

WST 4930/WST 6935 (class # 30167 / # 29446)
**PROFESSIONAL PATHWAYS IN GENDER, SEXUALITY,
AND WOMEN'S STUDIES**

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructors:

Dr. Aimée Bourassa (she/they) aimeebourassa@ufl.edu
Dr. Jillian Hernandez (she/her) jillianhernandez@ufl.edu
Dr. Alyssa Zucker (she/her) azucker@ufl.edu

Office hours:

Dr. Bourassa: Wednesdays 4-5pm, Thursdays 11am-12pm, and by appointment on Zoom or in Farrior
Dr. Hernandez: Wednesdays, 10:00-11:30am and by appointment on Zoom or in Ustler
Dr. Zucker: Tuesdays 10:30-noon, Thursdays 1-2:30, and by appointment on Zoom or in Ustler

Meeting location is provided on Canvas.

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This course is a new collaboration between Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies and the *Beyond120* program. It empowers GSWS students to connect their scholarly training with professional pathways to start building successful, thriving, and abundant post-graduate lives. With collaborative mentorship and guidance from three co-faculty in a small group setting, the course offers opportunities to engage with guest speakers and alums in addition to community and internship partners. Students will articulate their unique professional strengths, values, and goals while learning about GSWS career paths and important aspects of financial literacy. Students will identify key professional pathways, develop professional skills, and create a portfolio (e.g., LinkedIn profile, cover letter, résumé, and elevator pitch).

- Articulate the values and skills of GSWS and how to translate them
- Apply transferable skills and experience to multiple professional pathways
- Deliver a clear and effective "elevator pitch"
- Identify key elements of career development and adulting in GSWS
- Construct effective professional materials to launch a professional life
- Confidently explore and pursue professional opportunities

COURSE MATERIALS

- Required books for graduate students enrolled in the class (recommended for undergraduate students)

Big Fat Black Girl, by Sesali Bowen, (2021, HarperCollins Publishers)

Emergent Strategy: Shaping Change, Changing Worlds, by adrienne marie brown (2017, AK Press)

- All other assigned material available through Canvas
- Materials and Supplies Fees: None

ASSESSMENT AND GRADES**Graded Course Activities (Instructions available through Canvas)**

We calculate grades in this course using a point system. Assignments have corresponding point values that add up to a maximum of 100. Point values for assignments are listed below.

Undergraduate students:

- Elevator pitch - 10 points
- Skills map and position posting/grad school analysis - 10 points
- Entry and exit tickets for guest events - 15 points (3 x 5 points each)
- LinkedIn - 10 points
- Resume - 15 points
- Cover letter or graduate school statement of purpose - 15 points
- Developmental plan - 15 points
- Attendance and participation - 10 points

Graduate students:

- Response papers - 15 points (3 x 5 points each)
- Elevator pitch - 10 points
- Skills map and position posting/grad school analysis - 10 points
- Entry and exit tickets for guest events - 15 points (3 x 5 points each)
- LinkedIn - 10 points
- Resume - 10 points
- Cover letter or graduate school statement of purpose - 10 points
- Developmental plan - 10 points
- Attendance and participation - 10 points

Late Submission of Assignments:

Assignments turned in late will lose 1 point per calendar day. If you foresee an issue in completing your assignment on time, please contact the instructors as soon as possible. Assignments over three days late will not be accepted without documentation from a doctor or dean.

Participation and Discussion Guidelines:

Your participation in this course will require your engagement with the course texts and related material. Please be prepared to engage in discussion by having done the assigned reading and work.

This course explores topics that affect people's lives in significant ways. Course topics also relate to contemporary social and cultural issues and as such may result in the sharing of personal perspectives and experiences. We will respect each other's confidentiality and engage one another with consideration. Abusive and harsh language, intimidation and personal attacks will not be tolerated.

Grading Scale and Policies

The grading scale is below and is consistent with UF grading policy:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Grading Scale:

A	100-94 points
A-	93-90 points
B+	89-87 points
B	86-84 points
B-	83-80 points
C+	79-77 points
C	76-74 points
C-	73-70 points
D+	69-67 points
D	66-64 points
D-	63-60 points
E	59—0 points

COURSE CALENDAR

This calendar is subject to change for pedagogical or logistical reasons. To the extent possible, students will be notified in advance of any such changes. Additional information is available on Canvas in the weekly modules.

DATE	TOPIC	Assignment or Activity Due
Module 1: Values and skills of GSWS and how to translate them		
Jan 10	Introduction to the class and each other	
Jan 17	Women's Studies Impact *Grad students read <i>Emergent Strategy</i> , stay until 3:50 pm for discussion	Grad response paper 1
Jan 24	Introspection	
Jan 31	How to talk about WGSS	Skills map and position posting/ grad school analysis
Feb 7	Elevator pitches	Elevator pitch
Module 2: Building industry literacy and GSWS career pathways		
Feb 14	Networking and branding	
Feb 21	Recent alum panel	Entry & Exit tickets 1 LinkedIn
Feb 28	Financial literacy Podcast "Let's Talk About Money: Demystifying your finances with Paco de Leon"	Grad response paper 2

	Introduction and “Run Me My Money” chapter of <i>Bad Fat Black Girl</i> (*Grad students read full book, stay until 3:50 for discussion)	
Mar 6	Sesali Bowen visit	Entry & Exit tickets 2
Mar 13	No class-Spring Break	
Module 3: Launching a professional life (professional portfolios, etc.)		
Mar 20	Grad School 101	
Mar 27	Resume and cover letter	
Apr 3	Communications and interview strategies	
Apr 10	One-on-one review	Grad response paper 3 Résumé Cover letter OR grad school SOP
Apr 17	Panel of Professionals	Entry & Exit tickets 3
Apr 24	Final reflections and filming of testimonies	Developmental plan

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Attendance and Lateness:

This class meets once a week and requires fruitful engagement, so attendance is mandatory and lateness is strongly discouraged. However, life happens and we don't want you to come to class if you are actively ill. Absences and lateness due to medical reasons or other extenuating circumstances are considered excused with proper documentation. Communicate with the instructors if you anticipate being absent or late, or as soon as possible in the event of an emergency. Otherwise, each missed class will decrease your final grade by five points. You will be considered “late” if you arrive after the scheduled start time for the course. Three instances of lateness will be considered equivalent to an absence and impact your final grade accordingly. Students in need of additional services and support are encouraged to consult the Dean of Students Office (<https://dso.ufl.edu/>). Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Required Event Attendance:

While every attempt is made to schedule conversations with guest speakers during the class meeting time, that is not always possible. Attendance at these events is required. If you have a recurring course conflict, unmissable obligation or other condition that prevents attendance, you must contact the instructors to discuss alternative activities or accommodations.

Accommodations:

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructors and discuss their access needs as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluations:

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**Correspondence:**

We can answer questions during office hours or via email. Please be aware that we receive a high volume of emails; if your query is time-sensitive, please indicate that in the subject line. Questions that require substantive engagement, such as commentary on an assignment, would be best addressed during office hours. We expect you to check your UF email at least once a day in the event that there is a schedule change or if we need to send you important information. Class alerts will be sent via the Canvas system.

Academic Integrity:

Whether intentional or inadvertent, plagiarism is a serious violation. All work submitted in this course must be your own. The use of sources such as ideas, quotations, paraphrases, or anything written by someone else must be properly acknowledged and cited. If you have questions about the proper citation of sources, please ask us. Students who plagiarize, or who cheat on an exam, will be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with university policy.

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructors in this class.

In-Class Recording:

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructors.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions,

student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or guest lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructors is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

For a list of additional campus resources, see section C 5 here:

https://syllabus.ufl.edu/media/syllabusufledu/syllabi_policy_09_09_2022.pdf

The Office for Accessibility and Gender Equity <https://titleix.ufl.edu/>

Office of Victim Services 1515 Museum Road, (352) 392-5648 (Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) (352) 392-1111 (after business hours and on weekends)

Alachua County Victim Services & Rape Crisis Center 352-264-6760 Monday-Friday, 8:30AM - 5PM, some services available 24/7

Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network 352-377-8255 (24-hour helpline)