



GDRS 300: Introduction to Gender Studies

COURSE SYLLABUS Fall 2015

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 –Textbook,, 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

And assorted readings that I will put on reserve in the SS Department Office, SS210

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 interconnected gender 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 and homework 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 (or another academic source approved by me). 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. Students will be prepared to lead a discussion about their selected reading in class as designated in the schedule.

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
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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
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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: August 31-September 3:

Informal discussion of the concepts of sex and gender and recent changes in gender issues, in popular culture. We'll discuss two primary issues—same sex marriage, and LGBTQ—with particular reference to Bruce Jenner and his transition to Caitlyn.

Introduction: Macia-Lees Black. The Relevance of Anthropology to the Contemporary World (On Reserve SS 210)

Week Two: September 8-September 10

Brettell and Sargent: Animal Models and Gender p.7

Coggeshell, John: Those Who Surrender are Female: Prisoner Gender Identities as Cultural Mirror (On Reserve, SS210)

Week Three: September 14-September 17

Brettell and Sargent: Rituals of Manhood: Male Initiation in Papua New Guinea p.175

Gottlieb, Alma: From Pollution to Blood Magic, p.215

Week Four: September 21-September 24

Brettell and Sargent: Surgical Transformations in the Pursuit of Gender p.196

First Critical Review Paper due Thursday, September 24. Be prepared to present a brief review of your selected article on Thursday.

Week Five: September 28-October 1

Complete review discussions

Brettell and Sargent : The Hijras: An "Alternative" Sex/Gender in India

Week Six: October 6-October 8

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

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

Week Seven: October 12-October 15

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

Ragsdale and Jessica Tomiko Anders: The Muchachas of Orange Walk Town, Belize (On reserve SS 210)

Week Eight: October 19-22

**Exam Review Tuesday
Exam I –Thursday, October 22**

Week Nine: October 26-29

Brettell and Sargent: Female Gender Cutting: Culture and Controversy

Sheehan: Victorian Clitoridectomy (on reserve, in SS210) In Lancaster and di Leonardo

Week Ten: November 2-5

Film? Still Killing us Softly

Second Review Papers Due: Presentations Tuesday and Thursday, November 5

Week Eleven: November 9-12

Brettell and Sargent: Surgical Transformations in the Pursuit of Gender

Week Twelve: November 16-19

Lenkeil: High Heels and Bound Feet p. 45-57 (On reserve SS210)

Third Review Papers Due Thursday, November 19

Week Thirteen: November 23 Continue Review Discussion

Film: "It's a Girl" DVD 2219

November 26 Thanksgiving

Week Fourteen: November 30-December 3

Brettell and Sargent: Surgical Transformations in the Pursuit of Gender 196

Is There a Muslim Sexuality? p.208

Week Fifteen: December 7-10

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

Review for Final

Take Home Final Exam—November 14-17—Due by Thursday, Dec. 17, 5 p.m.