



HC 497: Gender, Sexuality, and Media Representation
Course Syllabus
Spring 2023

Instructor: Tana Yager, MS, LPC, NCC
Meeting Time: TR 930-1045am
Location: BA 221
Office: HC 300 – Prairie Crossing
Office Hours: By appointment; on campus Tuesdays and Thursdays
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COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description

This course will explore the topics of gender, sexuality, and media representation. Students will explore intersecting identities between privilege and oppression. First students will learn about the concepts of gender, sexual orientation, sexuality, socialization, intersectionality, and social justice; then students will discuss and apply these ideas with real world application. This course will examine how media representation has impacted students' understanding of these concepts and how to move forward as more critical consumers. Students should approach this class with an open mind willing to learn and work in an experiential classroom.

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings

There are no required textbooks for this class. However, students will be given appropriate handouts and articles as needed.

Learning Outcomes

- Students will develop working definitions related to gender, gender expression, and gender identity
- Students will develop working definitions related to various sexualities and sexual and affectional orientations
- Students will be able to discuss the importance of representation and identify ways to incorporate it more
- Students will learn ways to be mindful consumers of media
- Students will be able to navigate difficult conversations about socialization, privilege, and oppression

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional Methods, Activities, and Assessments

This class will be ran as a seminar course with numerous discussions and critical thinking. It will not be a typical lecture course. The skills and concepts you learn in this course shouldn't be merely memorized – they should be put into practice in your daily lives. Those practices require us to discuss your experiences during implementation. This course will be held face to face, but all assignments will be submitted via D2L unless otherwise noted.

All assignments, schedules, and due dates are subject to change.

Journal Entry One:

Students will complete a 2 page journal entry responding to the prompt:

What (do I think) is gender? What (do I think) is sexuality? What do I hope to get from this class?

No citation required. Response should be 12pt font and double spaced. Please add a header and title. A minimum of one page of text should be written for full credit.

	Not submitted or submitted late, off topic, poor scholarly work	Submitted but does not meet length and/ or answer prompt	Submitted and meets all requirements
Journal Entry	0-29	30-44	45-50

Points: 50

Active Participation:

Active participation is a huge portion of this course as it is created to be an interactive class. To practice and implement the materials learned each week, there will be a respective activity for students to practice and discuss in class. For maximum points, students will be expected to actively attend class and participate in class discussions.

	Poor attendance, did not participate in activities	Attended class, but missed multiple sections; Limited participation	Attended all classes; actively participated in all activities
Activity	0-69	70-89	90-100

Points: 100

Journal Entry Two:

Students will complete a 2 page journal entry responding to the prompt:

What messages about gender stereotypes and / or sexuality did I receive growing up and where did those come from? What impact has it had on my life? AND Do I now act those or modify them in some way?

No citation required. Response should be 12pt font and double spaced. Please add a header and title. A minimum of one page of text should be written for full credit.

	Not submitted or submitted late, off topic, poor scholarly work	Submitted but does not meet length and/ or answer prompt	Submitted and meets all requirements
Journal Entry	0-29	30-44	45-50

Points: 50

Media Journal

Students will keep record of their media consumption for four days, document the source of said media, and what messages they received from the media. Any and all media should be included such as television, social media, billboards, advertisements, radio ads, and more. For full credit, students must show four days of entries, multiple entries per day, documented source of media, what message they received from the media, a brief one page summary reflecting on the experienced and what they learned from the week, and submit on time.

	Not completed or submitted late, off topic, poor scholarly work	Completed but does not meet all necessary requirements	Completed and meets all requirements
Completed 4 days of entries	0-14	15-19	20
Multiple entries per day	0-14	15-24	25
Documented source of media	0-14	15-24	25
Brief message received	0-19	20-29	30
One page reflection	0-19	20-29	30
Scholarly work	0	1-9	10
Submitted on time	0	1-9	10

Points: 150

Journal Entry Three:

Students will complete a 2 page journal entry responding to the prompt:

What is representation? Why does it matter? Share a story of a time you ever had to reflect meaningfully about representation. If this has never occurred and this is the first time, you've thought about the concept, share about that privilege and what it is like for you.

No citation required. Response should be 12pt font and double spaced. Please add a header and title. A minimum of one page of text should be written for full credit.

	Not submitted or submitted late, off topic, poor scholarly work	Submitted but does not meet length and/ or answer prompt	Submitted and meets all requirements
Journal Entry	0-29	30-44	45-50

Points: 50

Journal Entry Four:

Students will complete a 3-5 page journal entry responding to the prompt:

What is gender? What is sexuality? What is socialization? What is representation? Why does all this matter?

Overall, What did I learn and / or take away from this class?

No citation required. Response should be 12pt font and double spaced. Please add a header and title. A minimum of three pages of text should be written for full credit.

	Not submitted or submitted late, off topic, poor scholarly work	Submitted but does not meet length and/or answer prompt	Submitted and meets all requirements
Journal Entry	0-69	70-89	90-100

Points: 100

Grading

Active Participation	100
Journal Entry One	50
Journal Entry Two	50
Journal Entry Three	50
Journal Entry Four	100
Media Journal	150

A total of 500 points is available this semester. Final grades are based on the total number of points earned during the term in accordance, generally, with the following levels of proficiency:

- A = 450-500
- B = 400-449
- C = 350-399
- D = 300-349
- F = 299 and below

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS, ACCESS AND NAVIGATION

Students will need access to the internet, a word processor, some presentation software (Powerpoint, Prezi, Canva, etc.) and a computer to access D2L for assignment submission.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

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

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

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

(2) Statement on Nondiscrimination:

A&M-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.

- (3)** “All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment.” (See Student’s Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct). **Silence all cell phones. Texting during class is not permitted.**

Further, 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>

- (4)** 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 34.06.02R1, 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.

(5) 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>

- (6)** Students should not attend class when ill or after exposure to anyone with a communicable illness. Communicate such instances directly with your instructor. Faculty will work to support the student getting access to missed content or completing missed assignments.

- (7)** The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Activities and Due Dates</u>
1	Syllabus & Introductions	Journal One due by Friday at 11:59pm
2	Pronouns	
3	What is Gender?	
4	Expression & Identity	
5	Transgender Language	
6	Socialization	
7	Intersectionality	Journal Two due Sunday by 11:59pm
8	What is Sexuality?	
9	SPRING BREAK	
10	Sexual/ Affectional Orientations	
11	Sexual/ Affectional Orientations	
12	Faith and Sexuality	Journal Three due Sunday by 11:59pm
13	Representation	
14	Impact of Media	Media Journal due Sunday by 11:59pm
15	Tolerant v. Affirming	Journal Four due Sunday by 11:59pm
16	Putting it All Together	
17	FINALS WEEK	

The instructor will notify the class accordingly if this schedule changes.