

WGST 2503-101: Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies

Midwestern State University
Spring 2024

Monday/Wednesday/Friday 1:00 — 1:50 PM
PY 209

Dr. Linda Veazey

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:30 AM – 1:00 PM, Wednesdays 2-3:30 PM, Thursdays 1:30-2:30 PM

Course Description and Learning Objectives:

WGST 2503 is an interdisciplinary course that introduces the philosophical and practical issues that arise from the study of women and gender in society. Students will be able to:

- Understand core concepts of women's and gender studies.
- Think critically about gender in everyday life, career, education, family, and society.
- Understand intersectionality and aspects of identity.
- Think critically about the intersection of gender and all aspects of identity.
- Think critically about key issues in women's and gender studies.
- Demonstrate effective communication about gender and society.
- Develop a framework for considering issues of gender in the future.

This course is part of the MSU Core Curriculum. In this course students will demonstrate:

- Critical thinking
- Written communication
- Personal responsibility
- Social Responsibility

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:

- Greta Gerwig. *Barbie*. 2023. Warner Bros. Pictures.
- Melissa J. Gillis and Andrew T. Jacobs. 2020. *Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies: An Interdisciplinary Approach*, 2nd ed. New York; Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Sonya Renee Taylor. 2021. *The Body Is Not an Apology: The Power of Radical Self Love*, 2nd ed. Berrett-Koehler Publishers.
- Additional Readings on D2L

Grades:

Breakdown of Grades:

Grade Category	Grade Percentage
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
Reading Reflections and Activities	15%
Film Response Paper	10%
Book Response Paper	15%
Video Assignment	5%
Participation and Engagement	10%
Final Exam	15%

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

Content and Trigger Warning:

Material for this class may be triggering due to discussions of sexual violence and other topics. Students should know that by taking this class, you will be reading and discussing this material.

Class Policies:

Attendance and Engagement:

Absences:

Class attendance is important. 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; this means approximately more than 5 minutes late. **Two tardies will be the equivalent to one absence.** Students arriving more than 15 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.

Disruptive Behavior:

Furthermore, disruptive behavior, including but not limited to raising one's voice to the instructor or classmates, threatening the instructor or classmates, recording the instructor or classmates without permission, sharing screenshots or videos of course material or student work on other platforms, slurs and insults directed at the instructor or classmates, or other behavior that disrupts the course 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 course.

Safe Zone Statement:

This classroom is be a place where students will be treated with respect. We will work together to be 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.

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 Reflections:

All reading logs are due at the beginning of the class period on the first day that we cover the reading or chapter. Reading reflections are short (1-2 paragraphs). They may be written by hand or typed. They are collected as hard copies at the beginning of the class period. **No late work** will be accepted without an excuse that has been approved by me.

Writing Assignments:

Papers will be submitted via D2L. No late work will be accepted without an excuse that has been approved by me.

Grades and Communication:

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. Just remember, email isn't instant like texting.

Grading Policy:

Grades will be determined in accordance with the information on grading in this syllabus. Although grades will post in the D2L gradebook, the weight of assignments may not always be reflected in the D2L gradebook. I will calculate the final course grade using grade breakdown provided in this syllabus. Students are welcome to calculate their grades at any time and to use D2L to see their progress. However, I will not calculate individual grades for students during the course term, nor will I calculate hypothetical grading scenarios for individual students. In other words, please do not ask me what grade you will need to receive on a particular exam or assignment in order to earn a particular final grade. With the information provided in D2L and the syllabus, you are welcome to calculate different scenarios on your own.

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. Any use of outside materials or collaboration with another during the exam will result in a 0 on the exam. The academic dishonesty policy will apply.

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.**

No materials are allowed during quizzes or exams. Use of the textbook, slides, notes, flashcards, text messages, calls, online apps, or websites, for example, are not allowed.

Missing the Final Exam:

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

Taking Exams Early:

Only under **extraordinary circumstances** can a student take an exam early. Only university-approved excuses, death in the family, or illness with a doctor's note be considered for taking an exam early. Scheduled vacations are not reasons for exam to be given early. The request for an early exam must be made **in writing**. For any reason, no request will be approved to schedule the final exam earlier than one week before its scheduled date.

Extra Credit:

From time to time, extra credit opportunities will be given to the class. Usually, bonus points are available on quizzes or exams. However, **no individualized extra-credit/bonus assignments will be created for individual students**. No extra credit or bonus points are available after the last day of classes or the final exam.

Academic Dishonesty:

The MSU Honor Creed applies in this course, and students are expected to abide by it. As a reminder, here is the MSU Honor Creed:

As an MSU Student, I pledge not to lie, cheat, steal, or help anyone else do so."

As students at MSU, we recognize that any great society must be composed of empowered, responsible citizens. We also recognize universities play an important role in helping mold these responsible citizens. We believe students themselves play an important part in developing responsible citizenship by maintaining a community where integrity and honorable character are the norm, not the exception.

Thus, We, the Students of Midwestern State University, resolve to uphold the honor of the University by affirming our commitment to complete academic honesty. We resolve not only to be honest but also to hold our peers accountable for complete honesty in all university matters.

We consider it dishonest to ask for, give, or receive help in examinations or quizzes, to use any unauthorized material in examinations, or to present, as one's own, work or ideas which are not entirely one's own. We recognize that any instructor has the right to expect that all student work is honest, original work. We accept and acknowledge that responsibility for lying, cheating, stealing, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty fundamentally rests within each individual student.

We expect of ourselves academic integrity, personal professionalism, and ethical character. We appreciate steps taken by University officials to protect the honor of the University against any who would disgrace the MSU student body by violating the spirit of this creed.

Written and adopted by the 2002-2003 MSU Student Senate.

Student work in this course expected to be original to the student and produced only for this course. Here is the reason: the purpose of this class is to help students learn to think critically about government and to be an active and engaged citizens. This means being able to demonstrate understanding of concepts and applying them to current and future political events. Doing that requires students to put in individual work in the course and for me to evaluate student work individually.

To maintain academic honesty in this class, here are the exceptions:

- Students may not use the textbook, chapter summaries, notes, PowerPoints, lectures, or any online material during quizzes and exams.
- Students may not use electronic devices, such as cell phones, or listen to electronic devices (ie wearing headphones) during a quiz or exam; use of electronic devices during an exam will result in the quiz/exam paper being taken up and receiving a 0.
- Students may not collaborate with each other during quizzes or exams. Students looking at another's quiz or exam will have their quiz/exam paper taken up and receive a 0.
- Students may not collaborate to create substantially similar responses to writing assignments.
- In addition, students may not copy the textbook or websites, such as Wikipedia pages, for written response questions.
- Students may not memorize and write in-class response questions material copied or substantially copied from textbook materials or webpages.

- Each written assignment or written response is expected to be in your own words. Submitted work that replicates the textbook or a webpage will be considered academic dishonesty.
- In addition, students may not submit work from previous courses.
- AI tools, such as Chat GDP may not be used to create assignments.
- AI Detection Detectors, such as Turnitin, will be used in this course.

In other words, all submitted work is expected to be fully your own thoughts and words and created for this course during this semester.

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>

Inclement Weather Policy

If inclement weather closes the university during our class meeting time, there will be no class (in-person or online) that day. If a quiz or exam is scheduled for that class meeting, we will move it to the next class meeting.

Class Outline:

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

Week	Unit	Assignment/Topic	Date
Week 1	Unit 0: Introduction	Introduction to Course	Wed, Jan 17
	Unit 1: Learning Gender	Lois Gould. "X: A Fabulous Child's Story."	Fri, Jan 19
Week 2	Unit 2: Gender and Inequality	Chapter 3: Gender and In/Equality, <i>Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies</i>	Mon, Jan 22 Wed, Jan 24
	Unit 3: Feminisms	Appendix C: Feminisms in Brief, <i>Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies</i>	Fri, Jan 26
Week 3		bell hooks, "Feminist Politics: Where We Stand" "Secretary-General Warns of 'Baked In' Discrimination in Technology, Decries Rights Roll-Backs, Opening Commission on Status of Women"	Mon, Jan 29
		Allan Johnson, "Patriarchy, The System: An It, Not a He, a Them, or an Us" Gloria Steinem, "If Men Could Menstruate"	Wed, Jan 31
		Barbie (2023): Film Discussion	Fri, Feb 2

Week	Unit	Assignment/Topic	Date
Week 4	Unit 4: Masculinity	"Gender for Men" from Lisa Wade and Myra Marx Ferree, <i>Gender: Ideas, Interactions, Institutions</i> , pp. 135-148	Mon, Feb 5 Wed, Feb 7
		Michael Kimmel, "'Bros Before Hos': The Guy Code," Chapter 3 in <i>Guyland: The Perilous World Where Boys Become Men</i>	Fri, Feb 9
		Thesis Statements and Introductions Due	Fri, Feb 9
Week 5	Unit 5: Systems of Privilege and Oppression	Chapter 6: Beyond the Mythical Norm: Considering Race, Class, and Gender, <i>Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies</i> , pp. 149-181.	Mon, Feb 12 Wed, Feb 14 Fri, Feb 16
		Exam 1	Fri, Feb 16
Week 6		Peer Review	Mon, Feb 19
		Evin Taylor, "Cisgender Privilege,"	Fri, Feb 23
		Barbie Film Paper Due	Fri, Feb 23
Week 7	Unit 6: Sexuality and Gender Identity	Alison Kafer. "Introduction," <i>Feminist, Queer, Crip</i> .	Mon, Feb 26

Week	Unit	Assignment/Topic	Date
		"Chapter 4: LGBTQQIA Identities and Challenges," <i>Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies</i>	Wed, Feb 28 Fri, Mar 1
Week 8	Unit 7: Gender and the Body	Jean Kilbourne, "The Dangerous Ways that Ads See Women"	Mon, Mar 4
		"Chapter 7: Embodiment, Beauty, and the Viewer," <i>Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies</i>	Wed, Mar 6
		International Women's Day	Fri, Mar 8
		Spring Break	
Week 9	Unit 8: The Body is Not an Apology	Prologue and Chapter 1, <i>The Body Is Not an Apology</i>	Mon, Mar 18
		Chapters 2-3, <i>The Body Is Not an Apology</i>	Wed, Mar 20
		Chapters 4-5 and Conclusion, <i>The Body Is Not an Apology</i>	Fri, March 22
Week 10		Book Discussion: <i>The Body is Not an Apology</i>	Mon, Mar 25
		Exam 2	Wed, Mar 27

Week	Unit	Assignment/Topic	Date
		Easter Holiday Break	
Week 11	Unit 9: Gender and Violence	Chapter 9: Gender-Based Violence, <i>Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies</i>	Mon, Apr 1 Wed, Apr 3 Fri, Apr 5
Week 12		Campus Safety and Title IX Discussion	Mon, Apr 8
	Unit 10: Health and Reproductive Rights	The Mystery, from Below the Belt: The Last Health Taboo Laurie Edwards, The Gender Gap in Pain	Wed, Apr 10
		Aisha Wagner, "Doctors Need to Talk Openly about Race – Our Patients Depend on It."	Fri, Apr 12
		Thesis Statements and Introductions Due	Fri, Apr 12
Week 13		"Nine Months Later," <i>This American Life</i> , Episode 795 Interactive Map: US Abortion Policies and Access after Roe	Mon, Apr 15
		"Kate Cox on Her Legal Fight for an Abortion in Texas." CBS Sunday Morning Klibanoff, Eleanor. "Texas Supreme Court Blocks Order Allowing Abortion; Woman Who Sought Leaves State"	Wed, Apr 17

Week	Unit	Assignment/Topic	Date
	Unit 11: Gender and Work	Chapter 8: Work, Inequality, and Neoliberalism, <i>Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies</i>	Fri, Apr 19
		AAUW, "The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap"	
Week 14		Chapter 8 continued	Mon, Apr 22 Wed, Apr 24
		Last Day for a W	Wed, Apr 24
		Jodi Kantor. "Working Anything But 9 to 5."	Fri, Apr 26
		Final Paper Due	Fri, Apr 26
Week 15		Dean Spade, "Compliance is Gendered: Struggling for Gendered Self-Determination in a Hostile Economy"	Mon, Apr 29
		Video Presentations	Wed, May 1
		Final Thoughts	Fri, May 3
		Final Exam	Mon, May 6: 1-3:00 PM

Full Bibliography

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<https://www.texastribune.org/2023/12/11/texas-abortion-lawsuit-kate-cox/>
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