

LMC 3225N: Gender Studies in the Disciplines

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Office Hours: TTh 2-3 & by appt.

Course Prerequisites: English 1102

Core Area/Attributes: This class fulfills Core Area C: Humanities

Course Description and Goals: This course will introduce you to gender studies, a field of study that enables us to better understand how different people think about sex and gender at different moments in history. More specifically, we will explore how scholars use the insights generated by gender studies to produce new knowledge in a variety of humanistic and scientific disciplines. We will begin the semester by briefly reviewing the 200+ year history of feminism and how it led to the formation of gender studies in the late twentieth century. We will then consider more extensively the range of gender-based political and cultural movements that flourish throughout the world today (including third-wave feminisms, international feminisms, the men's movement, and gay and lesbian activism) and their impact on fields of inquiry including history, economics, and biology. We will conclude the semester with a case study of gender and science in science fiction, examining how scholars and artists alike generate new ideas about "images of women (and men and machines!) in science fiction."

Learning Outcomes:

- Textual/Visual Analysis: Students will learn to read, analyze, and interpret not only cultural projects such as film, literature, art, and new media, but also scientific and technical documents.
- Interpretive Frameworks: Students will become familiar with a variety of social, political, and philosophical theories and be able to apply those theories to creative and scientific texts, as well as to their own cultural observations.
- Literary/Film/Narrative Art Inquiry: Students will be aware of the traditions and conventions of literature, film, and other forms of narrative art, and they will be able to analyze those traditions and conventions in specific cultural contexts.

Required Texts at Engineer's Bookstore and the Barnes and Noble Bookstore:

Roger N. Lancaster and Micaela di Leonardo, eds. *The Gender/Sexuality Reader*
Marge Piercy, *He, She, and It*

Supplemental Readings on T-Square

As your schedule notes, we will read a number of essays and short stories this semester. I will post all of these materials, plus all assignments, to T-Square.

Assignments and Grading: You will take two in-class, non-cumulative exams in this class and write one 6-8 page essay. You will also complete four short online research assignments and post them to WebX; these assignments will prepare you to write your final paper. All assignment instructions will be posted on WebX and handed out to you in class at the appropriate times in the semester. You will have ample opportunity to discuss all assignments with me and with your peers before they are due; thus, **ALL GRADES FOR THIS COURSE ARE FINAL**—I will not listen to any arguments that your grade should be improved.

Please note that I do not accept late assignments unless you ask for permission in writing at least 48 hours before the due date listed on your syllabus. Additionally, failure to complete any major component of the course will result in failure of the course as a whole. If you are having difficulties meeting class requirements, talk to me immediately—again, I will not listen to arguments after the fact. The following are the percentages for each assignment:

- Exam 1 20%
- Exam 2 20%
- Final Paper 30%
- Online research assignments 20%
- Participation 10%

General Participation: All students begin with an “A” for participation. You will keep that “A” as long as you:

- Do all your readings and assignments
- Bring all readings to class and actively use them during our lectures and class discussions
- Actively participate in all in-class writing assignments
- Actively listen to and participate in class discussions

Your participation grade will be negatively affected by any forms of behavior that disrupt the classroom experience, including:

- Failure to do the readings
- Failure to be courteous to others when talking in class
- Failure to come to class on time
- Disrupting class in nonverbal ways (playing with your cell phone, doing homework, or sleeping)

I don’t really expect us to experience chronic participation problems but that if they do arise, I reserve to the right to institute pop quizzes and similarly annoying tasks.

Attendance Policy: I will allow you three absences to do with as you please this semester, but you need to use them wisely: beginning with your fourth unexcused absence, your **overall final grade** will be lowered by 50 points for each absence. For example, a 920 (A) would become an 870 (B) if you were absent four times.

If you miss six or more classes, I reserve the right to fail you in the course as a whole. I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences so if you miss class, do not explain why you are absent—it will not make a difference. If you are late for class, it is your responsibility to make sure that I don’t record you as absent. If you miss a class for any reason, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed *before* the next class.

Students with Disabilities should self-report to the Access Disabled Assistance Program for Tech Students (ADAPTS) through any of the following channels:

ADAPTS
 220 Student Services Building
 Atlanta, GA 30332-0285
 404.894.2564 (voice)/404.894.1664 (voice/TDD)
<http://www.adapts.gatech.edu>

Scholastic Dishonesty and Academic Misconduct: All of the writing you submit for this course must be your own. If I suspect you of plagiarizing all or part of a project, I will submit your name and the particular project to the Dean of Students, who will then take the appropriate disciplinary action. The Georgia Tech honor code (available online at <http://www.honor.gatech.edu>) defines academic misconduct as:

- Possessing, using, or exchanging improperly acquired written or verbal information in the preparation of any essay, laboratory report, examination, or other assignment included in an academic course;
- Substitution for, or unauthorized collaboration with, a student in the commission of academic requirements;
- False claims of performance or work that has been submitted by the claimant;
- Alteration or insertion of any academic grade or rating so as to obtain unearned academic credit;
- Deliberate falsification of a written or verbal statement of fact to a member of the faculty so as to obtain unearned academic credit;
- Forgery, alteration, or misuse of any institute document relating to the academic status of a student.

Miscellaneous: Ultimately this is *your* class, so if you have any suggestions for readings, films, or activities that you think might supplement our studies—or if you have any ideas about how to better organize our existing time and activities—please feel free to share them with me. Every semester I try to shape the course schedule in accordance with the needs of that particular class, so I really do value your input.

LMC 3225: Gender Studies in the Disciplines
Weekly Assignment Schedule

The Roots of Gender Studies: First- and Second-Wave Feminisms

- Tu 8/23 Introductions; review syllabus. What is gender? What are the disciplines?
Th 8/25 Discuss C.L. Moore, "No Woman Born" (T-Square and electronic reserve).
- Tu 8/30 Discuss Elizabeth Cady Stanton, "Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions"; Sojourner Truth, "Ain't I a Woman?"; Gloria Steinem, "I Was a Playboy Bunny"; and Shulamith Firestone, "The Dialectic of Sex" (electronic reserve).
- Th 9/1 **Online Assignment 1 due at noon.** Discuss research results. Finish discussing Stanton, Truth, Steinem, and Firestone.

Gender Studies I: Third-Wave and International Feminisms

- Tu 9/6 Discuss Jennifer Baumgardner and Amy Richards, "What is Feminism?" (at <http://www.feminist.com/resources/artspeech/genwom/whatisfem.htm>); Thomas Laqueur, "Orgasm, Generation, the Politics of Reproductive Biology" and "Lutz and Collins, "The Color of Sex" (both in *The Gender/Sexuality Reader*)
Th 9/8 Finish discussing Baumgardner and Richards, Laqueur, and Lutz and Collins.
- Tu 9/13 In-class screening: Katja von Garnier, *Iron-Jawed Angels*.
Th 9/15 Discuss Garnier.
- Tu 9/20 Discuss Ann Laura Stoler, "Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power"; Amartya Sen, "Population"; and Lila Abu Lughod, "Movie Stars and Islamic Morality in Egypt" (all in *The G/S Reader*).
Th 9/22 No class: Professor out of town for conference.
- Tu 9/27 No class: Professor lecturing at Georgia Tech's Tuesday Talks Series.
Th 9/29 **Online Assignment 2 due at noon.** Discuss results. Finish discussing Stoler, Sen, and Lughod.
- Tu 10/4 Exam 1 prep day: bring all questions to class.
Th 10/6 **Exam 1 in-class.**

Gender Studies II: The Men's Movement and Gay and Lesbian Rights Activism

- Tu 10/11 Lecture on the men's movement and masculinity studies. Discuss Anne Fausto-Sterling, "How to Build a Man"; Matthew C. Gutmann, "Seed of the Nation"; and Geraldine Heng and Janadas Devan, "State Fatherhood" (all in *The G/S Reader*).
Th 10/13 **Online Assignment 3 due at noon..** Discuss results. Finish discussing Fausto-Sterling, Gutmann, and Heng and Devan.
- Tu 10/18 No class: Fall recess.
Th 10/25 Discuss John D'Emelio, "Capitalism and Gay Identity" and Arlene Stein, "Sisters and Queers" (both in *The G/S Reader*).
- Tu 11/1 Finish discussing D'Emelio and Stein.

Th 11/3 **Online Assignment 4 due at noon..** Discuss results and the final paper assignment.

Gender Studies III: A Case Study of Gender and Science in Science Fiction

Tu 11/8 Discuss Joanna Russ, "Images of Women in Science Fiction" and Jane Donawerth, "Utopian Science... and Science Fiction by Women" (both on electronic reserve).

Th 11/10 No class: independent reading day.

Tu 11/15 Continue discussion of Russ and Donawerth.

Th 11/17 Discuss Marge Piercy, *He, She, and It*.

Tu 11/22 Finish discussing Piercy/ Exam 2 prep day. Bring all questions to class.

Th 11/24 No class: Thanksgiving holiday.

Tu 11/29 Finish Exam 2 prep. Class wrap-up.

Th 12/1 **Exam 2 in-class.**

Tu 12/6 No class: independent conferences with professor 12-5 pm.

Th 12/8 No class: independent conferences with professor 12-5 pm.

Tu 12/13 **Final papers due by email at 5 pm today.**