

Spring 1-15-2019

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

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Recommended Citation

Worthington, Marjorie, "WST 2309G-001: Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies" (2019). *Spring 2019*. 165.
https://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_spring2019/165

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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 3609, MWF, 11:00-11:50am
Office Hours: MWF 12:00-2:00pm 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)

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

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.

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 will require you to come to see me in my office once during the semester (see syllabus), but 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%
Pop Culture Essay	25%
Final Exam	25%

WST 2309G READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

M Jan. 7	Introduction & Survey
W Jan. 9	Bornstein, Chap. 1, Lorber
F Jan. 11	Bornstein, Chap. 2 & Johnson
M Jan. 14	Launius, Chap. 1, Intro.
W Jan. 16	Bornstein, Chap. 3 and Fausto-Sterling
F Jan. 18	Launius, Chap. 2: Social Constructionism SHORT RESPONSE 1 DUE (Bornstein)
M Jan. 21	NO CLASS MLK DAY
W Jan. 23	Nancy Chodorow
F Jan. 25	Bornstein, Chap. 4, 5 & Valenti "Permission"
M Jan. 28	Susan Bordo
W Jan. 30	Bornstein, Chap. 6, Beinart "International War on Women"
F Feb. 1	Atwood, Chapters 1-6
M Feb. 4	Atwood, Chapters 6-18
W Feb. 6	Atwood, Chapters 19-24
F Feb. 8	Atwood, Chapters 25-30
M Feb. 11	Atwood, Chapters 31-40
W Feb. 13	Atwood, Chapters 41-end (including "Historical Notes")
F Feb. 15	NO CLASS LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY
M Feb. 18	Launius, Chap. 3: Privilege & Steinem
W Feb. 20	Bornstein, Chap. 7 & Nagle "Native Women" SHORT RESPONSE 2 DUE (Atwood)
F Feb. 22	Launius, Chapter 4: Intersectionality
M Feb 25	Morrison, pp. 1-58 (the "Autumn" section)
W Feb. 27	Morrison, pp. 59-93 (the "Winter" section)
F March 1	Morrison, pp. 93-131
M March 4	Morrison, pp. 132-163
W March 6	Morrison, pp. 164-end
F March 8	Bornstein, Chap. 8, FILM: <i>Killing Us Softly</i> , Essay Assigned
March 11-15 SPRING BREAK	
M March 18	Bornstein, Chap. 9, White, "Little Mermaid"
W March 20	Bornstein, Chap. 10, Penny, "Queer Eye" SHORT RESPONSE 3 DUE (Morrison)
F March 22	"Meritocracy" & "Racism and Health"
M March 25	Bonilla-Silva "Color-Blind Racism"
W March 27	Valenti, "Blame and Shame Game"
F March 29	Chemaly & Burnett "Rape Culture"

M April 1 Kimmel “Masculinity” & Kimmel “Took My Job”

ENGLISH STUDIES CONFERENCE

W April 3 Loofbourow, “Male Pleasure” & Wright “Incels”

F April 5 Film: *Tough Guise* **ESSAY DUE**

M April 8 Suzanne Pharr

W April 10 Shaw/Lee, “Health and Reproductive Wellness”

F April 12 Loretta Ross, “Reproductive Justice”

M April 15 Mantsios, “Class in America” **SHORT RESPONSE 4 DUE (WHAM)**

W April 17 hooks, “Feminist Politics” & Rebecca Solnit “A Nation Groomed”

F April 19 Launius, Chapter 5: Feminist Praxis

M April 22 Andrews, Chaps. 1-8

W April 24 Andrews, Chaps. 9-13

F April 26 Andrews, Chaps. 14-19

Tuesday, April 30, 12:30pm-2:30pm, Final Exam, SHORT RESPONSE 5 DUE (Activism)