

**WGST 2322**  
**Gender: Images and Perspectives**

**May Term 2019 (May 16 - May 31)**  
**Monday – Friday, 9AM – 1PM**

**Instructor: Katharine Boswell**  
**Office hours TBD**

**Email: kboswell@smu.edu**  
**Office: 317 Clements Hall**

**Course Description**

An introduction to Women's and Gender Studies, taking an interdisciplinary approach to the study of gender as a category for social and cultural analysis. The course explores the way femininity and masculinity are represented and experienced in relation to one another, as well as to other categories of identity (e.g., race, class). It prepares students to take other more specialized courses offered by the Women's and Gender Studies Program.

**Course Fulfills the Following UCs:**

BREADTH: INDIVIDUALS INSTITUTIONS AND CULTURES

FOUNDATIONS: WAYS OF KNOWING

PROFICIENCIES AND EXPERIENCES: HUMAN DIVERSITY

**Student Learning Outcomes:**

- Students will demonstrate the ability to conduct interdisciplinary feminist analysis.
- Students will examine and critique ideological assumptions underlying social institutions and systems of representation, including but not limited to assumptions regarding gender, race, class, nationality, disability, age, and sexual orientation.
- Students will comprehend the impact of gender on individuals' historical and contemporary agency, and how the ability to express agency has shaped people's lives.

**Please Note**

The first day of class is the day on which the syllabus, the course requirements, grading practices, class attendance policies, and all other matters described below will be explained; students should study the syllabus carefully and make sure that all their questions about the course are answered. It is particularly important that students who are absent or late on this date carefully read the entire syllabus on the first week of the semester.

## Course Texts

Please **purchase** the following (available at the SMU bookstore, Amazon, or at the book retailer of your choice)

- Estelle Freedman's *The Essential Feminist Reader* (2007)

To lower the cost of your books for this class, I have posted several articles and book excerpts on our Canvas site. Please **download and print** these texts and bring them to class with you.

**\*Failure to bring the required readings to our class discussions will negatively impact your participation grade.**

## Canvas

The Canvas site also features helpful links, visual images relevant to our classroom discussions, copies of all assignments, grades, and the syllabus. **The most effective pattern is to consult Canvas 24 hours before the next class and once each weekend. Please print, read, and bring the appropriate materials to class.** You may be counted absent if you are unprepared for class. All students' grades will be posted regularly on Canvas, and students may check Canvas at any time to calculate their current grade.

## Weighted Grades

Participation/Attendance: 15%    Midterm Exam: 25%  
Presentations: 15%                      Final Exam: 25%  
Reading Quizzes: 20%

## Description of Assignments

**Participation:** Class participation consists of thoughtful, informed participation on a daily basis. Please come to class each day with questions and comments to offer. I will “credit” class participation when you successfully complete assigned homework and contribute to class discussions and “debit” class participation when you do not. Playing on your phone/laptop or otherwise distracting me or other students counts as not participating and will result in lost points. **Participation counts for 15%** of your final grade.

**Presentations:** You will have two presentations in this course: **an individual one** where you will lead discussion and **a group project** the last week. **Presentations count for 15%** of your final grade.

***The individual presentation:*** you will choose a course reading and, on your day, give the class 2-3 questions to spark class discussion. You will be graded on the depth of thought in your questions and in how well you can lead the class through the discussion. You will sign up for this presentation through Canvas **during the first day of class**. It is your responsibility to sign up in time to present. If you wait a week until there are no slots left, you will have to take a failing grade.

***The group presentation:*** your second presentation will be a group analysis of gender in a film of your choice, presented the last week of class. We will discuss the second presentation and assign groups/presentation times in class.

**Reading Quizzes:** Throughout the semester, I will administer reading quizzes to monitor your progress and to encourage you to keep up with the required reading assignments. These quizzes will be short (usually, 4-6 questions) and will be administered at the beginning of class. **Quizzes count for 20%** of your final grade. **(Note: missed quizzes *may not be made up*. The lowest quiz grade is automatically dropped. If you are an athlete or otherwise have an excused absence through the university, you may take the quiz during office hours. Otherwise, quizzes may not be made up. If you are absent, ill, on vacation, etc. that counts for your dropped quiz grade.)**

**Exams:** You will complete a take home **midterm exam (25%)** and a **final exam (25%)** for this course (dates are listed below on the schedule of assignments). The midterm exam will be a take home exam administered via Canvas. It will ask you to answer two short essay questions. The final exam will be cumulative and will consist of identifications and a short essay. Please note that the best way to prepare for exams in this course is to keep up with the required reading, participate in class, and take clear, thorough notes throughout the semester.

### **Grading Scale**

93-100	A	73-76	C
90-92	A-	70-72	C-
87-89	B+	67-69	D+
83-86	B	63-66	D
80-82	B-	60-62	D-
77-79	C+	0-59	F

**WGS Minor:** This course is eligible for credit towards the minor in Women's and Gender Studies. Information about the minor can be found at:  
<http://www.smu.edu/Dedman/Academics/Departments/WomGenStudies>

## Classroom Policies

1. **Late Assignments:** I do not accept late assignments. If there is an emergency, you must contact me by email within 48 hours and visit me office during office hours within one week of the absence to discuss catching up on work.
2. **ABSENCE POLICY:** In consideration of your peers, please be on time to class. If you are absent, you are responsible for making up all missed classroom work and handing in all assignments due that day. Reading quizzes are offered at the beginning of class and may not be made up, so being late may result in you missing a quiz or only having a minute or two to take a quiz. Prepare accordingly.
  - a. If you anticipate missing many classes due to health or emergency reasons, please contact me as soon as possible so we can decide what the best course of action is.
  - b. Students who travel on University business (with an athletic team, a musical or artistic performance group, a debate team, or other officially approved University travel activities) should provide the Instructor with documentation written by the University official responsible for administering such travel. **Requests for such absences may not be made by the student him/herself but must be made by a University official.**
3. **Classroom Courtesy:** Thank you for turning off and placing out of sight all electronic devices not necessary for work (laptops, cell phones, iPods, headphones, etc.). If you are using your laptop in class, it is your job to convince me that you're paying attention and not on Facebook. I don't care if you snack in class, but please be aware of those around you and be courteous in your choice of food.
4. **Contacting the Instructor:** Contact me if you are concerned about any aspect of the course. Please note: I cannot reconstruct class content via email, so I discourage you from emailing questions about what you missed because of an absence. I strongly encourage you to visit during office hours. Office hours

are open, and no appointments are necessary. I am always happy to meet with students and discuss the course.

5. **Honor Code:** All work for this course (exams, in-class and out-of-class papers, anything submitted to earn a grade) is governed by the SMU Honor Code. Any student with a question about what constitutes cheating or plagiarism should raise that question as the course progresses.

**Disability Accommodations:** Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first register with Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS). Students can call 214-768-1470 or visit <http://www.smu.edu/Provost/ALEC/DASS> to begin the process. Once registered, students should then schedule an appointment with the professor as early in the semester as possible, present a DASS Accommodation Letter, and make appropriate arrangements. **Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and require advance notice to implement.**

**Religious Observance:** Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify their professors in writing at the beginning of the semester, and should discuss with them, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence. (See “Religious Holidays” under [University Policy No. 7.22](#))

#### **Class Schedule and Assignments:**

The following schedule outlines our class discussion topics, homework assignments, and due dates.

**REMEMBER: Bring your texts to every class, as we will often use them in class discussion.**

Assignments from *The Essential Feminist Reader* will be indicated by “EFR” and assignments posted on Canvas are indicated by “Canvas.”

Academic Calendar

5/16 (R)	<b>Part One (9am-11am):</b> <u>Introduction to the Course &amp; Waves of Feminism</u>  <b>Part Two (12pm-2pm):</b> <u>Patriarchy &amp; Gender</u> <b>Readings for today’s class:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- “Patriarchy: The System,” Allan G. Johnson (Canvas)</li><li>- “The Social Construction of Gender,” J. Lorber (Canvas)</li><li>- “Unpacking the Invisible Backpack,” P. McIntosh (Canvas)</li></ul>
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5/17 (F)	<b>Part One (9am-11am):</b> <u>Privilege &amp; Intersectional Feminism</u>
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	<p><b>Readings for today's class:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "The Master's Tools will Never Dismantle the Master's House," A. Lorde 331-335 (EFR)</li> <li>- "Two Speeches," Sojourner Truth, 63-65 (EFR)</li> <li>- "Global Feminism" chapter in <i>Feminism is For Everybody</i> bell hooks (Canvas—link is to whole book; please just read named chapter)</li> </ul> <p><b>Part Two (12pm-2pm): <u>Gender &amp; Beauty Ideals</u></b></p> <p>Watch &amp; discuss Kilbourne's <i>Killing Us Softly 4</i> (in-class)</p>
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5/20 (M)	<p><b>Part One (9am-11am): <u>Gender &amp; Beauty Ideals, Cont'd</u></b></p> <p><b>Readings for today's class:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "Hunger as Ideology," S. Bordo (Canvas)</li> <li>- "Beauty Within and Without" chapter in <i>Feminism is For Everybody</i> bell hooks (Canvas—link is to whole book; please just read named chapter)</li> <li>- "India's Beauty Standards" (Canvas)</li> </ul> <p><b>Part Two (12pm-2pm):</b> In-class activity: advertising analysis</p>
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5/21 (T)	<p><b>Part One (9am-11am): <u>Masculinities</u></b></p> <p><b>Readings for today's class:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kali Holloway, "Toxic Masculinity is Killing Men," (Canvas)</li> <li>- "Axe Believes..." (Canvas)</li> </ul> <p><b>Part Two (12pm-2pm): <u>Masculinity &amp; Advertising</u></b></p> <p><b>Readings for today's class:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- "Advertising and the Construction of Violent White Masculinity," J. Katz (Canvas)</li> </ul>
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5/22 (W)	<p><b>Part One (9am-11am):</b> <u>Introduction to Theories of Sexuality/Gender</u></p> <p><b>Readings for today's class:</b>          “Sexualities, Identities, and Self-Determination,” E. Freedman (Canvas)          - The Allusionist Podcast (Canvas)</p> <p><b>Part Two (12pm-2pm):</b> <u>Sexual Assault &amp; #MeToo</u></p> <p><b>Readings for today's class:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Against Our Will: Men, Women, and Rape,” S. Brownmiller, 311-317 (EFR)</li> <li>- - “Becoming the Third Wave,” Rebecca Walker (EFR 398-401).</li> <li>- “6 Perspectives on the Future of #Me Too” (Canvas)</li> </ul>
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5/23 (R)	<p><b>Part One (9am-11am):</b> <u>Film &amp; Feminism</u></p> <p><b>Final project assigned;</b> discussion of film conventions.</p> <p><b>Readings for today's class:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Laura Mulvey, “Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema” &amp; “The Bechdel Test” (Canvas).</li> </ul> <p><b>Part Two (12pm-2pm):</b>          Film analysis activity in class</p> <p><b>Take Home Exam Assigned—due Tuesday, May 28 before class</b></p>
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5/24 (F)	<p><b>Part One (9am-11am):</b> <u>Reproductive Rights</u></p> <p><b>Readings for today's class:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “Birth Control – A Parents’ Problem or Woman’s?” M. Sanger (Canvas)</li> <li>- “Legislating Sexuality,” J. Valenti from <i>The Purity Myth</i> (Canvas)</li> <li>- Roe v. Wade (Canvas)</li> </ul> <p><b>Part Two (12pm-2pm):</b> <u>Reproductive Rights Cont’d</u></p>
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	-Lecture over history of reproductive rights
5/27 (M)	No class—Memorial Day holiday
5/28 (T)	<p><b>Take home exam due before class</b></p> <p><b>Part One (9am-11am): <u>Reproductive Justice</u></b> Watch &amp; Discuss <i>No Mas Bebes</i></p> <p><b>Part Two (12pm-2pm): <u>Reproductive Justice</u></b> - “Black Mothers Keep Dying...” (Podcast via Canvas)</p>
5/29 (W)	<p><b>Part One (9am-11am): <u>Literature &amp; Feminism</u></b> <b>Readings for today’s class:</b> Woolf, “A Room of One’s Own” (Canvas)</p> <p><b>Part Two (12pm-2pm): <u>Literature &amp; Feminism Cont’d</u></b> <b>Readings for today’s class:</b> Joyce Carol Oates &amp; Charlotte Perkins Gilman</p>
5/30 (R)	<p><b>Part One (9am-11am): <u>Post-feminist? Figuring Out the Next Wave</u></b></p> <p><b>Readings for today’s class:</b> - “Moving Beyond Pain” bell hooks (Canvas) - Jessica Crispin excerpt (Canvas) - “The Fall of Feminism” (Canvas)</p> <p><b>Part Two (12pm-2pm): <u>Global Feminism</u></b> In class: watch &amp; discuss <i>The World Before Her</i></p>

5/31 (F)	<b>Part One (9am-11am):</b> Presentations of Final Projects <b>Part Two (12pm-2pm):</b> Final Exam in-class
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