Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies

Instructor: Dr. Shannon Harry Walsh
E-mail: harrys@mail.montclair.edu
This is the fastest and best way to reach me.

Course Website:

Office: Dickson
Office Hour: Thurs, 12:00-1:00pm

Location and Time:
Tues/Fri 1:00-2:15PM
Main Campus
Dickson Hall 176

Additional readings posted on course website or in hand-outs

All policies/dates/info herein subject to change at the instructor’s discretion.

Course Description:
This course introduces students to the broad and interdisciplinary field known as Women’s and Gender Studies from global perspectives. It’s designed to make students aware of the new discoveries in feminist and gender studies research and to focus on many aspects of the female experience and the social construction of gendered identities across cultures. The course is also designed to help students understand different theories and methodologies in diverse disciplines and to treat areas such as literature, history, psychology, and the arts through a thematic approach.

Grading:
Presentations (2) 30%
Reading Responses (14) 30%
Final Comprehensive Exam 30%
Other assignments, reading quizzes, and participation 10%
**Course Expectations:** Your grade will reflect your level of engagement with the course material. Students who read the assigned material, complete assignments, actively participate in class discussions, attend class, and who are on time should do very well.

**Absences and Lateness:** At my discretion, I will deduct points from your final grade for more than 3 absences, and I will count you absent if you are more than 5 minutes late. I’ll also deduct points for a pattern of lateness, as it disrupts the class. I will accept a doctor’s note for absences over 3.

**Distractions**
Do not distract your classmates or your professor. If you are not paying attention or are causing your classmates to lose focus, I’ll ask you to shut down electronic devices.

**Late work will not be accepted.** Your assignments are due the beginning of class on the day specified in the schedule. The time to tell a professor you are having difficulty is well before an assignment is due. This includes papers, presentations, reading responses, and any other assignments.

**There will be no extra credit. No exceptions.** Please focus instead on the timely completion of all assignments on the syllabus.

**Academic Dishonesty:** Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty are serious offenses. Committing them will result in the automatic failure of the assignment and potentially failing the course. You may also be reported to the university for further disciplinary action.

**Presentations**
Twice during the semester you and a partner will present on topics that you choose on the first day of class. You should design a PowerPoint, video, or the like, and be prepared to lead the discussion on your presentation. Thus, part of your project is to prepare some questions for the class to consider. You will have 20 minutes for your presentation and discussion that you are required to use to get full credit.

**Readings**
All reading assignments are due for the next class meeting to prepare you for class discussion. In addition to the textbook, you will have readings posted online or handed out in hard copies.

**Reading Responses:** **LATE RESPONSES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED-DON’T ASK**
Due every Tuesday is a reading response, at least 1 full page of reflection on the week’s reading, TNR, 12 pt font, double-spaced. If your heading takes up half the page, you will receive half the credit. You may write more than one page if you wish. You may also use your reflection to record questions you have about the readings. Please note that you may be asked to share these reflections with the class from time to time.
Important Dates:
Mar 10-16 Spring Break
April 18-20 Easter Holiday
May 6 (Tues) Last Day of Classes

SCHEDULE

Thurs Jan 23: Class Intro, Syllabus, Assignments
Reading Assignment: Introduction, Gendered Worlds, p. 1-18

Mon Jan 27: What is Feminism? What is Gender?
What is feminism? Gender? Who does it concern? What are your concerns?
Reading Assignment:
“Multiracial Feminism: Recasting the Chronology of Second Wave Feminism,” Becky Thompson

Thurs Jan 30: Western Feminist Dominance
Unthinking Eurocentrism, Empire, Imperialism, Geography, Women around the world—who are we? Multiculturalism and Gender
Film
Reading Assignment:
“Is Feminism Relevant to Arab Women?” Nawar Al-Hassan Golley

Mon Feb 3: Western Feminism continued
Golley, Film
Student Presentations 1 & 2
Reading Assignment:

Thurs Feb 6: Body/Queer Theories
Student Presentations 3 & 4
Film discussion
Reading Assignment:
Chapter 2: “Bodies and Genders,” Gendered Worlds, p. 41-63

Mon Feb 10: Body/Queer Theories
YouTube: Coming Out, Charles Swinbourne, Clips: Paris is Burning
Reading Assignment: Chapter 3: “Socialization and the Social Construction of Gender,”
Gendered Worlds, p. 66-79

Thurs Feb 13: Construction of Gender
Student Presentations 4 & 5
Reading Assignment: Chapter 3: “Socialization and the Social Construction of Gender,”
Gendered Worlds, p. 79-95
Mon Feb 17: Construction of Gender  
Reading Assignment:  
Chapter 4: “Sexualities,” Gendered Worlds, p. 100-113

Thurs Feb 20: Sexualities  
Reading Assignment:  
Chapter 4: “Sexualities,” Gendered Worlds, p. 113-135

Mon Feb 24: Sexualities  
Student Presentations 6 & 7  
Reading Assignment:  
“Why Women Aren’t Funny,” Christopher Hitchens  
“Who Says Women Aren’t Funny?” Alessandra Stanley

Thurs Feb 27: Women and Comedy in the US  
Breaking barriers and/or policing gender identity?  
Comedy Clips and discussion  
Reading assignment:  
Chapter 5: “Education,” Gendered Worlds, p. 142-157

Mon Mar 3: Women and Comedy  
Student Presentations 8 & 9:  
Reading Assignment:  

Thurs Mar 6: Women and Work  
Reading Assignment:  
Chapter 6: “Work” Gendered Worlds, p. 174-193

Mar 10-16 SPRING BREAK NO CLASSES

Mon Mar 17: Women and Work  
Student Presentations 10 & 11  
Reading Assignment:  
Chapter 6: “Work” Gendered Worlds, p. 193-208

Thurs Mar 20: Families  
Reading Assignment:  

Mon Mar 24: Families  
Reading Assignment:  
Student Presentations 12 & 13
Thurs Mar 27: Families
Student Presentations 14 & 15
Reading Assignment:
Chapter 8: “Violence,” *Gendered Worlds*, p. 256-27

Mon Mar 31: Violence
Reading Assignment:
Chapter 8: “Violence,” *Gendered Worlds*, p. 274-300

Thurs Apr 3: Violence
Student Presentations 16 & 17
Reading Assignment:
Chapter 9: “Gender and Race-Based Illness…” *Gendered Worlds*, p. 305-327

Mon Apr 7: Gender and Race-Based Illness
Student Presentations 18 & 19
Reading Assignment:
Chapter 9: “Gender and Race-Based Illness…” *Gendered Worlds*, p. 305-327

Thurs Apr 10: Gender and Race-Based Illness
Reading Assignment:

Mon Apr 14: Politics, Prison, and the Military
Student Presentations 20 & 21
Reading Assignment:

Thurs Apr 17: Politics, Prison, and the Military
Student Presentations 22 & 23
Reading Assignment:

Mon Apr 21: Pop Culture, Media, Sports
Reading Assignment:

Thurs Apr 23: Pop Culture, Media, Sports
Student Presentations 24 & 25
Reading Assignment:
Mon Apr 28: Religion
TBD/Catch Up Day

Thurs May 1
TBD/ Catch Up Day

Mon May 5
TBD/ Catch Up Day

Final Exam: Mon May 12 3:15pm