**LIBS 497**

**Girlhood Studies**

**Autumn 2018**

**Texas A&M University-Commerce**

Instructor: Dr. Beth Shively

Meeting: ONLINE

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**LEARNING GOALS**

* Identify the role that class, race, and other social forces play in shaping experiences and representations of girlhood
* Contrast constructions of girlhood archetypes such as the vexed “Ophelia” and the so-called “mean girl”
* Discuss how religion, disability, sexuality, and other dynamics affect the coming of age experience of American girls
* Critique the role of both consumerism and girl power discourse in contemporary girlhoods

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Terry Galloway, *Mean Little Deaf Queer: A Memoir*(Beacon, 2009)

Sonsyrea Tate, *Little X*: *Growing up in the Nation of Islam*(University of Tennessee Press, 2005)

Additional required readings are posted on D2L. Articles, book chapters and other materials **posted on D2L are required reading**.

**EVALUATION**

Weekly Review Forum: 30%

Discussion Forum:  10%

Exams: (20% + 20% + 20%) 60%

**COURSE POLICIES**

**Plagiarism & Academic Misconduct**

Students are expected to know and understand the rules regarding academic misconduct and plagiarism. Sharing or accessing someone else’s answers to exams or searching for answers on the internet during an exam constitutes academic misconduct. Plagiarism is the representation of another’s works or ideas as one’s own. Always cite sources. If questions arise regarding what constitutes plagiarism, please ask. All cases of plagiarism and academic misconduct will be treated very seriously.

All coursework is to be an original work by the student and created specifically for fulfilling the requirements for this course. Plagiarism, cheating, or otherwise representing another’s work or ideas as one’s own without proper attribution will not be tolerated. It is the student’s responsibility to:

1. research and write their own papers

2. give proper credit through documentation when using words or ideas of others

3. rely on their own knowledge when taking tests

4. refuse to give another student the opportunity to be dishonest

**Any act of academic dishonesty will result in the automatic failure of the course** and may be subject to further disciplinary action by the university

**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 current Student Guidebook*).*

**ADA Statement**

**Students with Disabilities**

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: Rebecca.Tuerk@tamuc.edu

Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services

**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

**Campus Concealed Carry Statement**  
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.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

Participation in the reading review forum and discussion board are due most weeks. **More detailed descriptions of course assignments will be posted on D2L**

**READING AND DISCUSSION SCHEDULE**

**WEEK 1 *Welcome & Course Introduction***

Aug. 27 Introductions, Course Overview, Syllabus Review

**WEEK 2 *Girl Power/Reviving Ophelia***

Sept. 3 Mary Pipher, Selected chapters from *Reviving Ophelia: Saving the Selves of Adolescent Girls* (Ballantine Books, 1994)

Rosalind Wiseman, Selected chapters from *Queen Bees and Wannabees*

**WEEK 3  T*oying with the Race Industry***

Sept. 10 Elizabeth Chin, “Ethinically Correct Dolls: Toying with the Race Industry,” in her *Purchasing Power: Black Kids and American Consumer Culture* (University of Minnesota Press, 2001)

Baumgardner and Richards, “Barbie vs. the Menstrual Kit,” in their *Manifesta: Young Women, Feminism and the Future*(Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2000)

Peggy Orenstein, Ch. 2 “What’s Wrong with Cinderella” and Ch. 3 “Pinked” in her *Cinderella Ate My Daughter*

**WEEK 4 *Girlhood, Religion and Race***

Sept. 17 Sonsyrea Tate, *Little X*: *Growing up in the Nation of Islam*(first half)

Sonsyrea Tate, *Little X*: *Growing up in the Nation of Islam*(second half)

**WEEK 5 *Exam 1 Week***

Sept 24 Exam 1 Week

**WEEK 6 *Constructing Race and Class***

Oct. 1 Julie Bettie, “How Working-Class Chicas Get Working-Class Lives” in her *Women Without Class: Girls, Race, and Identity*(University of California Press, 2003)

Mary E. Thomas, “Banal Multiculturalism and Its Opaque Racisms” in *Multicultural Girlhood: Racism, Sexuality, and the Conflicted Spaces of American Education* (Temple University Press, 2011)

**WEEK 7 *Mean Girls in Media***

Oct. 8 Gabrielle Moss, “Teen Mean Fighting Machine: Why Does the Media Love Mean Girls?” in *bitchfest: Ten Years of Cultural Criticism from the Pages of*Bitch*Magazine,*eds. Lisa Jervis and Andi Zeisler (**on Bb**)

Nikki Jones, 2004. ‘It’s not where you live, it’s how you live’: how young women negotiate conflict and violence in the inner city. *The ANNALS of the AAPSS* 595(1): 49-62. (**on Bb**)

Meda Chesney-Lind and Katharine Irwin, “From badness to meanness: popular constructions of contemporary girlhood” in *All about the girl: culture, power, and identity* (Anita Harris, ed; Routledge Press, 2004) (**on Bb**)

**WEEK 8 *Incarcerated Girls***

Oct. 15 Watch: *Girlhood*

**WEEK 9 *Exam 2 Week***

Oct. 22 Exam 2 Week

**WEEK 10 *Sexy But Not Too Sexual***

Oct. 29 Deborah L. Tolman, “Getting Beyond ‘It Just Happened’” in her *Dilemmas of Desire: Teenage Girls Talk About Sexuality*(Harvard University Press, 2002)

Susan Douglas, “Sex ‘R’ Us,” in her *Enlightened sexism: the seductive message that feminism’s work is done* (Times Books, 2010)

Tanya Erzen, *Fanpire: The Twilight Saga and the Women Who Love*it, “The Forbidden Fruit tastes the Sweetest”

**WEEK 12 *Sexuality and Gender in Schools***

Nov. 5 Jessica Fields, “Natural and Ideological: Depicting Bodies in Sex Education” in *Risky Lessons: Sex Education and Social Inequality* (Rutgers University Press, 2008)

C.J Pascoe, “Look at My Masculinity! Girls Who Act Like Boys” in her *Dude, You’re a Fag: Masculinity and Sexuality in High School* (University of California Press, 2007)

Angela McRobbie, “Teenage Mothers: A New Social State?” in her *Feminism and Youth Culture* (Routledge, 2000)

**WEEK 13 *Disability, Sexuality, and Girlhood***

Nov. 12 Terry Galloway, *Mean Little Deaf Queer: A Memoir*

**WEEK 14 *Flex Week/Thanksgiving Holiday***

Nov. 19 Flex Week/Thanksgiving Holiday

**WEEK 15 *Girls and Social Media***

Nov. 26 Readings TBD

**WEEK 16 *Girls, Activism, and Feminism***

Dec. 3  Molly McCaffrey, “Rory Gilmore and Faux Feminism: An Ivy League Education and Intellectual Banter Does Not a Feminist Make” in Ritch Calvin’s *Gilmore Girls and the Politics of Identity: Essays on Family and Feminism in the Television Series*

Additional readings TBD

**FINALS WEEK Finals Week**

**Dec. 11 (Tue.) Exam 3 DUE**