

Art 597.01W Gender, Art, and Popular Culture

Dr. Emily Newman

Texas A&M University - Commerce

Web Based Class, (regular assignments due on Tuesdays), Spring 2017

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OUTCOMES

Through the careful study of artworks and popular culture, students will be engaged in an extended, historically-based examination of issues concerning gender. In this course, we will pay particular attention to societal constructions of gender, exploring the way that art, television, film, graphic novels and other media shape the way that we understand what it means to be “male” and “female.” Students will read challenging, sophisticated and seminal texts while demonstrating their command of such texts in short responses and online discussions. At the end of the course, the student should not only have a better understanding of gender, but should be able to evaluate its place in society while gain the tools to be able to better explain gender to others.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- read, understand, and critique foundational texts in art, art history, and visual culture
- understand definitions of sex and gender, and be able to analyze and discuss various uses and misuses of the terms
- acquire a working knowledge of the specialized vocabulary used in art history
- discuss and explain historically significant works of art concerning gender
- learn to analyze the relationships among content, context, and style
- develop ability to evaluate significant popular culture texts (including a variety of types of media) and then apply the evaluation techniques to everyday life
- enhance visual literacy and critical thinking skills

ASSESSMENT

Students’ ability to meet the course objectives and learning outcomes will be evaluated by written assignments, online discussions, papers, and creating visual essays.

READINGS/SCREENINGS

Required Textbook: Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home*, Boston: Mariner Books, 2007.

Required Textbook: Carl Wilson, 33 1/3 - *Let’s Talk About Love: A Journey to the End of Taste*, New York: Continuum, 2008.

Additional readings and films will be required and posted on ecollege. Students should be prepared to screen a variety of films and television episodes online (through Netflix, Amazon Instant, iTunes, Hulu, etc.) – whatever method you prefer. Be prepared, this might include minimal rental costs.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Participation: Each person is expected to be prepared for the class, which means having completed the reading and/or viewing the film screening and completed the assignments. Responding to classmates blog entries and discussions is a pivotal and key part of each of the assignments for the course.

Article Response Papers: Throughout the course, you will read a number of different articles that engage historical and theoretical ideas concerning gender, art, and popular culture. You will be required to respond to the essays in short response papers. In addition to the undergraduate responses, the graduate student will have one extra article response to do per week.

Media Response Assignments: Throughout the course, we will look at a variety of types of media and art. You will be asked to respond to these in various ways – from formal papers, discussion threads, and visual information. More information will be distributed as needed.

Visual Essay Project: At the end of the course, the graduate student will create an expanded document that compares a number of different images seen throughout the course and in their everyday life. Thoughtfully, the student will choose artwork and film/television stills to address a theme that they are interested in that aligns with the course material. Further, each student will respond to each of their classmates work.

Grade Breakdown:

20% Online Discussion
20% Article Response Papers
30% Media Response Assignments
30% Visual Essay Project

GRADE SCALE

A = 90%-100%
B = 80%-89%
C = 70%-79%
D = 60%-69%

**NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED.
NO EXTRA CREDIT WORK WILL BE ASSIGNED.**

EMAIL POLICY:

Email is the preferred form of communication, with a general response time of 48 hours. For all emails sent, please **include full name, student ID, and the class** that you are attending. Do not send emails to myself and other professors at once, as each professor has different issues to address.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

Internet Access: An Internet connection is necessary to participate in discussions and assignments, access readings, transfer course work, and receive feedback from your professor. View the requirements as outlined in Technology Requirements above for more information.

Software: To fully participate in online courses you will need to use a current Flash enabled browser. For PC users, the suggested browser is Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox. For Mac users, the most current update of Firefox is suggested.

At a minimum, you must have Microsoft Office 2013, 2010, 2007 or Open Office. Microsoft Office is the standard office productivity software utilized by faculty, students, and staff. Microsoft Word is the standard word processing software, Microsoft Excel is the standard spreadsheet software, and Microsoft PowerPoint is the standard presentation software. Copying and pasting, along with attaching/uploading documents for assignment submission, will also be required. If you do not have Microsoft Office, you can check with the bookstore to see if they have any student copies.

For FULL computer and technical requirements and specifications, please visit this webpage: http://help.ecollege.com/LS_Tech_Req_WebHelp/en-us/ or eCollege

WEB-BASED COURSE

This course will be facilitated using eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.tamuc.edu/login.aspx>. You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu. This course will use most of the features in eCollege including email, announcements, threaded discussion, assignment drop boxes, and the grade book. Students can also find the syllabus and other necessary materials posted in the course space.

Technical Support: Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of Pearson LearningStudio. Technical assistance is available 24 hours a day / 7 days a week. If at any time you experience technical problems (e.g., you can't log in to the course, you can't see certain material, etc.) please contact the Pearson LearningStudio Help Desk, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The student help desk may also be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

- Chat support: Click on 'Live support' on the tool bar with the course to chat with a Pearson LearningStudio Representative.
- Phone: 1-866-656-5511 (Toll free) to speak with a Pearson LearningStudio Technical Support Representative.
- E-mail: helpdesk@online.tamuc.org to initiate a support request with a Pearson LearningStudio Technical Support Representative.

Accessing Help from within Your Course: Click on the 'Tech Support' icon on the upper left side of the screen inside the course. You then will be able to get assistance via online chat, email or by phone by calling the Help Desk number noted below.

Note: Personal computer problems do not excuse the requirement to complete all course work in a timely and satisfactory manner. Each student needs to have a backup method to deal with these inevitable problems. These methods might include the availability of a backup PC at home or work, the temporary use of a computer at a friend's home, the local library, office service companies, an Internet cafe, or a bookstore, such as Barnes & Noble, etc.

SYLLABUS CHANGE POLICY

The syllabus is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made to the syllabus will be announced in advance.

NONDISCRIMINATION NOTICE

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

HANDING IN ASSIGNMENTS

Each assignment must be handed in on time at the beginning of class and **will NOT be accepted via email**. For each class period late (and if not handed in at the start of class), the grade will be deducted one letter grade. **Assignments will NOT be accepted over ONE week late.**

FORMATTING

All written assignments must be typed using the following guidelines: 12 pt. Times New Roman font, 1" margins, double-spaced, with page numbers. Failure to format properly will result in a lower grade. Artwork titles **MUST** be italicized. Papers must be stapled.

CAMPUS CONCEALED CARRY

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to (<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

CLASSROOM POLICIES:

Statement on Student Behavior:

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenet of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct).

All students must show respect toward the instructor and the instructor's syllabus, presentations, assignments, and point of view. Students should respect each others' differences. If the instructor determines that a student is not being respectful towards other students or the instructor, it is the instructor's prerogative to ask the student to leave, to refer the student to the department head, and to consider referring the student to the Dean of Students who may consider requiring the student to drop the course. Please refer to pages 42 – 46 of the Texas A&M University-commerce Student guidebook's Codes of Conduct for details.

Academic Dishonesty: There is **no tolerance** for any kind of academic dishonesty in this course. This includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism, cheating on exams, theft of instructional material or exams, representing the work of someone else as one's own, and misrepresenting absences. Academic dishonesty is a severe transgression and may result in referral to the Dean of Students, expulsion from class and/or the University, and a failing grade.

Discussion: In this class, we will look at a wide array of artwork, some of which might include nudity, intense language, violence, etc. Each person will bring their own experiences to the art, and should feel comfortable expressing their opinions and vulnerabilities. The classroom is a safe environment, and each student should behave with integrity and treat their peers with respect.

STATEMENT ON ACCOMMODATIONS FOR ADA ELIGIBLE STUDENTS:

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, Room 132
Phone: (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835, Fax: (903) 468-8148
Email: StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu

After contacting the Office of Student Disability Resources and Services, it is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor of what accommodations are needed **IN ADVANCE** of when they are needed.