



GDRS 300: Introduction to Gender Studies

COURSE SYLLABUS Spring 2014

Instructor: Dr. Linda Matthei

Office Location: 218 Ferguson Social Sciences

Office Hours: TTR 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and Wednesday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

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COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Brettell, Caroline B., and Carolyn F. Sargent **Gender in Cross-Cultural Perspective**, Sixth Edition, Pearson, Prentice Hall, 2013. ISBN: 13 978-0-205-24728-8

Bonvillain, Nancy. **Women and Men: Cultural Constructs of Gender**, 3rd Edition. Pearson, Prentice Hall. ISBN 0-13-025973-x

Course Description:

This course provides an introduction to the theories and methods of Gender Studies. The course incorporates topics from cultural anthropology and cross-cultural studies of gender in the contemporary world. Through cross-cultural study students will come to better understand gender roles and relations in their own society.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to **apply** knowledge of the interconnected of global dynamics
2. Students will be able to **apply** knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics (issues, processes, trends, and systems).
3. Students will be able to view themselves as **engaged** citizens within an interconnected world.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities/ Assessments

This course consists of activities and assessments to assist you in achieving the learning outcomes for this course. It is vital that you come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings. There will be frequent in-class writing assignments based on the scheduled readings. Students must be prepared to discuss and write analyses of each reading assignment. Each of these assignments and/or quizzes will be worth 15 points. Because attending class and being prepared is vital to student comprehension and the

development of analytical skills students will be awarded 25 points for attendance and participation. Five points will be deducted for each absence or lack of participation in discussion of assigned readings. Students who exceed five absences will be dropped from the course.

There will be two essay exams in this course. Each exam will be worth 50 points. The final exam is not comprehensive and only those students who provide adequate documentation will be permitted to make up exams at the same time that they take the final exam. Exams in the course will cover material from the reading assignments, lectures, class discussions and any films shown during the semester. All exams will require students to engage in critical analyses of the materials covered

Each student will write two three-page critical reviews of two articles from the Brettell and Sargent reader. These must be selected from among the articles not covered on the course syllabus. Each paper will be worth 25 points. The papers must provide a brief summary of the content of the article and a critical analysis based on class readings and lectures. Note: The critical analysis should be the longest portion of the paper.

Grading

In class and home assignments are worth 15 points each and will be graded on the following criteria

Criteria	In Class/Homework Papers	Review Papers
Student followed directions	2	4
Student answered question posed (rather than got off track, or discussed topics not germane to the course)	3	5
Student paper contributes to discussion and moves topic forward with substance and depth	5	9
Student uses critical thinking & evidence from texts & lectures (rather than anecdote or personal opinion)	3	4
Student uses proper grammar, complete sentences, spell-check & cites when appropriate	2	3
Total Score	15	25

Grading Scale

90-100 %	A
80-89	B

65-79	C
56-64	D
< 56	F

ACCESS

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have during my office hours or by email. I am also available by appointment, so feel free to call. I will do my best to clarify any issues you bring to me.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Cheating: Anyone caught cheating for any reason will receive an F for the assignment and depending on the seriousness of the incident an F in the course. All assignments in this class are meant to be done independently by each student. So be sure not to share your work with anyone.

Plagiarism is a serious form of cheating in which a student (or professor) fails to give proper credit to an author for their work and ideas. Always cite the sources of your information and remember that even if you summarize and paraphrase someone else's ideas you must give them credit.

ADA Statement

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 have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu
[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

COURSE OUTLINE/CALENDAR

Reading Schedule: Please note that the Reading Schedule is subject to change as circumstances warrant. I will announce any changes as far in advance as possible.

Week One: January 13-16

Bonvillain: Chapter 1: Prologue

Brettell and Sargent: Animal Models and Gender

Week Two: January 20-23

Bonvillain: Chapter 2: Egalitarian Foraging Societies

Brettell and Sargent: The Fashioning of Women

Week Three: January 27-30

Bonvillain: Chapter 3: Pastoral and Horticultural Societies

Brettell and Sargent: Rituals of Manhood: Male Initiation in Papua New Guinea

Week Four: February 3 -6

Bonvillain: Chapter 4: Stratified Economies

Brettell and Sargent: The Named and the Nameless: Gender and Person in Chinese Society

First Critical Review Paper due Thursday, February 6

Week Five: February 10-13

Bonvillain: Chapter Five: Agricultural States

Brettell and Sargent: Inca Gender Relations from household to empire

Week Six: February 17-20

Bonvillain: Chapter 6: Industrial Economy: The United States

Brettell and Sargent: Gender and the Stories Pittsburgh Police Officers Tell about Using Physical Force

Week Seven: February 24-27

Bonvillain: Chapter 7: Global Economic Development

Brettell and Sargent:: Sex Tourism, Globalization, and Transnational Imaginings

Week Eight: March 3-6

Exam I –Thursday, March 6

Week Nine:-----SPRING BREAK-----

Week Ten: March 17-20

Bonvillain: Chapter 8: Gender and the Body

Brettell and Sargent: Female Gender Cutting: Culture and Controversy

Second Review Paper Due Thursday, March 20

Week Eleven: March 24-27

Bonvillain: Chapter 9: Gender and Religion

Brettell and Sargent: How to Change a Man: Spiritual Transformation and Shifts in Gender Ideology in Evangelical El Salvador

Week Twelve: March 31-April 3

Bonvillain: Chapter 10: Gender and Language

Film: Deborah Tannen

Third Review Paper Due Thursday, April 3

Week Thirteen: April 7-10

Brettell and Sargent: Lifeboat Ethics: Mother Love and Child Death in Northeast Brazil

Marriage, Modernity and Migration: Changing Dynamics of
in a Mexican Transnational Community

Week Fourteen: April 14-17

Brettell and Sargent: Surgical Transformations in the Pursuit of Gender

From Pollution to Love Magic: The New Anthropology of
Menstruation

Week Fifteen: April 21-24

Brettell and Sargent: Resignation and Refusal: The Moral Calculus of Lesbian and Gay
Parenthood in the United States

Final Exam—To Be Announced