-1:00 or by appt.
Pronouns: She/her

COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION: WST 2309G - Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies

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*)

TEXTBOOKS: Make sure you 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*
Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*
Arin Andrews, *Some Assembly Required*

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

The Student Success Center: Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/~success) for assistance with time management, text taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

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.

Student Wellbeing: I will try to bring snacks to class every day. Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact your RA for support. Furthermore, please notify me if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable me to help you access the help you need. There is a small food pantry in the study room on the third floor of Coleman Hall; you are welcome to the food supplied there.

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. For each major writing assignment, you will receive a formal assignment sheet; we

will discuss these assignments in-depth in class before they are due so you will always know what is expected of you.

Attendance: Your consistent attendance and participation are necessary to make this class the vibrant exchange of ideas it should be and I take attendance every day (even if you do not see me doing it). You are permitted no more than three unexcused absences. Each unexcused absence after three will lower your final grade by thirty points (3%). Excused absences are accompanied by appropriate legal or medical documentation.

Office Hours I encourage you to come see me whenever you like. Come to ask questions, discuss problems or just to chat. The hours listed above are times when I will definitely be in my office ready to meet with students but I am available at other times as well, so you can also make a special appointment to see me if you are unable to come during office hours.

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined 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.

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.

GRADE BREAKDOWN

Short responses (5 at 10% each)	50%
Presentation	20%
Final Exam	30%

WGS2309G READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

August 19	M	Introduction & Survey	
21	W	Bornstein, Chap. 1 & Johnson	
26	M	Launius, Chap. 1, Bornstein, Chap. 2	
28	W	Launius, Chap. 2: Social Constructionism	
Sept.	2	M	Labor Day – no class
	4	W	Lorber, Pharm Fausto-Sterling Essay 1 due
	9	M	Launius, Chap. 3: Privilege, Valenti "Blame & Shame"
	11	W	Bornstein, Chap. 3-4 & Shaw/Lee

- 16 M Atwood, Chapters 1-16
18 W Atwood, Chapters 17-23
- 23 M Atwood, Chapters 24-38
25 W Atwood, Chapters 39- end (including “Historical Notes”)
- Oct. 30 M Launius, Chapter 4: Intersectionality
2 W Bornstein, Chap. 5-6 & May “Intersectionality” **Essay 2 due - Atwood**
- 7 M Morrison, pp. 1-58 (the “Autumn” section)
9 W Morrison, pp. 59-93 (the “Winter” section), *Killing Us Softly Video*, 1105
FALL BREAK
- 14 M Morrison, pp. 93-163
16 W Morrison, pp. 132-end **Essay 3 due – Pop Culture**
- 21 M Chemaly, “Rape” & “Gentleman’s Guide to Rape Culture”
23 W Bonilla-Silva & Solnit
- 28 M Launius, Chapter 5: Feminist Praxis, Kimmel “Masculinity”
30 W Bornstein, Chap. 7-8, Kimmel “Took My Job”, *Tough Guise* video
- Nov. 4 M Bornstein, Chap. 9 & Kleinman
6 W Bornstein, Chap. 10 & “US Dangerous” **Essay 4 due – Morrison**
- 11 M hooks, Privilege Lists, Sadker “Gender Equity”
13 W Bichell “Scientists”, Hubbard
- 18 M Ross, “Reproductive Justice”
20 W Loofbourow, “Male Pleasure” & Wright “Incels” **Essay 5 due - Praxis**

THANKSGIVING BREAK

- Dec. 2 M Andrews, pp. 1-170
4 W Andrews, pp. 171-end

Thursday, December 12, 2:45am-4:45pm, Presentations and Final Exam,