

Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies (Fall 2021)

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This fully online, eight-week course offers an introduction to Women's and Gender Studies, an interdisciplinary academic field that explores critical questions about the meaning of gender in society. The primary goal of this course is to familiarize students with key issues, questions, and debates in Women's and Gender Studies scholarship, both historical and contemporary.

BOOK

- The following book is required: Melissa J. Gillis and Andrew T. Jacobs, *Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies: An Interdisciplinary Approach*, 2nd ed. (Oxford University Press, 2019). ISBN: 978-0190064235.
- For the film analysis, you are required to watch *The Virgin Suicides* (2000). It is included with a Hulu subscription, or you can rent it for \$2.99 SD/\$3.99 HD via Amazon Prime Video.

ASSIGNMENTS

Requirement	Deadline	Percentage of final grade
QUIZZES AND EXAMS		
Reading quizzes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 20 questions focusing on readings assigned for the week• 6x (3% each)	Weekly, usually Fridays at 11:59pm (no quizzes during midterm, cumulative exam, and finals weeks)	18%
Midterm exam <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 40 questions on Ch. 1–3, 6, 10–12	Friday, Nov. 12, 11:59pm	8%
Cumulative exam	Friday, Dec. 10, 11:59pm	10%

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 questions on all assigned readings 		
WRITING ASSIGNMENTS		
Online discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackboard posts and discussions • 6x (2% each) 	Weekly, usually Fridays at 11:59pm (no posts during midterm, cumulative exam, and finals weeks)	12%
Film analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Virgin Suicides</i> is included with a subscription of Hulu. You can rent it for \$2.99 SD/\$3.99 HD via Amazon Prime Video. I encourage you to watch the film by the weekend of Oct. 30–31 in order to prepare for the paper due the following week. • You will write an analysis of the film, applying concepts from the textbook to some aspect of the representation of gender and/or sexuality in the movie. (2.5–3 pages) 	Sunday, Nov. 7, 11:59pm	8%
Literary analysis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pt 1. An analysis of major concepts in a classic feminist essay. You will select one essay from a list which ranges from Christine de Pizan to Mary Wollstonecraft to Audre Lord. (3 pages) • Pt 2. Application. <i>Either</i> a lesson plan focusing on concepts from the essay <i>or</i> a discussion of how concepts from the essay apply to personal experience. (1 page) 	Sunday, Nov. 21, 11:59pm	12%
Research and service learning project		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal for research and service learning project (1 page) plus annotated bibliography of two potential sources 	Sunday, Nov. 14, 11:59pm	4%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress report (1 paragraph) 	Sunday, Dec. 5, 11:59pm	1%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research paper (4–5 pages) and service learning reflection (1 page) 	Friday, Dec. 17, 5:00pm	22%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation via recorded video (10 minutes) 	Friday, Dec. 17, 5:00pm	5%

COURSE SCHEDULE (100% online course)

Week 1 **Sex, Gender, and Social Construction**

- Oct. 18–22 **Reading:** Ch 1. Sex, Gender, and Social Construction, 1–26
Optional Zoom meeting: Introductions and questions about the course,
Wednesday, Oct. 20, 3:00–3:30pm
Assignments: Bb post and reading quiz *due Friday, Oct. 22, 11:59pm*

Week 2 **Language and Communication + Gender and In/Equality**

- Oct. 25–29 **Reading:** Ch 2. Language and Communication, 27–52; Ch 3. Gender and
In/Equality, 53–84
Assignments:
 - Bb post and reading quiz *due Friday, Oct. 29, 11:59pm*
 - Watch *The Virgin Suicides* this weekend (Oct. 30–31) to prepare for film analysis.

Week 3 **Activism**

- Nov. 1–5 **Reading:** Ch 10. Human Rights and Global Activism, 293–328; Ch. 11. History of
Women’s Activism in the United States: Struggles and Solidarities, 329–66
Assignments:
 - Bb post and reading quiz *due Friday, Nov. 5, 11:59pm*
 - Film analysis *due Sunday, Nov. 7, 11:59pm*

Week 4 **Intersectionality: Race, Class, and Gender + Feminism: Theory and Practice**

- Nov. 8–12 **Reading:** Ch 6. Beyond the Mythical Norm: Considering Race, Class, and Gender,
153–88; Ch 12. Feminisms: Theories and Practices, 367–405
Optional Zoom meeting: Peer review of research and service learning proposals,
Wednesday, Nov. 10, 3:00–3:30pm (a peer review guide for individual use will
be available on Blackboard even if you miss the session)
Assignments:
 - Midterm exam (covering Ch. 1–3, 6, 10–12) *due Friday, Nov. 12, 11:59pm*
 - Research and service learning proposal *due Sunday, Nov. 14, 11:59pm*

Week 5 **Homosexualities + LGBTQQIA Identities**

- Nov. 15–19 **Reading:** Ch 4. LGBTQQIA Identities and Challenges, 85–120; Ch 5.
Constructions of Homosexualities: Past and Present, 121–52
Assignments:
 - Bb post and reading quiz *due Friday, Nov. 19, 11:59pm*
 - Literary analysis *due Sunday, Nov. 21, 11:59pm*

Week 6 **Embodiment and Beauty**

- Nov. 22–26 **Reading:** Ch 7. Embodiment, Beauty, and the Viewer, 189–224
Assignments: Bb post and reading quiz *due Tuesday, Nov. 30, 11:59pm*
Deadlines for Week 6 are extended to the following Tuesday because of Thanksgiving.

Week 7 **Gender and Work**

Nov. 29– **Reading:** Ch 8. Work, Inequality, and Neoliberalism, 225–56

Dec. 3 **Optional Zoom meeting:** Research & service learning progress discussion & peer review, Wednesday, Dec. 1, 3:00–3:30pm (a peer review guide for individual use will be available on Blackboard even if you miss the session)

Assignments:

- Bb post and reading quiz *due Friday, Dec. 3, 11:59pm*
- Research & service learning project progress report *due Sunday, Dec. 5, 11:59pm*

Week 8 **Gender-Based Violence**

Dec. 6–10 **Reading:** Ch 9. Gender-Based Violence, 257–91

Optional Zoom meeting: Peer review of research papers, Wed., Dec. 8, 3:00–3:30pm (a peer review guide for individual use will be available on Blackboard even if you miss the session)

Assignments: Cumulative exam *due Friday, Dec. 10, 11:59pm*

Finals Week

Fri., Dec. 17, 5pm Research paper, service learning reflection, and video presentation due