

Introduction to Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies (W-Course)

Instructor: Jess Klein (She/Her)

Class: Wednesdays, 6:00 – 8:30 PM

Contact: jessklein07@gmail.com / 248 766 0357

Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description

This interactive course will provide you with an overall understanding of gender, sexuality, and women's studies. We will be looking at these concepts from an intersectional perspective – that is, focusing on how the intersections of race, class, gender, sexual orientation, sexuality, and other social identities shape how we view the world, how we treat others, and how society responds to us. This class also provides a space where these new concepts and values can be shared safely within the classroom.

Remember that not everyone signed up for this class for the same reasons and we all must respect that. This class may challenge your core beliefs, values, and ethics. I ask that all of you come to every class with an open mind, ready to learn, and ready to challenge others and be challenged (that includes me!).

Course Objectives

- Demonstrate an introductory understanding of the field of gender, sexuality, and women's studies, and utilize a range of interdisciplinary tools and methods for understanding and analyzing sex, gender, and sexuality in culture.
- Develop a rich comprehension of both feminist and queer approaches to the social and cultural construction of gender, sex, and sexuality.
- Construct and enhance a critical understanding of intersectionality, including an awareness of gender and its complex intersections with other social, cultural, and biological categories, including but not limited to sex, race, ethnicity, class, nationality, sexuality, ability, and age.
- Cultivate a language framework for thoughtfully articulating the critical vocabulary in the field of gender, sexuality and women's studies.
- Improve reading and writing skills through effective synthesis of written material, and subsequently, the ability to convey course concepts in a concise and clear manner both verbally and in writing.
- Develop a skillset to think critically and thoughtfully about the self and others through a deepened understanding of how social, cultural, and biological categories shape our lives, and our understandings of the world.

Required Reading

Women's Voices, Feminist Visions: Classic and Contemporary Readings, 6th edition, edited by Susan M. Shaw and Janet Lee

*Other readings will be expected throughout the course of the semester.

Expectations

Attendance, Absences, and Participation: I will take attendance. You are expected to come to class on time and be present. This means you are expected to actively participate in class discussions and read in advance of class. You are not to use cell phones or laptops during the class period. This class and your success in it relies on community and the discussion of different perspectives. I expect you to read the content ahead of time and come to class with questions and observations. If you are absent during a class, please find someone in the class who can give you the notes that you missed.

Assignments: It is your responsibility to turn in all papers and assignments on time. I will not accept late assignments. See *Course Requirements* for more information on assignments.

Email: I will be communicating with you via your Pitt.Edu e-mail address. I will not email any other address, so please make sure you check your Pitt.Edu e-mail frequently.

Course Requirements

A. In-Class Reading Responses (4 @ 10 Points = 40 Points)

There will be **five** in-class reading responses that will be given at the beginning of class. These will be given at-random and ask you to answer a question about the assigned reading for that week. If you are late to class, you **may not** make up the reading response for that day. I will drop the lowest score at the end of the semester and will not include it in your final grade. **All readings will be posted on Blackboard one week prior to the class.**

B. Writing Responses (4 @ 10 Points = 40 Points)

You will be responsible for **four** writing responses that focus on your understanding of the material. It is crucial that you are aware of what is happening in the world around you including current events and pop-culture and that you are critical of it! These responses will be reflections of the in-class material and relate to something that you may witness or experience – an advertisement, an event you attend, a TV show or movie, an article you read, a meme, a conversation between people, a conversation or experience you had with someone, etc. You must have at least **two** citations from the book that support your work for full credit. **Note: one of your reflection papers must be about an on-campus event that you attend related to gender and sexuality.**

Example: During the class on sexual and relationship violence we will be talking about power and control being the central causes of violence. You may have an experience where you witness an unequal power dynamic between friends, TV characters or you may see violence against women depicted in an advertisement in a magazine. I want you to be critical of the world around you.

Writing Response Criteria:

- 3 full pages
- Name and assignment number in left-hand corner
- Typed, double-spaced, 1-inch margins
- Must be proofread
- 2 citations from the book

If you're not sure whether what you are writing is appropriate or not, please ask me! I will be happy to help. This assignment is supposed to be FUN *and* EDUCATIONAL! Have a good time and be creative with your papers. There is no one-right-way to write about your experiences and how you interpret the course material. Further instructions will be given in class.

C. In-Class Discussion Question (20 Points)

Everyone will be responsible for writing **two** discussion questions to pose to the class during the course of the semester based on the readings for a particular week (See Course Schedule). You will come to your assigned class ready to pose a question to everyone. You are not required to turn in the question. Sign-Up will begin the first week of class.

D. Attendance and Participation (50 Points)

Everyone automatically gets 50 points for attendance. You are given two excused absences – for every absence after two I will deduct 10 points from the total of 50 points.

If you know that you will be absent, I ask that you send me a formal email to let me know. I am happy to work with you if you work with me. **If you miss 7 classes, you will automatically fail the course.**

E. Online Assignment (2 @ 10 Points = 20 Points)

Twice during the semester, I will post a video or article on Blackboard in which you will write a response to on a thread full of answers from everyone in the class. Further instructions will be given in class.

F. MOSAIC Project (50 Points)

Each of you will be responsible for putting together an end of the year project on a topic of your choice. You will be writing and submitting a proposal. You may do this project as a group or on your own. More information will be given in class and posted on Blackboard.

G. Final Reflection Paper (25 Points)

In your final paper, you will have a chance to reflect on what you learned during the course and how you envision the application of the course topics to your academic discipline and other aspects of your life. Further instructions will be given in class.

Final Reflection Criteria:

- 4 full pages
- Name and assignment number in left-hand corner
- Typed, double-spaced, 1-inch margins
- Must be proofread

Grading Scale

93-100% = A	90-92% = A-	87-89% = B+	84-86% = B	80-83% = B-	77-79% = C+
74-76% = C	70-73% = C-	67-69% = D+	64-66% = D	60-63% = D-	59% and below = F

Point Distribution

Reading Response (4 @ 10 pts. each)	40
Writing Response (4 @ 10 pts. each)	40
Online assignment (2 @ 10 pts. each)	20
In-Class Discussion Questions	20
Attendance	50
MOSAIC Project	50
Final Reflection Paper	25
Total	245

Academic Integrity Policy

Cheating/plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students suspected of violating the University of Pittsburgh Policy on Academic Integrity will be required to participate in the outlined procedural process as initiated by the instructor. A minimum sanction of a zero score for the quiz, exam or paper will be imposed. For the full Academic Integrity policy, go to www.as.pitt.edu/faculty/policy/integrity.html.

Violation of the Academic Integrity Code requires the instructor to submit an Academic Integrity Violation Report to the Dean's Office.

Plagiarism:

Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of Turnitin.com page service is subject to the Usage Policy and Privacy Pledge posted on the Turnitin.com site.

Disability Resource Statement

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890 as early as possible in the term. Disability Resources and Services will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course. For more information, visit <https://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/drs/>

Gender-Inclusive Language Guidelines

Aspiring to create a learning environment in which people of all identities are encouraged to contribute their perspectives to academic discourse, the University of Pittsburgh Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Program provides guidelines and resources regarding gender-inclusive/non-sexist language

(gsws.pitt.edu/node/1432). Following these guidelines fosters an inclusive and welcoming environment, strengthens academic writing, enriches discussion, and reflects best professional practices.

Language is gender-inclusive and non-sexist when we use words that affirm and respect how people describe, express, and experience their gender. Gender-inclusive/non-sexist language acknowledges people of any gender (e.g. first-year student versus freshman, chair versus chairman, humankind versus mankind). It also affirms non-binary gender identifications, and recognizes the difference between biological sex and gender expression. Students may share their preferred pronouns and names, and these gender identities and gender expressions should be honored.

These guidelines fulfill the best intentions of the University of Pittsburgh's Non-Discrimination Policy: <https://www.cfo.pitt.edu/policies/policy/07/07-01-03.html>.

Sexual Misconduct, Required Reporting, and Title IX:

The University is committed to combatting sexual misconduct. As a result, you should know that University faculty and staff members are required to report any instances of sexual misconduct, including harassment and sexual violence, to the University's Title IX office so that the victim may be provided appropriate resources and support options. What this means is that as your professor, I am required to report any incidents of sexual misconduct that are directly reported to me, or of which I am somehow made aware.

There are two important exceptions to this requirement about which you should be aware:

A list of the designated University employees who, as counselors and medical professionals, do not have this reporting responsibility and can maintain confidentiality, can be found here: <http://www.titleix.pitt.edu/report/confidentiality>

An important exception to the reporting requirement exists for academic work. Disclosures about sexual misconduct that are shared as part of an academic project, classroom discussion, or course assignment, are not required to be disclosed to the University's Title IX office.

If you are the victim of sexual misconduct, Pitt encourages you to reach out to these resources:

- Title IX Office: 412-648-7860
- SHARE @ the University Counseling Center: 412-648-7930 (8:30 A.M. TO 5 P.M. M-F) and 412-648-7856 (AFTER BUSINESS HOURS)

If you have a safety concern, please contact the University of Pittsburgh Police, 412-624-2121.

Other reporting information is available here: <http://www.titleix.pitt.edu/report-0>

Tentative Course Schedule

Lectures and assignments subject to change with advanced notice.

Week 1: 01/10

Introduction + review of syllabus, A Letter to Yourself

Week 2: 01/17

Chapter 1: Women's and Gender Studies: Perspectives and Practices

MOSAIC Project Proposal: Conversation

Week 3: 01/24

Chapter 2: Systems of Privilege and Inequality

MOSAIC Project: Start thinking about what you'd like to cover

Week 4: 01/31

Chapter 3: Learning Gender

DUE: Writing Response #1

Week 5: 02/07

Chapter 4: Inscribing Gender on the Body

Week 6: 02/14

Chapter 5: Media and Culture

MOSAIC Project: Topic should be chosen

Week 7: 02/21

Chapter 6: Sex, Power, and Intimacy

DUE: MOSAIC Conference Proposal, First Draft

Peer Review of Conference Proposal

Week 8: 02/28

Chapter 7: Health and Reproductive Justice

Film: "12th and Delaware"

DUE: Writing Response #2

Week 9: 03/07

No Class; Spring Recess

Week 10: 03/14

Chapter 8: Family Systems, Family Lives

Due: Online Assignment due by midnight

Week 11: 03/21

Chapter 9: Work Inside and Outside the Home

DUE: MOSAIC Conference Proposal, Final Draft

Week 12: 03/28

Chapter 10: Resisting Violence, Sexual Violence

DUE: Writing Response #3

Week 13: 04/04

Chapter 10 Continued, Dating and Relationship Violence

DUE: Online Assignment due by midnight

Week 14: 04/11

Chapter 11: State, Law, and Social Policy

MOSAIC Project DUE

Week 15: 04/18

Chapter 13: Activism, Change, and Feminist Futures

DUE: Writing Response #4

Week 16: 04/25

DUE: Final Reflection Paper

GSWS SPRING 2018 EVENTS

- **Tues. January 16, 4:00pm - 5:30pm**

501 Cathedral of Learning

General Lecture by Stacy Alaimo (Texas), "Feminist Posthumanism and Life in the Abyss"

- **Mon. February 12, 2:00pm - 3:30pm**

602 Cathedral of Learning

Workshop on Intersectional Methodologies by Mary Celeste Kearney (Notre Dame), "Looking Elsewhere: Creative Methodologies in Historical Media Research"

- **Tues. February 13, 12:30pm - 2:00pm**

602 Cathedral of Learning

General Lecture by Mary Celeste Kearney, "'Against a Sharp White Background': Toward Intersectional Research in Girls' Media Studies"

- **Thurs. February 15, 4:00pm - 5:30pm**

Crawford 169

Lecture by Sahar Sadjadi, Visiting Professor in Bioethics and Pediatrics, on "Preempting 'The Breasts that Will Have to Be Removed': Puberty Suppression and Pediatric Gender Transition"

- **Tues. February 20, 6:00pm**

Charity Randall Theatre, Stephen Foster Memorial

One-woman Performance, *Karuppi (The Dark Women)*, by Ponni Arasu

- **Fri. February 23, 12:15pm - 1:30pm**

501 Cathedral of Learning

General Lecture by Gayle Salamon (Princeton), "Retroactive Crossing-Out: Transgender Comportment in Public Schools"

- **Mon. February 26, 5:00pm - 6:30pm**

501 Cathedral of Learning

Lecture by Alice Dreger, Visiting Professor in Bioethics and Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, "Working Toward the Rights of Intersex People"

- **Thurs. March 15, 4:00pm - 5:30pm**

501 Cathedral of Learning

Book release: Keisha Blain (History), *Set the World on Fire*

With responses by Lisa Tetrault (CMU) and Robert Trent Vinson (William and Mary)

Klein – University of Pittsburgh – Spring Semester 2018

- **Wed. March 21, 5:30pm - 9:00pm**

407 Cathedral of Learning

Screening of *Wonder Woman* and Panel Discussion

- **Thurs. March 22, 4:00pm - 5:00pm**

Scaife Auditorium 6

Presentation by video artist Sharlene Bamboat of new work-in-progress, *Video Home System (VHS)*

- **Mon. March 26, 4:30pm - 5:45pm**

Cathedral of Learning 232

General Lecture by Amy Speier (University of Texas), "Fertility Holidays: Global Journeys of Family Formation"

- **Thurs. March 29, 4:00pm - 5:15pm**

401 Cathedral of Learning

Graduate Research on Gender/Sexuality by PJ Patella-Rey and Danny Jacobson

- **Fri. April 6, 9:00am — Sat. April 7, 5:00pm**

Conference, "Playing with Childhood in the Twenty-First Century"

See www.playingwithchildhood.com for more information.

- **Fri. April 6, 12:30pm – 2:00pm**

Schenley Ballroom at the Wyndham Hotel University Center, 100 Lytton Avenue

General Lecture by C.J. Pascoe (University of Oregon), "Taking Young People Seriously: Inequalities in Contemporary Childhoods"

- **April 18, 2018 – 6:00pm – 8:30pm**

Melwood Screening Room, 477 Melwood Avenue

Screening of *The Prison in Twelve Landscapes*, with Director Brett Story