

WGSS 105 Fall 2017
Transnational Perspectives on Gender, Race, Sexuality, and Class
Sonita Sarker

Class: Old Main 009

Office: OM 317/Mailbox OM 409

PH: 696-6316

Hours: MWF 1:10-2:10 pm

Office hours: MWF 2:15-3:15 pm

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REQUIRED TEXTS:

Kirk, Gwyn, and Margo Okazawa-Rey. *Women's Lives: Multicultural Perspectives*. 5th Edition.
Zinn, Maxine Baca, et al, eds. *Gender Through the Prism of Difference*. 4th Edition.

SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS (on Moodle course page):

Davis, Angela. "Women in Egypt: A Personal View" from *Women, Culture, and Politics*.

Falk, Richard. "The Making of Global Citizenship" from *Global Visions*.

Smith, Barbara. "Racism in Women's Studies" from *Haciendo Caras*, pp. 25-28.

Walker, Alice. "Definition of Womanist" from *Haciendo Caras*, p. 370.

REQUIREMENTS:

Your participation is the key to making this course intellectually stimulating and socially vibrant. Our careful reflection on what you and others are saying, and on communicating your different opinions with both respect and precision will make these following tasks exciting:

- A) Forum (including use of supplementary readings, resources at the end of chapters in the course textbooks, and radio/other news sources)
- B) Mini-essays
- C) Oral presentations

A) FORUM: You will be part of an assigned group and submit entries when it is the turn for your group. Each of you in the group must post on Moodle, **BY SUNDAY 10 pm**, ONE question involving one or more of the texts assigned for the Monday of the upcoming week. You may reflect briefly on an aspect of the past week's discussion if you consider it relevant. Use the "Questions for Reflection," "Finding Out More on the Web," and "Taking Action" at the end of the relevant chapters in WL for a partial basis for your post.

Check Moodle to read the list of questions already there, to look for correlations, before you submit your entry. Please imagine questions that elicit responses about the implications of textual content, rather than 'yes'/'no' or only factual research. **I encourage use of the external sources listed in (A) above.** The question should be followed by a short comment on the relationship of your query to a point of personal interest in the materials assigned. The question and comment should total no longer than 200 words.

Please be prepared to summarize your point in class as a quick refresher. 5 points will be deducted from your grade if you are later than the deadline and you must wait for the next time your group is due.

Please make sure you know when your group is due. You will, however, be graded individually, based on your own entry. For grading guidelines, please see page 4 of the syllabus.

B) MINI-ESSAYS: an in-class assignment in which a prompt and a structure will be offered by the instructor and on which you **will write for about 20-30 minutes**. The focus will be on the readings from recent past sessions; you will have access to your books and notes, and extra credit will be given for using short, relevant quotations from the assigned materials. The assignment is completed and will be collected in class. **Absences** cannot be made up or compensated. You will be graded individually. In the last weeks of the semester, there is an option to revise up to 2 of the mini-essays.

PLAGIARISM is defined as the use of another's ideas without acknowledgement. Since this is considered a serious matter, please consult a style handbook on the correct way to record another person's opinions; ask me or a librarian if you are still confused.

C) ORAL PRESENTATIONS: a **one-time** in-class activity for which you will present in pairs. This is a graded requirement that is based on the material assigned for the date that you sign up. You will be graded individually.

Advantages: Your moment in the spotlight! You may grasp this opportunity to display your individuality and teamwork in expressing ideas.

Disadvantages: None.

What do you do?

- Provide a Title to your presentation that indicates your argument about the texts;
- Outline (not summarize) particular aspects/themes/ideas of the texts for that day; points will be deducted for summarizing the texts;
- Compare/contrast these texts and previous/outside readings to support your opinion/argument; bring in a visual image or soundtrack to highlight a point;
- Pose a couple of questions based on your opinions to elicit discussion.

Time allotted: **15 minutes maximum** (please observe time-limit). You are most welcome to consult me beforehand about the presentation, if you have any questions about organization and format. My suggestion is that the presentation be uninterrupted, followed by a general discussion.

Reminder: Sign up for the oral presentation as early in the semester as you can and make a note of this event in your diary. You are responsible for remembering the date. If you have to cancel a scheduled presentation, please let me know well in advance. You may reschedule but only once.

Participation in class discussion, in the online forum, and in oral presentations, is extremely important. One suggestion is to write comments/questions in your notebook while reading and/or consulting past class notes.

CONFERENCES: I value individual conferences highly and encourage them since, for all of the above, frequent communication is necessary. My office hours are printed on pages 1 and 5 of this syllabus. Leave a note, with your preferred contact information, in my mailbox (or slip it under my office door), or e-mail me, or talk with me after class if you wish to make

an appointment other than the times indicated, for any aspect of the class. I urge you to take advantage of this practice. I take great pride in knowing you individually. Please time your appointments or questions with at least 24 hours notice, if not visiting during office hours. I am not available between Friday 5 p.m. and Monday noon.

Regular attendance is the basis of good performance on your part, and is an inspiration for me to work harder. I will make a record of your attendance. Remember, attendance also means punctuality, an important aspect of your presence as a member of the class. Please inform me in advance, by email, voicemail, or in person if you plan to be absent. When it is an emergency, please also leave a message as soon as is possible.

Please see the attached grade-guide (page 4 of syllabus).

I am committed to providing assistance to help you be successful in this course. Reasonable accommodations are available for students with documented disabilities. Allie Quinn (651-696-6874 or aquinn2@mac... or disabilityservices@mac...) serves as the coordinator for services for students with disabilities. It is important to meet with her at the beginning of the semester to ensure that your accommodations are approved and in place to begin the semester successfully.

P.S. This is an exciting and rigorous course. You must meet all the requirements outlined above, consistently and productively, so that you may reap the maximum benefit. Inability to complete the various assignments, to participate in an alert manner, or to present one's original and honest opinions, will result in great disappointment for you and for me. It will defeat the purpose of exploration.

Having said all this, I WELCOME YOU AND I HOPE YOU ENJOY THIS COURSE!!

S. Sarker Fall 2017

WGSS 105
Guide to Grading

MWF 1:10-2:10 pm

For the **Forum**:

A for entries that raise thought-provoking questions, establish unique/interesting/significant connections to one's disciplinary interests, within/between texts, or to issues external to the class, maintain precision and clarity of thought, and provide succinct summaries of relevant ideas discussed.

B for entries that adequately summarize selected/relevant ideas from class-discussion, establish a valid and straightforward connection to one's disciplinary interests.

C for entries that summarize ideas in a sketchy manner, leave connections unclear, and dwells on obvious details that are not stimulating in their significance.

A+	100 - 97
A	96 - 94
A-	93 - 91
A-/B+	90
B+	89 - 87
B	86 - 84
B-	83 - 81
B-/C+	80
C+	79 - 77
C	76 - 74
C-	71 - 73
C-/D+	70
D+	69 - 67
D	66 - 64
D-	63 - 61
F	60 and below

When averaging final grades, any number at the upper limit that carries a +0.5 value will be rounded to the next highest number at the discretion of the instructor, e.g., a final average of 89.5 could become 90, meaning a final grade of A-/B+ rather than a B+ (which is not bad in itself). That will enhance the value of your performance, and give you some advantage and a lot of credit!

GRADE DISTRIBUTION FOR THE COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Mini-essays	40%
Oral Presentation	20%
Forum	10%
Participation	20%
Attendance	10%

If you have any questions or suggestions, feel free to talk to me.

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Abbreviations: *Women's Lives* (WL), *Gender Through the Prism of Difference* (PD)

WEEK 1

Wed, September 6

Introduction

Fri, September 8

POINTS OF VIEW: LOCAL and GLOBAL

“The Social Construction of Gender” and “Patriarchy, the System” (WL 64-77); The Take-Away Exercise.

WEEK 2

Mon, September 11

“The Five Sexes...” (PD 13-18) and “What it means...” (PD 72-81); discussion of presentations and mini-essays

Wed, September 12

“Identities and Social Locations” (WL 101-115); “We’re all Intersex” (PD 505-507). PRACTICE MINI-ESSAY

Fri, September 15

WL 115-145; The Take-Away Exercise.

WEEK 3

Mon, September 18

WL 145-170; Smith (moodle); MINI-ESSAY #1

Wed, September 20

PD, pp. 233-244 and pp. 259-267. PRESENTATION #1.

Fri, September 22

“Dude...” (PD 464-475); “Confessions” (PD 532-536); PRESENTATION #2. The Take-Away Exercise.

WEEK 4

Mon, September 25

HISTORIES AND THEORIES

WL, pp. 3-49. PRESENTATION #3.

Wed, September 27

WL, pp. 51-64; Davis (moodle). PRESENTATION #4.

Fri, September 29

WL 77-98; “Theorizing Difference from Multiracial Feminism” (PD 19-25). Walker (supplement); The Take-Away Exercise.

WEEK 5

Mon, October 2

GLOBALIZATION

WL, pp.363-382; “Masculinities and Globalization” (PD 38-50); Falk (moodle). PRESENTATION #5.

Wed, October 4 WL, pp. 383-415; “The Sex Tourist...” (PD 173-185).
PRESENTATION #6.

Fri, October 6 “Antiglobalization Pedagogies and Feminism” (PD 58-64); “The
Globalization of Sexual Identities (PD 186-196).

WEEK 6

Mon, October 9

BODY IMAGE and SEXUALITY

WL, pp. 173-189. MINI-ESSAY #2

Wed, October 11

WL, pp. 189-206; PD, pp. 26-37 and pp. 145-162;
PRESENTATION #7.

Fri, October 13

PD, pp. 197-231. PRESENTATION #8. The Take-Away
Exercise.

WEEK 7

Mon, October 16

MOM-DAD-CHILD(REN), a.k.a. THE FAMILY

WL, pp. 307-322; PD, pp. 269-323. PRESENTATION #9

Wed, October 18

WL, pp. 322-360; PD, pp. 353-369; The Take-Away Exercise.
PRESENTATION #10.

Fri, October 20

HEALTH

“Women’s Health” (WL 209-227); PRESENTATION #11.

WEEK 8

Mon, October 23

WL, pp. 227-256; “Ageism and Feminism...” (PD 26-37).
PRESENTATION #12.

Wed, October 25

WL, pp. 259-304; “It’s a Big Fat Revolution” (PD 67-71);
PRESENTATION #13. The Take-Away Exercise.

Thursday, October 26 – Sunday, October 29 FALL BREAK

WEEK 9

Mon, October 30

EDUCATION

PD 435-463; PRESENTATION #14.

Wed, November 1

Monday’s readings contd.; MINI-ESSAY #3.

Fri, November 3

ENVIRONMENT

WL, pp. 503-536; PRESENTATION #15. The Take-Away
Exercise.

WEEK 10

Mon, November 6

WL, pp. 536-559.

Wed, November 8

LAW and ORDER

WL, pp. 417-432. PRESENTATION #16.

Fri, November 10

WL, pp. 432-462; PRESENTATION #17; The Take-Away Exercise.

WEEK 11

Mon, November 13

“Doing Time, Doing Masculinity” (PD 82-86).
MINI-ESSAY #4.

Wed, November 15

WAR AND PEACE

WL, pp. 465-482; PRESENTATION #18.

Fri, November 17

WL, 482-501. PRESENTATION #19.

WEEK 12

Mon, November 20

PD, pp. 163-196; Review.

Wed, November 22—Sun, November 26 Thanksgiving Break

WEEK 13

Mon, November 27

“Brides of Palestine” (PD 131-143). PRESENTATION #20.

Wed, November 19

CHANGE

WL, pp. 560-575. PRESENTATION #21.

Fri, December 1

WL, pp. 575-595; “We’re all Sisters” (PD 511-526);
PRESENTATION #22. The Take-Away Exercise.

WEEK 14

Mon, December 4

WL, pp. 600-615; PRESENTATION #23.

Wed December 6

“The Rio Declaration” (PD 508-510); “A Women’s History Report Card...” (PD 527-531). PRESENTATION #24.

Fri December 8

“Deploying Race...” (PD 114-124); The Take-Away Exercise.

WEEK 15

Mon December 11

WL Glossary G1-G6.

Wed December 13

Review.

Optional Mini-Essay Revisions DUE Friday, December 21, by 5 p.m. through Macalester Email