

Professor: Dr. Melissa Nivens
Class Time: TR 12:30pm
Location: PY 209
Office: BeaWood 220
Email: melissa.nivens@msutexas.edu
Office hours: MW 9:00am-12:00pm
TR and afternoons by appointment

WGST 2503.2H1: Into to Women's and Gender Studies Honors Spring 2021

Syllabus

Texts:

- **IWGS** - Melissa J. Gillis and Andrew T. Jacobs. *Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies: An Interdisciplinary Approach*, 2nd Ed. Oxford UP, 2020.
- **H** - Roxane Gay. *Hunger*. Harper Perennial, 2017.
- Additional Readings on D2L

Required Materials:

- Note-taking materials
- D2L/Achieve Access
- Webcam/microphone (for Zoom meetings when necessary)

Course Goals:

- Display effective communication skills.
- Critically examine and analyze gender in contemporary society.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of ethical decision making concerning gender in a contemporary society.
- Demonstrate a contextual understanding of one's place in the global community.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the historical and/or thematic perspectives informing research.
- Apply knowledge to address real-world problems.
- Communicate analyses, interpretations and significance of research.

Course Overview: WGST 2503 introduces the philosophical and practical issues that arise from the study of gender in society. We'll examine issues of women, gender, and sex from an interdisciplinary perspective and explore what happens when women's lives and their treatment in society are the focus of research.

It is not possible to cover all gender issues in one semester, so our topics in this class are not an exhaustive list. There will be key issues that connect all our topics such as the nature of ensuring equality in our society and the multiple and overlapping identities of women.

To accomplish these goals, this course combines interdisciplinary scholarship, film, lecture, and class discussion. We will critically examine gender in society and then work to apply that framework to a few issues that affect lives. This semester, we will develop frameworks for understanding gender issues and the breadth of the field of gender studies.

WGST Minor: WGST 2503 fulfills the core requirement for Cultural and Global Understanding. In addition, WGST 2503 is the required course for the Women's and Gender Studies Minor. An additional 15 hours of gender-focused courses should be taken to complete the minor. See Dr. Linda Veazey for more information about the WGST minor.

Course Requirements:

- 15% Midterm Exam
- 15% Media Analysis Paper
- 10% Short Response Papers (2)
- 15% Resource Proposals (3)
- 20% *Hunger* Response Paper
- 5% Participation & Engagement
- 20% Final Exam

Final Exam:

- The final exam is scheduled for Thursday, April 29 at 10:30am.

Grading Policy: This class will not use the plus/minus grading system. In this class, the following numerical equivalents for final grades are used:

- A = 100-90%;
- B = 89-80%;
- C = 79-70%;
- D = 69-60%;
- F = 59-0

Midterm Grades: In order to help students keep track of their progress toward course objectives, I will provide a Midterm Progress Report through each student's WebWorld account. I will submit a grade for all students, not just those in danger of failing the course. Midterm grades will not be reported on the students' transcript; nor will they be calculated in the cumulative GPA. They simply give you an idea of where you stand at the midpoint of the semester. Students earning below a C at the midway point should make an appointment with me and consider visiting the Writing Center.

Submission Format and Policy: All formal assignments are to be typed and formatted – and outside sources documented - according to MLA style. All formal papers will be uploaded into the D2L Dropbox folder and/or Achieve.

By enrolling in this class, the student expressly grants MSU a “limited right” in all intellectual property created by the student for the purpose of this course. The “limited right” shall include but shall not be limited to the right to reproduce the student’s work product in order to verify originality and authenticity, and for educational purposes.

Note: You may not submit a paper for a grade in this class that already has been (or will be) submitted for a grade in another course, unless you obtain the explicit written permission of me and the other instructor involved in advance.

Late Assignment Policy: Late assignments, defined as work not submitted by the start of class on the designated due date, will be accepted, but they will lose 10% of the final grade. Additionally, no late work will be accepted more than 48 hours after the original deadline. If you are unable to come to class on the day an assignment is due, you should still upload it into the D2L Dropbox folder on time to avoid late paper deductions.

Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism is the use of someone else’s thoughts, words, ideas, or lines of argument in your own work without appropriate documentation (a parenthetical citation at the end and a listing on the Works Cited page)–whether you use that material in a quote, paraphrase, or summary. All formal papers will run through the Turnitin for an originality report. At the very least, plagiarism will result in an F on the assignment; at worst, the consequence will be an F in the course. Offenders will be reported to the Chair of the Department of English, Humanities, and Philosophy and/or the Director of Student Conduct.

Students with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Support Services in Room 168 of the Clark Student Center, 940-397-4140

Safe Zone Statement: The professor considers this classroom to be a place where you will be treated with respect as a human being – regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, political beliefs, age, or ability. Additionally, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided you can agree to disagree. It is the professor’s expectation that ALL students consider the classroom a safe environment.

Contacting Your Instructor: Email is the best way to contact me. Please note that I will not always reply over the weekend.

Attendance Policy: It is important that you attend class and arrive on time, whether in person or remotely via Zoom. If you have a total of more than two weeks’ worth (TR 4 classes) of absences (excused or not) the missed instruction will make it difficult for you to excel in the class. Students who miss class will not be directly penalized, but they will miss out on

opportunities for participation and explanations of assignments that could impact the final grade. If you need to miss several classes because of personal reasons, you should alert the Dean of Students office and provide them with the necessary documentation so that they can verify the situation for all of your instructors. Please see the [MSU Texas Return to Campus](#) webpage for more information should you begin to experience COVID-19 symptoms.

Writing Center: Tutoring and Academic Support Programs (TASP) provides free drop-in tutoring for MSU students. Located on the first floor of Moffett Library, TASP's Learning Center provides tutoring support in a number of core courses and subject areas. Writing tutors are available Monday through Thursday from 11:00am to 6:00pm and Sunday 2:00pm to 9:00pm. Remember that you don't need an appointment to utilize these services.

For Distance Education students, TASP has partnered with Thinkingstorm, an online tutoring company that provides you with high-quality, 24/7 tutoring support. Located at the top of your D2L course page, select the tutoring tab to book an appointment with a tutor.

Writing Proficiency Requirement: All students seeking a Bachelor's degree from Midwestern State University must satisfy a writing proficiency requirement once they have 1) completed 6 hours of Communication Core and 2) earned 60 hours. Students may meet this requirement by passing either the Writing Proficiency Exam or English 2113. If you have any questions about the exam, visit the Writing Proficiency Office website at <https://msutexas.edu/academics/wpr/> or call 397-4131.

Campus Carry Statement: Senate Bill 11 passed by the 84th Texas Legislature allows licensed handgun holders to carry concealed handguns on campus, effective August 1, 2016. Areas excluded from concealed carry are appropriately marked, in accordance with state law. For more information regarding campus carry, please refer to the University's webpage at MSU Texas's [Campus Carry page](#).

Learning with Generosity: This course encourages the discussion and consideration of topics that may be uncomfortable. We can work through discomfort, and this class should be a brave space for learning and exploration. I will provide content warnings as needed, and if you have a need for warnings before particular kinds of content, please let me know.

We will demonstrate respect and consideration of perspectives that differ from our own. Realize that there is much you don't know about your colleagues, and our choice of words in discussing social, political, and economic issues matters a great deal. As a group, we should acknowledge that, while ignorance is not an excuse for cruelty or dismissiveness, we all make mistakes as we learn, so we should be willing to forgive & learn from these situations.

Courtesy and Hospitality: The college classroom should be a vibrant environment that fosters creativity, discussion, and intellectual growth. You have the freedom to create the kind of intellectual community you desire. Included here are behaviors that I believe will help foster a generative community:

- *Pay attention.* This means when the instructor or classmates are addressing the class you are (1) not talking, (2) not using electronic devices for unrelated tasks, and (3) not

sleeping. If emergencies or mitigating circumstances mean that you may need to do one of these things, please be considerate by quietly excusing yourself.

- *Be respectful.* You are expected to be respectful to your instructor, your classmates, and yourself. If you witness behavior that is less than respectful, you are welcome to hold the community accountable by calling us in.
- *Be prepared & responsible.* Know what is happening in class by checking the schedule and your emails. Bring materials and assignments to class when needed. Submit work on time, and communicate with me in mitigating circumstances.
- *Participate.* Since you are working to become an expert in your field, the class and our scholarly community stand to benefit and learn from your contributions. Practice now.
- *Communicate.* Come by or call me during office hours if you have issues with course material or want feedback on your writing. You can also email me.

Daily Schedule of Readings and Assignments: See Table 1.**Table 1. Class Schedule**

Please note that the schedule is subject to change at any time in the semester. Any changes will be discussed in class and posted in D2L.

IWGS – *Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies: An Interdisciplinary Approach*

D2L Read – The reading is posted in the D2L Additional Readings module

H – *Hunger*

D2L Submit: A major assignment is due in D2L on this day

Week	Dates	Do This BEFORE Class	Do This IN Class
Week 1	T 1/12		Review Syllabus Introduction to the Course
	R 1/14	Read: IWGS Ch 1: Sex, Gender and Social Construction (available in D2L if you don't have your book yet) D2L Read: Gay, "Bad Feminist: Take One, Take Two"	Discuss: Readings Introduce: Resource Proposals
Week 2	T 1/19	Read: IWGS Ch 2: Language & Communication D2L Read: Kapitan, "The Radical Copyeditor's Style Guide..."	Discuss: Readings Introduce: Media Analysis Assignment
	R 1/21	Complete: Resource Proposal 1 – submit to D2L before class	Share: Resource Proposals

Week 3	T 1/26	<p>Read: IWGS Ch3: Gender and In/Equality</p> <p>D2L Read: Feltman, "Gender Gap Eveleth, "Group Projects & the Secretary Effect"</p>	Discuss: Readings
	R 1/28	<p>D2L Read: Kimmel, "The Three Cultures of Guyland"</p> <p>MSU Student Code of Conduct, Title IX</p> <p>D2L Submit: Short Response Paper 1 Gender Construction</p>	Discuss: Readings
Week 4	T 2/2	<p>Read: IWGS Ch 4: LGBTQQIAA Identities and Challenges</p> <p>D2L Read: Broussard, "When Binary Code Can't..." Taylor, "Cisgender Privilege"</p>	Discuss: Readings
	R 2/4	<p>Read: IWGS Ch 5: Constructions of Homosexualities</p>	Discuss: Readings
Week 5	T 2/9	<p>D2L Submit: Resource Proposal 2</p>	Share: Research Proposal 2
	R 2/11	<p>Read: IWGS Ch 6: Beyond the Mythical Norm: Considering Race, Class, and Gender</p> <p>D2L Read: Gay, "The Solace of Preparing Fried Foods"</p>	Discuss: Readings

Week 6	T 2/16	D2L Submit: Research Proposal 3	Share: Research Proposal 3 Watch: Film TBD
	R 2/18	Choose: Film, Documentary, or TV Episode for Media Analysis Assignment	Watch & Discuss: Film TBD
Week 7	T 2/23	Review Ch 1-7	Review: Ch 1-7 Media Analysis Workshop
	R 2/25	Review Ch 1-7	Midterm Exam
Week 8	T 3/2	Complete: Media Analysis Draft Bring 2 copies to class	Peer Review Workshop
	R 3/4	Read: IWGS Ch 9: Gender- Based Violence D2L Submit: Media Analysis Final Draft	Discuss: Readings
Week 9	T 3/9	Read: <i>Hunger</i> Part I pp. 1-23	Discuss: Reading Introduce: Hunger Response Paper
	R 3/11	Read: <i>Hunger</i> Part II pp. 27- 111	Discuss: Reading
Week 10	T 3/16	Read: <i>Hunger</i> Part III pp. 115- 149	Discuss: Reading
	R 3/18	Read: <i>Hunger</i> Part IV pp. 153- 212	Discuss: Reading

Week 11	T 3/23	Read: <i>Hunger</i> Part V pp. 215-270	Discuss: Reading
	R 3/25	Read: <i>Hunger</i> Part VI pp.273-304	Discuss: Reading
Week 12	T 3/29	Write: <i>Hunger</i> RP Rough Draft	Instructor Conferences Sign up for a time
	R 4/1	NO CLASS EASTER HOLIDAY	
Week 13	T 4/6	Revise: Hunger RP draft Bring 2 copies to class	Peer Review Workshop
	R 4/8	Read: IWGS Ch 8: Work, Inequality, and Neoliberalism D2L Submit: Hunger Response Paper Final Draft	Discuss: Reading
Week 14	T 4/13	D2L Read: Kantor, "Working Anything But 9-5" Payne, "Black Hair Has Always Been Professional" D2L Submit: Short Response Paper 2 – Women and the Workplace	Discuss: Readings Research Proposal 3
	R 4/15	Read: IWGS Ch 11: History of Women's Activism in the US	Discuss: Reading

Week 15	T 4/20	Read: IWGS Ch 12: Feminisms	Discuss: Reading
Last day to drop with a "W" 4/23	R 4/22	Read: Goldberg, "What's the Future of Feminism?"	Final Exam Prep
Final	TUESDAY, 4/29 10:30AM-12:30PM		