

## WST2611: HUMANITIES PERSPECTIVES ON GENDER AND SEXUALITY

Section 2611 – Class # 13381 (Summer B)

MTWHF 3 (See Canvas for Location)

**Instructor:** Dr. Joanna Neville (She/her/hers)

**Email:** [jneville@ufl.edu](mailto:jneville@ufl.edu)

**Phone:** You may leave a message OR you may TEXT your question or concern to

352-327-8039. If you leave a message after 8pm, I will answer the next business day. Please make sure to include your name and class.

Office: 102 Ustler Hall

**Office Hours:** See Canvas for Information

**Graduate Teaching Assistant:** Ecem Ece (They/Them) ([emineeece@ufl.edu](mailto:emineeece@ufl.edu))

**Office Hours:** See Canvas for Information

1. **Rationale:** Gender is not only an important dimension of individual identity but a major dimension of the social structure. This course considers the social construction of gender, sexuality, race, class, and other identity categories. We will rely on close readings and analysis of texts coupled with examination of historical, cultural, and societal factors. This approach will emphasize ideologies that inhabit, haunt, and shape the texts [and their authors], how style elements reflect and inform a text's discourse, how no text exists in an artistic vacuum, and that a multitude of interpretations exist for any text we study. The class strongly focuses on developing compassion and understanding as well as examining prejudices that hinder human beings from relating to one another.

When we examine gender, we must also consider race, social class, and sexuality. This approach is what we call an intersectional perspective. In this class we will examine the ways in which gender intersects with these other categories to produce different gendered experiences within U.S society.

2. **Course Aims, Objectives, and Outcomes:** This course, offered through the Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research, focuses on a humanities perspective on sex and gender.

### WST 2611 satisfies the General Education Requirements for the following areas:

#### **Writing Requirement (WR) 2,000 words**

The Writing Requirement (WR) ensures students both maintain their fluency in writing and use writing as a tool to facilitate learning. Course grades have two components. To receive writing requirement credit, a student must receive a grade of C or higher and a satisfactory completion of the writing component of the course. Your instructor will evaluate and provide feedback on all of your written assignments with respect to grammar, punctuation, clarity, coherence, and organization.

#### **Diversity (D)**

Diversity courses provide instruction in the values, attitudes and norms that create cultural differences within the United States. These courses encourage students to recognize how social roles and status affect different groups in the United States. Students are expected to analyze and evaluate their own cultural norms and values in relation to those of other cultures, and to distinguish opportunities and constraints faced by other persons and groups. You must earn a "C" grade or higher to receive Diversity credit. The topic of diversity will be threaded into all our class meetings. We will discuss how the issues of diversity that appear in the critical essays and films we study intersect in students' lives and experiences.

#### **Humanities (H)**

Humanities courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and theory or methodologies used within a humanities discipline or the humanities in general. Students will learn to identify and to analyze the key elements, biases and influences that shape thought. These courses emphasize clear and effective analysis and approach issues and problems from multiple perspectives. You must earn a "C" grade or higher to receive Humanities credit. The topic of humanities studies will be threaded into all our class meetings. We will discuss how the issues of the humanities that appear in the critical essays and films we study intersect in students' lives and experiences.

Students will learn to identify, describe, and explain social institutions, structures or processes. These courses emphasize the effective application of accepted problem-solving techniques. Students will apply formal and informal qualitative or quantitative analysis to examine the processes and means by which individuals make personal and group decisions as well as the evaluation of opinions, outcomes, or human behavior. Students are expected to assess and analyze ethical perspectives in individual and societal decisions. At the end of this course, students will be expected to have achieved the following learning outcomes concerning content, communication, and critical thinking: **Content:** Demonstrate competence in the terminology, concepts, theories, and methodologies used within the discipline. **Communication:** Communicate knowledge, ideas, and reasoning clearly and effectively in written and oral forms appropriate to the discipline. **Critical Thinking:** Analyze information carefully and logically from multiple perspectives, using discipline-specific methods, and develop reasoned solutions to problems

**Specific Learning Objectives:** Introduce students to basic concepts and theories through their application to the study of gender, sex, and sexualities.

By the end of the course, students will:

- Recognize that observed differences in women's and men's lives are influenced by societal forces; that is, the social construction of gender in everyday lives.
- Understand the ways in which women's and men's life experiences vary by race, ethnicity, social class, sexual identity, and age
- Apply analytical concepts developed through class reading and discussion to written assignments.
- Describe the concept of gender as a performance undertaken within specific historical circumstances.
- Establish a quality of writing at the level of sentences, paragraphing, and constructing arguments that complies with the requirements of a "2,000 word" class

**TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES:** For issues with technical difficulties for Canvas, please contact the UF Help Desk, not me. Here's the help desk contact info: <http://helpdesk.ufl.edu> • (352) 392-HELP (4357) • Walk-in: HUB 132 Any requests for make-ups due to technical issues should be accompanied by the ticket number received from the Help Desk when the problem was reported to them. The ticket number will document the time and date of the problem. You should e-mail me within 24 hours of the technical difficulty if you wish to request a make- up or extension.

3. **REQUIREMENTS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND ASSESSMENTS:** A careful reading of the text is essential for success in this course. All of the assessments are based on your understanding of the material presented in the text(s). Students are expected to participate in a mature and responsible manner and respect the rights of others and their opinions.
4. **ESTABLISHING A QUALITY LEARNING ENVIRONMENT:** People learn best when they are encouraged to ask questions and express their diverse opinions on course content, which may include images, texts, data, and theories from across the disciplines. This is especially true in courses that deal with provocative or contemporary issues. In this class, *Humanities Perspectives on Gender and Sexuality*, students will encounter concepts of race, color, sex, and/or national origin. We teach these important issues because understanding them is essential for anyone who seeks to make economic, cultural, and societal contributions to today's complex world. With this in mind, we do not limit access to, or classroom discussion of, facts, ideas, and opinions—including those that some may find uncomfortable, unwelcome, disagreeable, or even offensive. In response to challenging material, students and instructors are encouraged to ask honest questions and thoughtfully engage one another's ideas. But hostility, disruptive and disrespectful behavior, and provocation for provocation's sake have no place in a classroom; reasonable people disagree reasonably. These guidelines can help instructors and students as they work together to fulfill the mission of the University of Florida, which includes the exploration of intellectual boundaries, the creation of new knowledge, and the pursuit of new ideas.

If students have concerns about classroom issues, disagreements, or grades, your first point of contact is me, your instructor. Please see my contact information at the top of this syllabus and on Canvas. I am always available and open to discuss concerns.

#### REQUIRED TEXTS:

1. Reid, Taylor Jenkins. *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* (ISBN: 9781501139239)

2. Gregorio, I.W. *None of the Above* (ISBN: 9780062335319)
3. Wolf, Virginia. *Orlando* (ISBN: 9780141184272)
4. Piepzna-Samarasinha, Leah Lakshmi. *BodyMap*. (ISBN: 9781927494509)

### Attendance

Attendance in this course is recommended, but it is not required. I may offer bonus points on days of attendance selected at random.

### Assessments:

1. **Essay Papers** (3x25 =75 points): These (4) response papers help students identify and develop an understanding of the construction of knowledge and also develop critical thinking, reading, and writing skills. The essays will require you to incorporate the themes we've learned in each section of the course and how they apply to a text we've explored in class. The prompt is posted on Canvas. You will have some time dedicated to completing this assignment where you will not be required to attend class or read. They are due no later than the listed time/day. Each response needs to have a minimum of 675 words and maximum of 750. See the assignment page for rubric. Submit via Canvas. You will receive points off for late projects. This will total the 2,000-word requirement.
2. **Participation Total: 40 points**
  - A. Participation Reflections Discussion Posts (5x3=15 pts): These assignments connect the material to the lived local experiences of students as well as more global ones. You are required to "reflect" or comment on at least one of the additional articles that correspond to each section by posting on the Discussion thread. You will also have introductions and "take-away" posts. Your post must be at least 100 words and analyze the topic and how the article intersects with the topic. The reflections must critically analyze the MATERIAL. Tie it back to the material for that week. They must be posted from the author's account and must be original. **I will use these posts as a jumping off for our in-class discussions, so be prepared to discuss your post.** All posts will be via Canvas.
  - B. Discussion Responses (5x2= 10 points): These responses allow students to interact with each other and learn others' perspectives. You are to comment on the chapter discussion posts for the section. You should be respectful of the content. Do not criticize or attack one's character. This is different from disagreeing with someone's viewpoints. You can agree or disagree or simply note something interesting about the post. Tie your arguments back to the material. All posts are via Canvas.

WRITING REQUIREMENT: This course has a 2000 word writing requirement. For more information about UF's writing requirement, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/student-responsibilities/writing-requirement/> In essence, your papers are evaluated not only for content but also for construction and writing style. \*Please note: An earned grade of C minus will not be a qualifying grade for your major, minor, Gen. Ed., or basic distribution credits.

### Grading Scale

This class is worth a total of 100 points. Each assignment is worth a portion of that total Check out the below scale to see how your points will translate to grades.

Grade	GPA	Per 100 points
A	4.0	93– 100
A-	3.67	90 – 92
B+	3.00	87 – 89
B	3.0	83 – 86
B-	2.67	80 – 82
C+	2.33	77 – 79
C	2.0	73 – 76
C-	1.67	70 – 72
D+	1.33	67 – 69
D	1.0	63 – 66
D-	0.67	60 – 62
E	0.00	0 - 59

\*There MAY be opportunities for bonus points.

\*\*More information about grades and UF's grading policies is available in the Undergraduate Catalog  
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies>

## 5. UNIVERSITY POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND RESOURCES

**UF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** This course will subscribe to the University of Florida Student Honor Code. A central part of the UF Honor Code is the Honor Pledge: "The Honor Pledge: We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Student 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." Further information about the UF Honor Code and guidelines for Academic Honesty are here.

In this course, plagiarism or cheating of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in failing the course and other disciplinary action. In all instances, you must do your own work. There is no excuse for plagiarism, or for submitting another's work, ideas, or wording as your own. This includes using direct quotes from online sources without citation or submitting a paper you bought but did not write. Ignorance is not an excuse. Please be aware that there are various anti-plagiarism techniques available for use by University of Florida faculty that enables faculty members to determine if research papers have been plagiarized. There is a difference between plagiarism and collaboration. Collaboration, for purposes of this class, is the act of discussing ideas with classmates, debating issues, and examining readings from the class together so that each of you arrives at your own independent thought. Collaboration in this class is encouraged.

**STUDENT CONDUCT CODE AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT:** This course also operates under UF's Student Conduct Code. The Student Conduct Code is a set of standards and regulations which describe the rights, privileges, and responsibilities for all currently enrolled students at the University of Florida. For more information, click here. UF provides an educational and working environment for its students, faculty, and staff that is free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment. For more information, see UF policies regarding harassment. Furthermore, in order to make this an effective course for everyone, all participants will be expected to meet the professional standards of integrity expected for members of the Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research. This means I expect all participants to interact with peers "professionally," meaning with honesty, ethical behavior, cultural sensitivity, teamwork, and effective communication. Additionally, I expect all course participants will fulfill work obligations in a thoughtful and timely way, and display collegiality and sensitivity to faculty and other students.

**UF GENDER EQUITY:** The Office for Accessibility and Gender Equity provides support to anyone affected by sexual or gender-based misconduct, harassment, or discrimination. Please know that both your instructor in this course is considered Officials with Authority who are required to report violations of the gender equity policy. "Title IX is a federal law that requires officials with the authority to take action, to report violations of the gender equity policy. Officials with authority must report these violations to the Title IX Coordinator or their deputies. The obligation to report applies whenever an Official with Authority receives, in the course and scope of employment, information about the alleged misconduct and policy violation. The report must include all information known to the employee which would be relevant to an investigation or redress of the incident, including whether the alleged victim has expressed a desire for confidentiality." For further information, including how to make a report, click here. Below are some specialist support services. You might not need them, but you might know someone who does. For specialist support in the aftermath of sexual assault, the Office of Victim Services on campus offer confidential, free support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Office of Victim Services : 1515 Museum Road, (352) 392-5648 (Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) Phone: (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)

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** The University of Florida is committed to providing equal educational access to students with disabilities. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) collaborates with campus partners to facilitate access and inclusion for

Gators with disabilities. Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the UF Disability Resource Center (0001 Building 0020-Reid Hall, [accessuf@dso.ufl.edu](mailto:accessuf@dso.ufl.edu); Voice 352-392-8565; Fax, 352-392-8570) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodations. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester. Information for students from the DRC is available [here](#). In this course, I am committed to providing equitable education access through reasonable accommodations as outlined in your accommodation letter. Please notify me within the first two weeks of class about any accommodations needed for the course. Late notification may cause the requested accommodation to be unavailable.

**COMMUNITY RESOURCES:** Your well-being is important to the University of Florida. The U Matter, We Care initiative is committed to creating a culture of care on our campus by encouraging members of our community to look out for one another and to reach out for help if a member of our community is in need. If you or a friend is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu) so that the U Matter, We Care Team can reach out to the student in distress. A nighttime and weekend crisis counselor are available by phone at 352-392-1575. The U Matter, We Care Team can help connect students to the many other helpful resources available including, but not limited to, Victim Advocates, Housing staff, and the Counseling and Wellness Center. Please remember that asking for help is a sign of strength. In case of emergency, call 9-1-1. Here are additional resources:

- Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or visit [shcc.ufl.edu](http://shcc.ufl.edu).
- UF Health Shands Emergency Room/Trauma Center: For immediate medical care in Gainesville, call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center](http://ufhealth.org/emergency-room-trauma-center).

**EXTRA COURSE FEES:** There are no additional fees for this course.

**ACADEMIC RESOURCES:** E-learning technical support - 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or email to [Learning-support@ufl.edu](mailto:Learning-support@ufl.edu).  
Student help FAQs

- Library support - Ask-a-librarian. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources
- Teaching Center - Broward Hall, (352) 392-2010 or 392-6420. Study skills workshops, study groups, and tutoring.
- University Writing Studio - 2215 Turlington Hall, (352) 846-1138, The UF Writing Program offers all UF students help in the ongoing process of becoming better writers via one-on-one tutoring, online tutoring, and workshops.
- Career Connections Center - 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

## CLASS POLICIES

- **Attendance** : Attendance in this course is recommended, but not required.
- **UF POLICY ON MAKING UP MISSED WORK:** Attendance and Make-up Policy: As with any excused absence, you will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up missed work. 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>
- In the case of an absence due to participation in an official university activity, observance of a religious holiday, performance of a military duty, or any other university-approved absence (e.g., jury duty) which the student knows about in advance, the student is expected to notify the instructor of the conflict before the assignment is due, and if possible, at the start of the semester.
- **Course Evaluation Process** : 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.ua.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the e-mail they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluer.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.ua.ufl.edu/public-results/>.
- **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 instructor. 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 lecturer during a class session. Publication without permission of the instructor 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.

### Consider Adding a (second) Major in Women’s Studies!

Do you want to learn about issues of diversity, power, equity, and justice and gain the scholarly knowledge and skills to change the world? Adding the Women’s Studies major can deepen your critical thinking, analysis, and skills in intersectional feminist approaches to studying and transforming gender, race, class, sexualities and other systems of power. The Women’s Studies major shows graduate schools and employers that you bring advanced knowledge and skills about diversity and equity issues. The 30-credit Women’s Studies major consists of four core courses and six electives. It’s simple to combine with another major, and up to 15 credits can double count with another degree (English, Psychology, and Sociology in particular have many courses that can double count). It’s also the perfect complement to pre-health studies. Contact undergraduate coordinator Dr. Alyssa Zucker (azucker@ufl.edu) to make an appointment to discuss adding the major.

6. **Tentative Schedule.** \*Subject to change by instructor. Last day to withdraw for a “W” is August 4<sup>th</sup> Please be sure you have all the required books before the start of class. You can get physical copies of the books or an electronic version. This schedule is subject to change with fair notice provided. Please pay close attention to the course calendar, announcements, and emails. All reading should be completed BEFORE Write them down and plan ahead!

Schedule	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1: Section One: Understanding Sex and Gender and Social Construction  Reading: None of the Above July 3-7	Classes Start	No Class: Independence Day	Introduction Posts Due		Discussion Post #1 Due
Week Two: Understanding Sex and Gender and Social Construction  Reading: Orlando  Week 2 : July 10-14					Essay Paper #1 Due. We will not meet to give you time to write and to read.

<p>Section Two: Human Sexuality</p> <p>Reading: The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo</p> <p>Week 3: July 17-21</p>					<p>Discussion Post #2 Due</p>
<p>Week 4: Human Sexuality</p> <p>Reading: The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo</p> <p>July 24-28</p>				<p>Essay Paper #2 Due. We will not meet to give you time to write and to read.</p>	
<p>Week 5: Section Three: Intersectionality</p> <p>Reading: BodyMap</p> <p>July 31- August 4</p>				<p>Discussion Post #3 Due</p>	<p>Last day to withdraw for a "W"</p>
<p>Week 6: Intersectionality</p> <p>Reading BodyMap</p> <p>August 7-11</p>			<p>Biggest Take-Away due before 11:59pm</p>	<p>Reading/Writing Day: No class.</p>	<p>Essay Paper # 3 Due BEFORE 3pm!</p> <p>Reading/Writing Day: No class.</p>