



## **GDRS200-01E – Introduction to Gender Studies**

**MWF 12-12:50pm DTH203**  
*COURSE SYLLABUS: Spring 2019*

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

**Instructor:** Dr. Mylynka Cardona  
*You may address me as either Professor Cardona or Dr. Cardona*  
**Office Location:** SS146  
**Office Hours:** Mon & Wed 2-5pm and by appointment  
**Office Phone:** 903-468-3030

**University Email Address:**  
mylynka.cardona@tamuc.edu  
**Preferred Form of Communication:**  
TAMUC email  
**Communication Response Time:** 24-48 hours

### COURSE INFORMATION

#### **Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings**

##### Textbook(s) Required

- Christie Launius and Holly Hassel, *Threshold Concepts in Women's and Gender Studies*, 2nd Edition, Routledge, 2018. ISBN: 978-1138304352
  - listed course schedule as TC
- bell hooks, *Feminism is for Everybody: Passionate Politics*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Routledge, 2015, ISBN: 9781138821620
  - listed in course schedule as FE
- Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale*, Penguin Books, 1986, ISBN: 9780385490818
- Jacob Tobia, *Sissy: A Coming-of-Gender Story*, Putnam Books, 2019, ISBN: 9780735218826
- Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, *We Should All Be Feminists*, Penguin, 2015, ISBN: 9781101911761

##### Optional Texts and/or Materials -

- Notebook and pen/pencil for in-class note taking
- Additional Materials will be posted electronically (D2L) or distributed in class

## Course Description

### **GDRS200 – Introduction to Gender studies**

This interdisciplinary course provides students with an introduction to the theories and methods used in gender studies. Through the examination of a variety of topics, students will explore the ways that gender shapes societies and cultures historically and throughout the world. No prerequisites.

Throughout the course we will especially focus on the following foundational themes in Gender Studies:

1. The Social Construction of Gender
2. Privilege and Oppression
3. Intersectionality
4. Feminist Praxis

### *Student Learning Outcomes*

1. Students will demonstrate an awareness of gender differences in a given society or culture.
2. Students will understand the approaches used by multiple academic disciplines to make arguments about attitudes toward gender.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### GRADING

This course is based on the 100-point system. All assignments are worth 100 points. The final exam is weighted the same as the other two exams. I do not round up. If you earn an 89.9 you will receive a B for the course.

Final grades are determined on the following scale:

100 –90 = A, 89 –80 = B, 79 –70 = C, 69 –60 = D, 59 and below = F

Assessments: There will be several assessments of your progress in this course including your college professionalism and course engagement, six (6) document analyses, four (4) exams in D2L, and one (1) book response paper with discussion.

Values of major assignments and examinations for this course are as follows:

• Five (5) written assessments:	30%
• Two (2) reading responses:	20%
• Film Project	20%
• Social Media Assignment:	15%
• <u>College professionalism &amp; course engagement:</u>	<u>15%</u>
TOTAL	100%

### **Minimal Technical Skills Needed**

Using the learning management system and using Microsoft Word

### **Instructional Methods**

This class is face-to-face with additional assignments in D2L Brightspace.

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

### **Student Responsibilities or Tips for Success in the Course**

Attendance: As the instructor of this section, I allow students to attend class at their own discretion, but students should keep in mind that some assignments are in-class only and will not be eligible for make-up if missed. It is your responsibility to come to class prepared for lecture. If you miss a class it is your responsibility to gather class notes from a classmate. I do take roll (via seating chart) and if you are in class but not PRESENT, i.e. on your phone or other device, you will be counted absent for the day.

Electronics Policy: Our class is a time for learning and discussion. Cell phones and other devices should be turned off during class – unless otherwise specified for an in-class activity. Airplane mode is preferred. If you are using a laptop/tablet, it should be used solely for note taking. If I feel you are using your devices for something other than taking notes you will be asked to power the device down.

Student Behavior: Behavior which may result in your being asked to leave my class includes, but is not limited to: sleeping, talking during lectures, movies or clips, text messaging, gaming, playing with your phone, using electronic devices other than for specified activities, and working on another course's work/homework during my class.

Expectations for Out-of-Class Study: Beyond the time required to attend each class meeting, students enrolled in this course should expect to spend at least an additional 9 hours per week of their own time in course-related activities, including reading required materials, completing assignments, preparing for exams, etc.

Do the reading ahead of time: There will be a lot of reading in this course, none of which is optional. I will deliver the lecture material under the assumption that you have already read the assigned readings for the week. Be sure to take notes as well.

Face Your Fears: Ask questions in class. I do realize that this can be hard. However, asking questions is the only way to find out information you want to know, and it is likely that your classmates may have the same question.

Make Yourself Known: Showing an interest and letting me know you have an interest will help you understand the material, and help me understand you. Talk to the professor! If you have a situation arise during the semester that will impede your ability to succeed in the class, COME TALK TO ME SOONER RATHER THAN LATER. I will be better equipped to help you in whatever ways I can the sooner you talk to me. If you wait until the very last minute, my hands will likely be tied and my options will be more limited as far as help is concerned.

**Be Respectful:** This class is an educational safe zone. It welcomes and respects the viewpoints of students of all sexual orientations and genders as well as all races, ethnicities, religions, social statuses, and abilities. All members of this learning community are expected to treat each other with respect and dignity.

## Interaction with Professor Statement

Students are encouraged to contact the professor for any reason whatsoever. The more you let me know what is going on with you, the better I can help you out when necessary. Beyond the classroom, the best way to get in touch with me is through TAMUC email. I am also available during my office hours. Please come to talk to me about any concerns you might have and about any problems or issues that arise during the semester.

### CHSSA Librarian:

Our librarian for Humanities and Social Sciences is Sarah Northam. She is available to assist you in your research, whether it is using the library or identifying and locating sources. Please take advantage of this assistance as you need it. Her contact information is as follows:

Sarah Northam,  
Head of Research and Instruction Services  
Gee Library  
903-886-5714  
[Sarah.Northam@tamuc.edu](mailto:Sarah.Northam@tamuc.edu)

## COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

### Classroom Behavior

All students are expected to observe basic tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct). During class time, I expect college-level professionalism & course engagement. This means turning off cell phones, and other devices, and putting away any other forms of distraction, for the duration of the class period (exceptions will be allowed for emergencies with advance permission of the professor).

Please come to class on time and plan to stay for the entire period. Coming late and/or disrupting the learning environment shows disrespect for me, your colleagues, and the educational endeavor in which you are engaged. If you must leave early, please let me know at the beginning of class. I encourage you to come to my office hours, to get to know me, and to keep me informed of any issues you might have that would affect your performance in this class (see above statement on Interaction with Professor).

### Late Papers

All written assignments are due as indicated in this syllabus. Late assignments may be accepted only with the advance approval of the professor and may be assessed a penalty. If you have a problem with a due, please notify the professor in advance or plan to turn the assignment in early. I can be very understanding and flexible with you, but only if you come to talk to me in advance. To pass this class, all assignments must be completed. Any missing assignments at the end of the course will be given a grade of zero (0).

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

**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.

**University Specific Procedures****Student Conduct**

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the [Student Guidebook](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx>

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette>

**TAMUC Attendance**

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the [Attendance](#) webpage and [Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01](#).

<http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx>

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf>

**Academic Integrity**

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Undergraduate Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.03](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/undergraduates/13.99.99.R0.03UndergraduateAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf>

**Students with Disabilities-- 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

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

©Cardona2019

Gee Library- Room 162

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835

Fax (903) 468-8148

Email: [studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu](mailto:studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu)

Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)

<http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/>

### **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.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url:

<http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>

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.

### **TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS**

LMS

All course sections offered by Texas A&M University-Commerce have a corresponding course shell in the myLeo Online Learning Management System (LMS). Below are technical requirements

LMS Requirements:

<https://community.brightspace.com/s/article/Brightspace-Platform-Requirements>

LMS Browser Support:

[https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser\\_support.htm](https://documentation.brightspace.com/EN/brightspace/requirements/all/browser_support.htm)

YouSeeU Virtual Classroom Requirements:

<https://support.youseeu.com/hc/en-us/articles/115007031107-Basic-System-Requirements>

### **ACCESS AND NAVIGATION**

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

©Cardona2019

You will need your campus-wide ID (CWID) and password to log into the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact the Center for IT Excellence (CITE) at 903.468.6000 or [helpdesk@tamuc.edu](mailto:helpdesk@tamuc.edu).

Note: Personal computer and internet connection 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, Starbucks, a TAMUC campus open computer lab, etc.

### **COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact your Instructor.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

<https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport>

*The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.*

**COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR**

This schedule will guide you through the semester and indicates when your assignments are due. It should be referred to often. I reserve the right to make adjustments to it during the course of the semester as such circumstances arise.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Class Dates</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Readings/Assignments Due</u>
1	08/26-30	M: Course Intro & Why are you even here? WF: What is Gender Studies?	Go over syllabus, course requirements, and find out what the heck we are all doing here! Read: TC Introduction/ FE Ch 1-4
			<b>ASSIGNMENT DUE:</b> Writing Assessment #1 via D2L
		<b>II: The Social</b>	<b>Construction of Gender</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>09/2-6</b>	<b>M: Labor Day NO CLASS</b> WF	<b>TAMUC CLOSED Sept 2<sup>nd</sup></b> <b>(Begin reading <i>Sissy</i>)</b> Read: TC pp 24-34; Article TBA
		<i>We will have</i>	<i>a guest speaker in this section – date &amp; time TBA</i>
3	09/9-13	MW F:	Read: TC pp 40-54; FE- Ch 11-12; Article TBA Film: <i>The Bro Code: How Contemporary Culture Creates Sexist Men</i>
4	09/16-20	MW <b>F: 9/20 NO CLASS</b>	Read: TC – 34-40; 54-70; FE – Ch 5-6; Article TBA <b>Film Project Research Day</b> Writing Assessment #2 via D2L
<b>5</b>	<b>09/23-27</b>	MW <b>F: 9/27 NO CLASS</b>	<i>Sissy</i> Discussion and Guest Speaker #1 <b>ASSIGNMENT DUE:</b> <i>Sissy</i> Reading Response via D2L
		<b>III: Privilege</b>	<b>&amp; Oppression</b>
6	09/30-10/04	MWF	Read: TC – pp71-87; FE Ch 7-9; 13-14; Article TBA (Begin reading <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> ) <b>Begin Social Media Assignment</b>
7	10/7-11	MW F	Read: TC – 88-111 Film: <i>Wonder Women!</i> <b>ASSIGNMENT DUE:</b> Writing Assessment #2 via D2L
8	10/14-18	MW F	Read: Article TBA <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> Discussion <b>ASSIGNMENTS DUE:</b> <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> Reading Response via D2L

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.



		<b>III:</b>	<b>Intersectionality</b>
		<i>Gender Studies</i>	<i>Book Club Will fall in this section – date &amp; time TBA</i>
9	10/21-25	MWF: What is Intersectionality?	Read: TC – pp112-122, FE – Ch 10, Article TBA (Begin reading <i>We Should All Be Feminists</i> )
10	10/28-11/1	MWF	Read: TC – pp122-132, Article TBA
11	11/4-8	MWF	Read: TC – pp133-152, FE – Ch15, Article TBA
			<b>ASSIGNMENT DUE:</b> Writing Assessment #3 via D2L
		<b>IV:</b>	<b>Feminist Praxis</b>
		<i>We will have</i>	<i>a guest speaker in this section – date &amp; time TBA</i>
12	11/11 - 15	MWF	Read: FE – Ch 16; Article TBA
13	11/18-22	MWF	Read: TC – pp 191-232; FE – Ch 18-19
			<b>ASSIGNMENT DUE:</b> Written Assessment #4 via D2L
<b>14</b>	<b>11/25-29</b>	<b>MWF: NO CLASS</b>	<b>THANKSGIVING BREAK – TAMUC CLOSED</b>
15	12/2-6	M: Film Projects	1-4
		W: Film Projects	5-8
		F: Film Projects	9-12
EXAM WEEK	12/13	8:00-10:00am	Course wrap-up and breakfast. <b>ASSIGNMENT DUE:</b> Written Assessment #5 via D2L

The syllabus/schedule are subject to change.