



GDRS 400: Gender Topics Spring 2016

Instructor: Dr. Linda Matthei

Office Location: 218 Ferguson Social Sciences

Office Hours: TTR 3:15 to 5:00 p.m.; Wednesday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and by email

Office Phone: 903-886-5169

Office Fax: 903-886-5083

University Email Address: Linda.Matthei@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

There are no required books for this course however I may put various readings on reserve in the SS Department Office, SS210. You will need to **copy and read** the materials **before** each Tuesday class period so you can do any exercises that accompany the readings so that you can complete online assignments. We will meet face-to-face on Tuesdays and students will complete online assignments on Thursdays. It is crucial that you attend Tuesday classes in order to be prepared to do the online assignments. If you fail to attend class on Tuesday you may not do that week's online assignment. Absences and tardiness of 10 minutes or more will put you at risk of administrative drop. Anyone who is absent/tardy four times or more will be subject to drop.

Course Description

By now, you should have had the opportunity to benefit from several gender studies courses. In this course students will select a particular topic that they have found of interest or that is one that they have not had the opportunity to address as yet. In this course students will focus on library/online research with the goal to write a research paper based on current/historical research that has been done by experts in the field. The course will culminate with students producing a 15-20-page research paper that enhances their knowledge of the subject as well as their research skills. Papers will be based on bibliographies of at least 12-15 entries.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to **apply** knowledge of gender dynamics in global perspective.
2. Students will acquire the research skills to produce a research paper in gender studies.
3. Students will be able to **apply** knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics if relevant to their research topics.
4. 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 and exercises on Tuesdays and turn in homework online by Thursdays at 5 pm.** There will be frequent writing assignments/discussions aimed at producing a well-supported research paper. Because class attendance is vital to comprehension and the development of research skills I will not tolerate frequent absences and tardiness. Tardiness of more than ten minutes will be treated as an absence.

Online assignments are worth 15 points each and the research will be graded on the following criteria

Criteria	Online Assignments	Research Paper
Student follows directions	2	5
Student answers questions posed (rather than straying off topic to discuss topics not relevant to the course)	2	7
Student research contributes to class discussion and research paper development	5	10
Student uses critical thinking & evidence from texts, journal articles, and lectures (rather than anecdote or personal opinion)	5	10
Student uses proper grammar, complete sentences, spell-check & cites when appropriate	1	3
Total Score	15	35

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@tamuc.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

Course Schedule: Please note that the Reading/Lecture Schedule is subject to change as circumstances warrant. I will announce any changes as far in advance as possible. You *must* come to class on Tuesday mornings ready to discuss any reading assignments.

Week One: January 19-21 Tuesday: Discussion of Course Overview

Thursday: Based on your current understanding, what are the critical components of a “research paper”?

Week Two: January 25-28: Tuesday: Meet at 9:30 am in front of the main desk. We will have the opportunity to meet with Ms. Sarah Northam who will offer a session on how to use the Library’s databases and books to develop your research paper. Your attendance is required.

Thursday: Log on to eCollege and share what you learned from the tutorial. You may also pose any questions you have about the session with your classmates. I will address your questions in discussion or in class on Tuesday.

Week Three: February 2-4 Tuesday: Bring a copy of a journal article that interests you by using the research skills acquired from Ms. Northam. Share your assessment of the article with classmates.

Thursday: Discuss how you might use the reference section or bibliography of the journal article you brought to class to further your research. You might also wish to visit the library stacks and browse books related to gender. Turn to the back of any books that you’re interested in and examine their bibliographies. Discuss any entries that may be relevant to your research

Week Four: February 9-11 Tuesday. We’ll discuss choosing a research topic. **On reserve in SS210 or I will distribute in class “Selecting a Topic for Review.”**

Thursday: Discuss topics and/or ideas related to gender in which you are interested. Provide comments on each other’s ideas.

Week Five: February 16-18 Tuesday: On reserve in SS210: Introduction: The Literature review process, Getting Started. Be prepared to discuss what you’ve learned from this assignment.

Thursday: Discuss on eCollege what you’ve learned from this assignment

Week 6: February 23-25

Tuesday: No class meeting. Work on getting your annotated bibliography started. Feel free to email me if you have questions. You may also try to contact me through my Virtual Office, however I tend to check this less frequently than my email

Thursday: Begin to create an annotated bibliography/reference list using the following formats:

A book: Jones, A. and Smith, M. (2005) *Adolescence in the Caribbean*. New Haven, Connecticut, Yale University Press.

A journal article: Wilson, W. The Use of Corporal Punishment in Texas. *Journal of Childrearing Strategies*, 6, 141-145.

Online article: Burton, Michael (1999, November 9). Parental Deficiencies Outlined. *The Jamaica Gleaner Online*, retrieved July 10, 2000 from <http://www.jamaicagleaner/1999117/news/1999117/news/n 1.html>

You should be able to have three entries in my dropbox by Thursday day at 5 pm

Week 7: March 1-3 Tuesday

Your research paper will essentially be a review of research that has been done on your topic area. Read and discuss **Taking Notes and Avoiding Plagiarism**.

Thursday: You have begun thinking about a preliminary research topic for your paper, briefly describe the topic and why you're interested in it. (You may want to revise your topic as you continue to develop the literature review.) You should make an effort to help classmates with this process, too.

Week 8: March 8-10 Tuesday Read "Critique the Literature" and be prepared to discuss it in class

Thursday: No assignment, move forward with your paper

Week 9: March 14-18-----SPRING BREAK!

Week Ten: March 22-24: No class but I will be available for office hours

Thursday: Submit your updated and expanded annotated bibliography to the dropbox. You should have at least seven entries at this point

Week Eleven: March 29-31

No class: but I will be in my office and available by email. Feel free to come in or send me a message if you run into problems

No specific assignment, but you should be well on your way to writing your paper. Discuss with your classmates any successes or failures that have become evident to you.

Week Twelve: April 5—7: No class, but I will be available to help you in my office with any problems

Thursday: Has your topic changed as you've begun to write? Discuss with your colleagues

Week Thirteen: April 11-14 No class but I'll be in my office

Thursday: Continue to write. Contact me by email if you've got any questions. Be aware that it sometimes makes sense to write your introduction after you've finished writing the body of your paper. Your conclusion(s) should flow from your research.

Week Fourteen: April 18-21

Be prepared to discuss your papers with your classmates face-to-face this Tuesday and the following one

Week Fifteen: April 25-28 In-class presentations

Week Sixteen: May 3-5 Papers due on May 5th, by 5 pm. You can put them in my dropbox

