

WGST 2503-201: Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies

Midwestern State University
Spring 2023

Monday/Wednesday/Friday 12:00 — 12:50 PM
PY 209

Dr. Linda Veazey

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Office Hours:

Tuesday 1:30-3:30 PM

Thursday 10:30-11:30 AM

Friday, 1-2:00 PM

Course Description and Learning Objectives:

The purpose of WGST 2503 is to give an introduction to the philosophical and practical issues that arise from the study of women and gender in society. We will examine issues of women, gender, and sex from an interdisciplinary perspective. We could examine every aspect of our society through the study of gender and this course explores what happens when gender in society are the focus of investigation.

Starting from here, we may see many issues in a different light and find others that we may never have thought about before. There is no way to cover all the possible 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 for all people in our society.

To accomplish these goals, this course will combine interdisciplinary scholarship, court cases, film, lecture, and class discussion. We will work to develop a critical eye for examining gender in society. Through the course of the semester, it is my hope that you begin to see how broad this topic is and develop a framework for considering issues of gender in the future.

Women's and Gender Studies 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

courses 15 hours of gender-focused courses should be taken to complete the minor. Please see me for more information about the Women's and Gender Studies minor.

Required Texts:

Melissa J. Gillis and Andrew T. Jacobs. *Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies: An Interdisciplinary Approach*, 2nd ed. New York; Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020.

Alison Kafer. *Feminist, Queer, Crip*. Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 2013.

Additional Readings on D2L

Grades:

Breakdown of Grades:

Grade Category	Grade Percentage
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	20%
Reading Reflections	10%
Short Writing Assignments	15%
Book Response Paper	15%
Participation and Engagement	5%
Final Exam	20%

Grading:

On each exam and for the final grade, points will be assigned according to the following scale:

Letter Grade	Numerical Grade
A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	0-59

Course Engagement Grading:

Engagement Grade	Unexcused Absences/Non-Engagement Days
95	1
90	2
85	3
80	4
75	5
70	6
65	7
60	8
55	9
0	10+

Reading Reflection Grading Scale:

Reading Reflection Grade	Submission Type
10	Full submission
8	Good, but partial submission
5	Poor submission, missing more than 1 section
0	No submission

Class Policies:

Emergency Policies:

Course Modality Statement:

- This course has been planned as a fully face-to-face course for Spring 2023.
- This course will also use D2L. Course communication, course schedule, attendance, several readings, assignments, and the gradebook will be in D2L.
- In the event of increased incidence and risk of COVID-19 or a similar emergency that results in the university moving back to a shelter-in-place mode, the course instruction will transition to fully online. More instructions will be given at that time.
- As the course instructor, I reserve the right to move the course online, either partially, or in full, in the event of a personal emergency that prohibits me from delivering the course fully in-person. More instructions will be given at that time.

Attendance and Engagement:

Absences:

You should attend class. Students who do not attend class often have difficulty with the course and receive lower grades. Attendance will be taken at each class meeting and will be noted in Attendance and Engagement. **Students missing more than 9 course periods may be dropped from the course without notice.** Excused absences will be those as follows: illness, death in the family, legal proceedings occurring during class period, university-approved absence such as travel as member of a MSU sports team, or emergency situation as determined by me. To excuse an absence, I must be notified in advance of the class meeting.

Engagement:

Engagement during class is as important as attendance. Students are expected to engage in the class and be fully present with their engagement. Students observed using mobile phones, reading non-class materials, or otherwise not fully engaged in class, will not receive engagement credit for that class period. Distracting behavior will also constitute non-engagement for the class period. This syllabus serves as the notice of the above policies; students will receive no further alert if engagement points are not earned during a class meeting.

Lateness:

I will take attendance at each class meeting. Students arriving after the role has been called will not be counted as on-time and will be marked as tardy. **Two tardies will be the equivalent to one absence.** Students arriving more than 10 minutes late to class either in-person or online will be counted as absent for that class meeting. Students who leave early without an excuse that meets the excused absence criteria for this course may be marked tardy or absent, depending upon how much time remains in the course meeting.

Leaving Class/Disruptions:

Students are expected to be present for the entire class period. Excessively leaving the classroom during the class period is defined in this syllabus as more than 2 times during one class period or leaving 1 time for more than 10 minutes in one class period. **Excessive trips outside of the classroom during a class period will be the equivalent to 1 absence.** This is a form of disruptive behavior. If a student requires an accommodation to this rule (e.g. due to illness or medical condition), please let me know in advance.

Safe Zone Statement:

This classroom is to be a place where students will be treated with respect. We will work together to create an inclusive space that respects equality and diversity in terms of gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, political beliefs, culture, age, or ability. Additionally, diversity of thought is appreciated and encouraged, provided you can agree to disagree. It is the expectation that all students consider the classroom a safe environment. Harassment, sexual misconduct, violence,

bullying, and disruptive behavior will not be tolerated will result in removal from the classroom and reporting to the appropriate university authority. This syllabus is your warning.

Disruptive Behavior:

Furthermore, disruptive behavior, including but not limited to raising one's voice to the instructor or classmates, threatening the instructor or classmates, excessive noise or behavior that disrupts the class will not be tolerated. This syllabus serves as the warning that disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Students committing disruptive behavior will be removed from the class.

Classwork and Homework:

Classwork and Notes:

If you do miss class, you are responsible for all material missed. Students are responsible for obtaining notes from a classmate for any missed material. In-class activities may be graded.

Classwork cannot be made up.

Reading Logs and Writing Assignments:

All reading logs, homework, and writing assignments are due on D2L. Reading logs can be submitted as one-page summary and reflection on the reading. **No late work** will be accepted late without an excuse that has been approved by me.

Communication:

Outside of class time, please email me through my MSU email (not D2L) or visit me in my office hours. My email address and office hours are listed on the first page of the syllabus.

Exams:

Exams:

Exams will be given in person during class time. Now materials including notes, a book, websites, apps, etc., may be used during the exam.

Make-Up Exams

A make-up exam will only be given if the following criteria are met: If a student has a course-approved excuse and the instructor is notified **in writing, prior** to the examination, and the instructor approves the excuse and make up exam, arrangements for a make-up exam will be made. If a student fails to notify the instructor, the student will receive a zero for the exam.

Unless arrangements have already been made in accordance with this policy, no exam may be administered after the graded exam is returned to the class.

If the final exam is missed and arrangements for a make-up exam have not been made with me, the final exam cannot be made up.

Technology Requirements:

This course will utilize D2L.

Microsoft Office or a compatible program for written assignments. Access to Microsoft Office 365 available through the Office 365 for Students on the Microsoft website.

Academic Dishonesty:

All work submitted in this class is expected to be the student's own and original to this course. Otherwise, the MSU Honor Creed has been violated and academic dishonesty has occurred. Using the work of another person as one's own is theft of intellectual property. Submitting work to this course that was produced for another course without permission of both instructors, is also academic dishonesty. Any violation of MSU academic honesty policy will result in an automatic ZERO on the assignment, quiz, or exam in question. Assisting another student in academic dishonesty will also result in a ZERO on that assignment. A second instance of academic dishonesty will automatically result in an F for the course. All instances of academic dishonesty may be turned over to the University for sanction.

Accommodations:

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 that you have a disability requiring accommodation, please contact:

Disability Support Services (DSS)
Room 168, Clark Student Center
940-397-4140

Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation until verification from DSS has been provided.

<https://msutexas.edu/student-life/disability/current-students.php>

MSU 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 <http://mwsu.edu/campus-carry/rules-policies>

Class Outline:

The following is a tentative outline of the semester. Students will be notified of any changes.

Introduction to Course and Women's and Gender Studies

Wednesday, January 18 and Friday, January 20:
Introduction to Course

Learning and Practicing Gender and Inequality

Monday, January 23 and Wednesday, January 25:
Chapter 1: Sex, Gender and Social Construction, *Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies*, pp. 1-26.

Friday, January 27 and Monday, January 30:
Chapter 2: Language and Communication, *Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies*, pp. 27-52.

Wednesday, February 1 and Friday, February 3:
Chapter 3: Gender and In/Equality, *Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies*, pp. 51-80.

Monday, February 6:
Michael Kimmel. "The Gendered Classroom." *The Gendered Society*. Oxford University Press, 2000, pp. 150-158.

Rose Eleventh. "Group Projects and the Secretary Effect." *The Atlantic*: January 7, 2015.

Wednesday, February 8:
Michael Kimmel. "The Three Cultures of Guyland." *Guyland: The Perilous World Where Boys Become Men: Understanding the Critical Years Between 16 and 26*. New York: Harper, pp. 57-64

Friday, February 10:
Gloria Steinem, "If Men Could Menstruate," pp. 209-210.

Sexuality and Gender Identities

Monday, February 13 and Wednesday, February 15:
Chapter 4: LGBTQQIA Identities and Challenges, *Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies*, pp. 85-119.

Monday, February 13: Writing Assignment 1

Friday, February 17: Exam 1

Monday, February 20:

Genny Beemyn and Susan R. Rankin. "Creating a Gender-Inclusive Campus." *Trans Studies: The Challenge to Hetero/Homo Normativities*. Yoland Martínex-San Miguel and Sarah Tobias. Eds. New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 2016, pp. 21-32.

Systems of Privilege and Oppression

Wednesday, February 22 and Friday, February 24:

Chapter 6: Beyond the Mythical Norm: Considering Race, Class, and Gender, *Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies*, pp. 149-181.

Monday, February 27:

Audre Lorde. "There is No Hierarchy of Oppression." 1983. In L. Ayu Saraswati et al (Eds). *Introduction to Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies: An Interdisciplinary Approach*. New York; Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017, p 76.

Wednesday, March 1:

Peggy McIntosh, "White Privilege and Male Privilege: A Personal Account of Coming to See Correspondences through Work in Women's Studies." Working Paper 189, Wellesley Centers for Women. Wellesley, Massachusetts, 1988.

Friday, March 3:

Evin Taylor, "Cisgender Privilege," Susan Shaw and Janet Lee (Eds). *Women's Voices, Feminist Visions: Classic and Contemporary Readings*, Sixth Edition. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2015, 93-95.

Monday, March 6: Exam 2

Gender, Beauty, and the Body

Wednesday, March 8:

Jean Kilbourne TED Talk, 2015.

Friday, March 10, Monday, March 20, and Wednesday, March 22:

Chapter 7: Embodiment, Beauty, and The Viewer, *Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies*, pp. 183-217.

Friday, March 24: Writing Assignment 2 Due

Reading *Feminist, Queer, Crip* by Alison Kafer

Friday, March 24: *Feminist, Queer, Crip*, Introduction and Chapter 1

Monday, March 27: *Feminist, Queer, Crip*, Chapter 2 and Chapter 3

Wednesday, March 29: *Feminist, Queer, Crip*, Chapter 4 and Chapter 5

Friday, April 1: *Feminist, Queer, Crip*, Chapter 6 and Chapter 7

Gender-Based Violence and Rape Culture

Monday, April 3 and Wednesday, April 5:

Chapter 9: Gender-Based Violence, *Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies*, 251-282.

Monday, April 10:

Christian Miller and Ken Armstrong. "An Unbelievable Story of Rape." ProPublica: 16 December 2016.

Gender and Reproductive Healthcare

Wednesday, April 12:

United Nations Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights. "Maternal Mortality and Morbidity and Human Rights." United Nations. August 2013. <ohchr.org>

Friday, April 14:

Marty, Robin. "An Alabama Clinic Reinvents Itself for a Post-Roe World." *Time*. July 28, 2022.

Gender and Work-Life Balance:

Monday, April 17, Wednesday April 19, and Friday, April 21:

Chapter 8: Work, Inequality, and Neoliberalism, *Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies*, pp. 219-250.

Monday, April 24: Peer Review of Paper

"Salary Calculator." AAUW

Wednesday, April 26:

Jodi Kantor. "Working Anything But 9 to 5." *The New York Times*: August 13, 2014

Friday, April 28:

Teryn Payne. "Black Hair Has Always Been 'Professional' – Now the Law is Finally Recognizing It." Glamour. July 3, 2019.

Towards the Future and Wrapping Up

Monday, May 1: **Paper Due**

Wednesday, May 3, and Friday, May 5:

Wrapping up

Writing Assignment 3 Due

Final Exam

Wednesday, May 10 3:30-5:30 PM