



WGS 200 (001) Spring 2020

Introduction to Women's & Gender Studies

Course Overview

T/Th 10:15 - 11:30 am
215 Park Shops

About your Instructor



My name is Dr. Patsy Sibley, and I am a Teaching Assistant Professor of Interdisciplinary Studies here at NC State where I teach courses in both the Science, Technology, & Society and the Women's & Gender Studies programs. My interests sit at the intersection of gender, technology, and feminist theories.

Email : pasibley@ncsu.edu

Office Hours: T/Th 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Office: 106C - 1911 Building

Course Description

Women and Gender Studies (WGS) is an interdisciplinary field that examines sex, gender, and gendered experiences as a central feature of human existence. WGS is an interdisciplinary exploration that incorporates theories and methods from across the humanities, social, life and physical sciences. By focusing on historical and contemporary understandings of gender, this class seeks to explore how gender figures in relation to other aspects of individual intersectional identity, social and institutional mechanisms of power and privilege, and a variety of everyday practices. The course also explores the ways in which gender activism(s) seek to respond to sex and gender oppression (among other oppressions) and make social change that leads to gender justice.

Prerequisites

There are no prerequisites for this course. This course fulfills the U.S. Diversity GEP Requirement. This course is a requirement within the Women's and Gender Studies program here at NCSU, and it is also a prerequisite for the upper-level courses on women, gender, and queer theories. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions about the WGS specialization or upper-level courses.

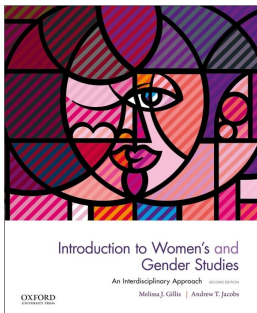
Learning Objectives

By the end of this course you should be able to:

- o Explain the complexities of gender as they relate to a spectrum of other identity determinants, such as race, class, ethnicity, and sexuality.
- o Analyze gender-related mechanisms of interpersonal and institutional power and privilege.
- o Place contemporary issues about women and gender within a larger historical framework and use that perspective to anticipate the future.
- o Explain and critique a variety of historic feminist movements through a variety of critical lenses.
- o Formulate and evaluate various strategies for social change.
- o Improve critical thinking through respectful, active discussion of a variety of cultural texts and feminist theories.
- o Articulate the relation of the study of women and gender to your own life and chosen discipline.

Required Materials

Many of the texts that we'll be reading this semester are available via the Moodle page. For example, many of the academic chapters that we'll be exploring are uploaded to the course website via PDFs. However, there is one text for this course that you will be required to buy. It should be available in paperback for a relatively low price, either online or at the NCSU bookstore.



Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies: An Interdisciplinary Approach. by Melissa J. Gillis & Andrew T. Jacobs. Available via the NCSU Bookstore, or [online via Amazon](#). Make sure that you get the SECOND edition.

Course Requirements

Grading Breakdown

Your final grade for the class will be determined and weighted by your performance for the following:

Active Participation	10%
Reflective Writing	10%
In-Class Activities	20%
Application Projects	30%
Critical Media Analysis	10%
Final Project	20%

Critical reflective writing and group conversations are where the bulk of the growth happens in this course. A seminar format only works when the class is actively engaged and has read the materials. To enable as much participation as possible, you will engage in a variety of small group discussions and be encouraged to give each-other feedback on projects.

Letter grades will be assigned based on the criteria below:

Exceptionally achieves assignment objectives

A+: 97-100% | A: 94-96% | A-: 90-93%

Consistently achieves assignment objectives

B+: 87-89% | B: 84-86% | B-: 80-83%

Inconsistently achieves assignment objectives

C+: 77-79% | C: 74-76% | C-: 70-73%

Rarely or never achieves assignment objectives

D+: 67-69% | D: 64-66% | D-: 60-63%

Active Participation (10%)

Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the material. Please bring your readings with you, whether in print form or your preferred digital form. Participation comprises a large part of your grade because, in my mind, we do our most valuable work together in class. Additionally, we may replace class meetings with online activities from time to time; the same expectation of active participation applies.

Reflective Writing (10%)

These papers will be completed on the first and last days of class. They are designed to encourage you to examine your own learning process, particularly as it pertains to our course.

In-Class Activities (20%)

Across the semester, we will complete a variety of activities in class to supplement our discussion and learning of course materials. These activities will primarily be graded for effort and completion and will often be completed via small group discussion.

Application Activities (30%, 10% each)

During the semester, there will be a number of small projects available to you to provide you the opportunity to apply the theories that we will be exploring or to dive more deeply into a specific topic. These will typically be hands-on activities that will aim to deepen your understanding of the material. At times there may be projects that require you to attend a film screening, academic talk, art exhibit, or political demonstration and then connect your experiences to the course material.

You need to complete three of these projects during the semester for full credit. You may complete a fourth for extra credit, if you wish. More specific guidelines for these projects can be found on the Moodle site.

Critical Media Analysis Midterm (10%)

This assignment will require you to use the theories and ideas that we have been discussing in class and apply them to a piece of non-print media in order to explore how issues of gender and feminism are presented in our wider culture via film, television, imagery, or music. You will then be asked to reimagine that piece of media through a feminist lens. Further assignment details are available on the assignment sheet found on Moodle.

Final Group Project - (20%)

Final projects will be negotiated and developed in groups through a series of workshops that we will attend in conjunction with the libraries' maker space. You will work together with your group, to apply the feminist theories and critiques of systems of power to design a feminist game. As a group, you will then present this game to the class and explain the choices that you made. The final projects will be turned in with presentations during the final exam period on **April 28th**.

Policies & Procedures

My policies in regard to late assignments, attendance and class participation, academic integrity, and discrimination, are as follows:

Late assignments. Late assignments will be accepted at the instructor's discretion and may be penalized by one letter grade for each day late. Late assignments will only be accepted under extreme circumstances such as illness or family or other emergencies. You are expected to manage your time and ensure all assignments are submitted on or before the due date.

Attendance and class participation. In accordance with NCSU's attendance policy, all absences are classified as "excused" or "unexcused" Criteria for excusable absences can be found here. When applicable, documentation will be required. Along with excused absences, students are allowed three (3) unexcused absences before points will be taken off of their participation grade. **Note: Excuses for unanticipated absences must be reported to the instructor no more than one week after you return to class.**

Academic integrity. The learning activities in this course are designed to promote discussion among students as peer educators. Though you are free to use any legitimate academic materials at your disposal, you may not plagiarize available sources (such as existing book or movie reviews) or simply replicate answers of others enrolled in the course. I understand and expect all students to follow the university's honor pledge: "I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this test or assignment." For the university's policy, see: <http://policies.ncsu.edu/policy/pol-11-35-01>

Students with disabilities. Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must register with Disability Services for Students at 1900 Student Health Center, Campus Box 7509, 919-515-7653. For more information on NC State's policy on working with students with disabilities, please see the Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Regulation (REG02.20.01)

Policy on teaching and learning practices. This course is designed to foster dialog about how a wide variety of exclusionary practices (including those based on gender, race, class, sexual preference, ethnic or religious background, and physical disabilities) promote social inequalities. Full participation in this course requires your willingness to (1) read the material, (2) share your reactions and experiences as well as (3) show respect for others' perspectives and experiences. It is my job to create a classroom environment in which you feel safe and fully included. Please alert me if you have concerns about the course content, classroom culture, or to inform me of inappropriate behavior by another student as the semester progresses.

N.C. State Policies, Regulations, and Rules (PRR): Students are responsible for reviewing the NC State University PRR's located at <http://oucc.ncsu.edu/course-rights-and-responsibilities> which pertains to their course rights and responsibilities.

Content Note

At times, in this course, we will discuss themes that can be quite difficult, and that may have personal resonance for you or your classmates. Holding that in mind, it is of the utmost importance that we treat the issues (and each other) with respect and empathy in our discussions. While I will not be giving trigger warnings about controversial content prior to each class, I am providing a list of potentially contentious issues that we will be discussing over the course of the semester. You will be asked to discuss these topics in an academic format only. Topics may include:

rape and sexual assault; interpersonal violence; war; hate crimes; cultural, social, and scientific racism; medical procedures performed without patient consent; self-harm; human sexuality; birth control and other forms of reproductive technologies; abortion; state-sanctioned violence.

Campus Resources

Writing and Speaking Tutorial Services: For help with any writing assignment, for any course, visit one of the free walk-in centers on campus. Writing Tutors are available through the University Tutorial Center in Leazar Hall, and in other locations on campus. For hours and further information, see <http://tutorial.ncsu.edu/wsts-undergrad>

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LOBO: The Library Online Basic Orientation tutorial can be found through D.H. Hill Library's instruction page: <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/lobo2/>

Ask a Librarian: Visit <http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/libref/> to learn how to reach the Reference Staff and D.H. Hill Library.

NC State Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Center: The mission of the NC State GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender) Center serves the mission of NC State University by creating, maintaining, and strengthening an inclusive and safe campus environment for people of all sexualities, gender identities, and gender expressions. Phone: 919-513-9742. Email: glbtcenter@ncsu.edu

NC State Women's Center: The NC State Women's Center is a catalyst and resource that advances gender equity and social justice through education, advocacy, and leadership for the campus community. Phone: 919-515-2012. Email: womens-center@ncsu.edu