



## Syllabus of Record

**Program:** CET Siena

**Course Code / Title:** (WGS 2100) Introduction to Gender and Sexuality Studies

**Total Hours:** 45

**Recommended Credits:** 3

**Primary Discipline / Suggested Cross Listings:** Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies / Sociology

**Language of Instruction:** English

**Prerequisites / Requirements:** None

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### Description

Ever want to know what it means to do gender? Or to understand how sexuality is socially constructed vs. biologically determined? Then this course is for you. This course explores the beginnings of “Women’s Studies,” and how many programs have evolved into “Women, Gender and Sexuality” and why such a change is important. It also considers issues of privilege, and how those change according to a person’s race, gender, class, and sexuality, as well as the interplay of those issues in major aspects of today’s society such as sports, music, and politics. WGS 2100 challenges binary terms many of us have accepted as fact: masculine v. feminine, male v. female, straight v. gay and how the limitations of such concepts play out not only in the United States but abroad as well. Designed to provide an overview of the field, theoretical works and academic viewpoints are incorporated but are balanced with documentaries, Hollywood blockbusters, as a way to consider a range of opinions and viewpoints.

### Objectives

In this course, students will:

- Identify the ways in which gender norms are culturally constructed and the social institutions and practices that maintain and perpetuate gender norms, stereotypes and conventions.
- Question preconceived ideas about gender and sexuality (whatever these may be) in order to develop a better understanding of themselves, other people, and the world around them
- Articulate their own interpretation of key concepts and methodologies in gender and sexuality studies
- Apply these concepts and methodologies to issues that interest them
- Develop skills for discussing controversial topics, articulating their own viewpoint, and learning from those with whom they disagree
- Connect readings for class to what is happening in “the real world”

### Course Requirements

Student voices are important! To that end, attending class is key, but that is only half of a student’s responsibility; the other half involves the student sharing their point of view. Students should share their voice, but note it is required that everyone does so respectfully, so we can create a safe place

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for sharing differing viewpoints. Students are expected to complete all films and readings assigned for homework ahead of the relevant class session. Reading assignments are on average between 20 and 40 pages per class session.

Please be respectful of class start times, and make sure cell phones are turned off and remain in bags/purses/pockets. Students are expected to attend each class as outlined in the CET Attendance Policy. Should students need to miss class for any reason they are encouraged to touch base with the professor before their absence. Graded assignments include:

- Homework: Daily journal entries
- Book Review: Students complete a 5-6 page paper on Janet Mock's *Redefining Realness*.
- Reading Reaction Papers: 3 short writing assignments to test students' comprehension of readings and their application to class topics and lectures
- Final project: "One More Week." This final project asks students to research a topic that would be added if the class had one more class available.

### Grading

The final grade is determined as follows:

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|-----------------------------|-----|
| • Class Participation       | 20% |
| • Reading Responses Journal | 15% |
| • Book Review               | 20% |
| • Reaction Papers           | 20% |
| • Final Project             | 25% |

### Readings

Arnold, Regina, "Processes of Victimization and Criminalization of Black Women," *Social Justice*, V. 17, N. 3.

Asultany, Eveyln, Introduction and Epilogue, *Arabs and Muslims in the Media: Race and Representation after 9/11* (NY: NYU Press), c. 2012.

Alsutany, Evelyn, "Los Intersticios: Recasting Moving Selves," from *This Bridge We Call Home: Radical Visions for Transformation*, Gloria Ansaldua and Analouise Keating, eds., pp. 106-110, NY: Routledge, 2002.

Burkett, Elinor, "What Makes a Woman?" *The New York Times*, June 6, 2015.

Collins, Rebecca, "Content Analysis of Gender Roles in Media: Where are We Now and Where Should We Go?" *Sex Roles*, February 2011, Volume 64, pp. 290-298.

Fikkan, Janna L. and Rothblum, Esther D., "Is Fat a Feminist Issue? Exploring the Gendered Nature of Weight Bias," *Sex Roles*, published online on June 19, 2011.

Flanagan, Linda and Greenberg, Susan H., "How Title IX Hurts Female Athletes," *The Atlantic*, February 27, 2012.

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Gill, Rosalind, *Gender and the Media* – excerpts (chapter 4), *Gender and the Media* (NY: Polity), c. 2007.

Greenwood, Dara N. and Dal Cin, Sonya, “Ethnicity and Body Consciousness: Black and White American Women’s Negotiation of Media Ideals and Others’ Approval,” *Psychology of Popular Media Culture*, 2012, V. 1, N. 4, 220-235.

Heid, Markham, “Why Men Have More Body Image Issues Than Ever,” *Time*, January 5, 2017.

Ingraham, Chrys, “Heterosexuality: It’s Just Not Natural,” *Handbook of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, Diane Richardson and Steven Seidman, eds., (London: Sage Publications), c. 2009.

Johnson, Julia R., “Cisgender Privilege, Intersectionality, and the Criminalization of CeCe McDonald: Why Intercultural Communication Needs Transgender Studies,” *Journal of International and Intercultural Communication*, V. 6, N. 2 May 2013, pp. 135-144.

Keenan, Sandy, “Affirmative Consent: Are Students Really Asking?” *The New York Times*, July 28, 2015.

Kerman, Piper, Chapter 3 and 5, *Orange is the New Black: A Memoir* (NY: Spiegel & Grau), c. 2011.

Kilmartin, Christopher, Chapter 2, *The Masculine Self*, 4<sup>th</sup> edition (Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY: Sloan Publishing), c. 2010.

Kimmel, Michael S., “Masculinity as Homophobia: Fear, Shame, and Silence in the Construction of Gender Identity,”  
<https://masculinisation.files.wordpress.com/2015/05/masculinity-as-homophobia-fear-shame-and-silence-in-the-construction-of-gender-identity-michael-s-kimmel.pdf>

Lartey, Jamiles, “Women in Jails are the Fastest Growing Incarcerated Population, Study Says,” *The Guardian*, August 17, 2016.

Levy, Ariel, “Either/Or: Sports, Sex, and the case of Caster Semenya,” *The New Yorker*, November 30, 2009.

Lorber, Judith, “The Social Construction of Gender,” in “Night to His Day: The Social Construction of Gender” from *Paradoxes of Gender*, Yale University Press, 1994, pp. 13-15, 32-36.

Lorde, Audre, “The Master’s Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master’s House,” *Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches*, 1984, Berkeley, CA: Crossing Press, 110-114.

Lorde, Audre, “The Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power,” *Sister Outsider: Essays and*

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*Speeches*, 1984, Berkeley, CA: Crossing Press, 53-59.

McCorkel, Jill A., "Getting Tough on Women: How Punishment Changed," *Breaking Women: Gender, Race, and the New Politics of Imprisonment* (NY: NY University Press), c. 2013.

McIntosh, Peggy, "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack," *Peace and Freedom*, July/August 1989.

Mohanty, Chandra Talpade, "Under Western Eyes Revisited: Feminist Solidarity through Anticapitalist Struggles," *Signs*, V. 28, N. 2, Winter 2003, pp. 499-535.

Orenstein, Peggy, "When Did Porn become Sex Ed?" *The New York Times*, March 19, 2016.

Schilt, Kristen and Westbrook, Laurel, "Doing Gender, Doing Heteronormativity: 'Gender Normals,' Transgender People and the Social Maintenance of Heterosexuality," *Gender & Society*, V. 23, N. 4, August 2009, 440-464.

Smith, Barbara, "Blacks and Gays: Healing the Great Divide," *Gay Community News*, October 1993.

Steinem, Gloria, "If Men Could Menstruate," *Magazine*, October 1978.

Talvi, Silja, J.A., Chapter 4, *Women Behind Bars* (Emeryville, CA: Seal Press), c. 2007.

Vidal, Ava, "'Intersectional Feminism': What the hell is it? (And why you should care)," *The Telegraph*, January 15, 2014.

Wade, Lisa, Introduction and Chapter 1, *American Hookup* (NY: W.W. Norton & Co.), 2017.

West, Candace and Zimmerman, Don H., "Doing Gender," *Gender & Society*, V. 1, N. 2, June 1987, 125-151.

### Additional Resources

Brumfitt, Taryn. *Embrace*. 2016; Australia: Transmission Films, 2016. Streaming.

Guggenheim, Davis. *He Named Me Malala*. 2015; Germany: Searchlight Pictures, 2015. Streaming.

Newsome, Jennifer Siebel. *The Mask You Live In*. 2015; The United States: The Representation Project, 2015. Streaming.

### Outline of Course Content

Topic 1: Introductions and Intro to Women' Studies and Gender Studies

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- History and legacy of Women's Studies
- Transition to Gender and Sexuality Studies
- How do we "Do Gender"?
- The social construction of gender

### Topic 2: Intersectionality

- Definition of the term
- Historical Perspective
- Actual coining of the term – Kimberle Crenshaw
- Importance in today's environment

### Topic 3: Sexuality

- What are the ways in which we talk about sexuality?
- Discussion of the LGBTQI+ spectrum
- Focus on the T: Transgender
- Current battles for protection

### Topic 4: The Media

- Symbolic Annihilation
- Comparison of men and women in popular medium: Super Hero movies
- What do trailers have to say about women in films
- Importance of the New Sexism
- Importance of the Bechdel test?
- How does the media serve to trivialize and vilify marginalized groups?

### Topic 5: Sports

- Sport as a male preserve
- How good can a woman be before she is considered "too good"?
- Importance of gender verification and gender policing
- Importance of Caster Semenya and Dutee Chand in challenging discriminatory policies

### Topic 6: Masculinities

- Masculinity throughout history
- Definitions of Masculinity and Femininity
- Hegemonic Masculinity
- Masculinity as Homophobia (?)

### Topic 7: Transnational Feminism

- Chandra Talpade Mohanty and "Under Western Eyes"
- Solidarity v. Sisterhood
- Gender-Based Violence
- Microfinance

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- Education

### Topic 8: Incarceration

- History of women being incarcerated
- 1980s “Tough on Drugs” policies and its effects on specific communities
- The business of incarcerating Americans
- Focus on women in prison: childbirth
- Alternative approaches to the American model?

### Topic 9: Health and Body Image

- Masculinities and Men’s Health
- “Is Fat a Feminist Issue?”
- Fat Positivity
- “Health at Every Size”

### Topic 10: Sex, Love and Desire

- Sex Education from a Global Perspective
- Sex Education from an American Perspective
- Affirmative v. Enthusiastic Consent
- “Uses of the Erotic”