

School of Arts & Science Social Sciences DEPT

GSWS 110: Women, Knowledge, Sex and Power Fall 2017

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Instructor Information

(a) Instructor: Helen Lansdowne

(b) Office hours: TBA

(c) Office Location: Paul 230

(d) Phone 370-3369

(e) E-mail: hlansdow@camosun.bc.ca and lansdown@uvic.ca

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

- 1. Describe gender as a category of analysis.
- 2. Identify key concepts, themes, theories and debates in Women's Studies.
- 3. Outline Feminist Theory, particularly as it pertains to a transnational world.
- 4. Incorporate the workings of privilege, power and transformation in social and historical life.
- 5. Intersect sexuality, ethnicity, class, nationality, religion and age with respect to gender identity.

3. Required Materials

Braithwaite, Ann and Catherine Orr (eds) *Everyday Women's and Gender Studies Introductory Concepts*. Taylor and Francis Publishers, 2016.

Additional assigned readings as listed in course outline

4. Course Description

This course is an interdisciplinary critique of "gender" and its intersection with socially constructed relations of power (e.g., sexuality, class, religion, age). The processes and mechanisms that construct and institutionalize gender will be considered in a variety of contexts; language, culture, the media, violence, and resistance are addressed within our global world. The course analyzes key concepts, theories, questions and debates in Gender and Women's Studies of privilege, power and transformation, particularly in the context of transnationalism.

5. Course Content and Schedule

Three hours per week will be spent in lecture sessions, with some of that time designated for seminar-discussions and audio-visual presentations. The following schedule will provide a guide to lecture topics, readings assignments and important deadlines.

September 5th, 2017 Introduction to the Course

Readings: Braithwaite and Orr, Everyday Women's and Gender Studies: Introduction.

September 12th, 2017

Debunking the Myths of Gender

Readings: Everyday Women's and Gender Studies, Chapter One; and

Allan Johnson, "Patriarchy, the System: An It, Not a He, a Them or an Us" from Johnson, Allan (2005). Gender Knot: Unraveling Our Patriarchal Legacy Philadelphia: Temple University Press. (electronic copy through Library).

September 19th, 2017

Social, Historical and Political Constructions of Gender

Readings: bell hooks, "Feminism: A Transformational Politic" from Feminisms and Womanisms A Women's Studies Reader. (On Reserve); Fausto-Sterling, Anne, "The Five Sexes, Revisited" Sciences, 0036861X, July/August 2000, Vol.

40, Issue 4 (online through Ebsco Host);

September 26th, 2017 Identity and Difference

Readings: Everyday Women's and Gender Studies, Chapter Two

October 3rd, 2017

Thinking about Community

Readings: Mohanty, Chandra, "Towards an Anti-Imperialist Politics: Reflections of a desi

feminist", South Asian Popular Culture, Apr 2004, Vol. 2, Issue 1, pp. 69-73.

Test One

October 10th, 2017

White Privilege, White Feminism, Colonization and the Production of the Other

Readings: Everyday Women's and Gender Studies, Chapter Three

McIntosh, Peggy, "White privilege: Unpacking the invisible knapsack", Independent School,

Winter 90, Vol. 49, Issue 2, pp. 31-36. (online through Ebsco Host);

Pat Armstrong and Hugh Armstrong, "Class is a Feminist Issue" (On Reserve);

October 17th, 2017

Heterosexual Privilege and Class

Readings: Everyday Women's and Gender Studies, Chapter Three

October 24th, 2017

The Theoretical Framework of Queer Culture

Readings: Lauren Berlant and Michael Warner, "What Does Queer Theory Teach Us About X" found online

http://www.english.upenn.edu/~cavitch/pdf-library/BerlantWarner WhatDoesQueerTheory.pdf

October 31st, 2017

What Consumer Culture Teaches Us: Standards of Beauty, the Constructions of Beauty and Consuming Violence

Readings: Everyday Women's and Gender Studies, Chapter Four

November 7th, 2017

Corporate Consumer Culture and Consuming "the Exotic Other": Tourism

Readings: Everyday Women's and Gender Studies, Chapter Four

Test Two

November 14th, 2017

Gendered Transnational Labour

Film: "Maquilapolis"

Readings: "GENDERED VIOLENCE: MURDER IN THE MAQUILADORAS" by Katie Pantaleo found in *Sociological Viewpoints*, Volume 22, Issue 2, Page 13, 2006; and *Everyday Women's and Gender Studies*, Chapter Five

November 21st, 2017

Gendered Transnational Labour continued

Readings: Everyday Women's and Gender Studies, Chapter Five

November 28th, 2017

Eco-Systems and Patriarchy

Readings: Maria Mies and Vandana Shiva, "Ecofeminism" from Feminisms and Womanisms A Women's Studies Reader (On Reserve); Everyday Women's and Gender Studies, Conclusion

December 5th, 2017

Test Three

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

(a) Term Paper - 25%

Each student will be expected to write an auto-ethnographic analysis based on Chapter Six from Braithwaite and Orr. The paper will incorporate concepts used during the course and will be approximately 6 pages in length. An instructional handout will be provided by the end of September.

(b) Presentations - 20%

Students will be put into groups of 4-5 and will be assigned a topic and will be expected to provide a presentation to the class at some point in the semester. The materials presented may be based on popular culture but must include an academic analysis. Presentations will be no more than 30 minutes in length for the entire panel. Each panel will be responsible for a written summary of the materials presented.

- (c) Test One 15% October 3, 2017
- (d) Test Two 15% November 7, 2017
- (e) Test Three 15% December 5, 2017
- (f) Reading Evaluation 10% During the semester, there will be five short quizzes given directly relating to the assigned readings of that day. The quiz will be given at the beginning of class and will be worth 2% of your grade. Failure to attend and take part in the quiz will result in 0% for that day.

6. Grading System

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	Α		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6
73-76	В		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	С		2
50-59	D	Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite.	1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College Calendar, Registrar's Office or the College web site at http://www.camosun.bc.ca

ACADEMIC CONDUCT POLICY

There is an Academic Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, Registration, and on the College web site in the Policy Section.

www.camosun.bc.ca/divisions/pres/policy/2-education/2-5.html