

## **WST2612 Social Science Perspectives on Gender and Sex (01BH)**

**Spring 2018**

**Tuesdays 4<sup>th</sup> Period and Thursdays 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Periods**

**Room TUR 2319**

### **INSTRUCTOR:**

**Dr. Constance Shehan**, Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies

**Office Address:** 304 Ustler Hall

**Email contact:** [cshehan@ufl.edu](mailto:cshehan@ufl.edu) (this is the best way to reach me)

**Office Hours:** My hours will vary from week to week. These are posted on Canvas.

### **GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT:**

**Ms. Eva Newbold**, MA Student in Women's Studies

**Office Address:** 102A Ustler Hall

**e-mail contact:** [evavnewbold@ufl.edu](mailto:evavnewbold@ufl.edu)

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays from 11:30-1:00 and Thursdays from 1:00-2:30

### **Course Communication Procedures:**

- 1) **Email:** Use the email addresses listed above to reach me and/or Eva. Please give us 24 hours to respond. We will do our best, however, to respond more quickly than that. If you email on a weekend or over a holiday, our response time may be longer.
- 2) **Course list serve:** You will frequently receive information about the course through the course list serve. Your official UF Gatorlink email address is the one to which course-related messages will be sent. PLEASE CHECK THIS REGULARLY. [If you don't use your Gator link email, please have the mail that is sent there forwarded to the email account you do use on a regular basis.]
- 3) **Canvas Announcements:** Important updates will also be posted on the course website, available on Canvas. CHECK THIS REGULARLY.
- 4) **Office hours:** As noted above, Eva and I will have weekly office hours. If these hours conflict with your schedule, please contact us through email to set up an appointment.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In this course, we examine women's lives from a number of social science disciplines, primarily Sociology, but also including Psychology, Economics, History, Media Studies, and Political Science. Early in the course, we focus on the definitions of gender, the way

in which it is constructed, and its continuing significance in today's world. We also examine gender and sexualities. We focus on the ways in which women's lives are shaped by the socio-historical context in which they/we live. We examine women's "place" in a number of important life domains, such as work and the economy, families, education, religion, politics, science, the criminal justice system, and the media. We also consider ways in which women have actively pushed back at our social systems to change the status quo in regards to their/our lives. We end with a consideration of contemporary feminist theories.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

**In this course, we will work to help advance your knowledge of Women's Studies in the following ways:**

- 1) To reinforce your understanding of basic concepts and theories, as well as their application, in Women's Studies.
- 2) To recognize ways in which women's – and men's – lives are a function of societal forces, as well as biological structures; that is, to help you understand the social construction of gender in everyday lives.
- 3) To understand the ways in which gender is interrelated to other social institutions, such as "family," the economy, education, religion, government/politics, and the mass media.
- 4) To understand the ways in which women's life experiences vary by race, ethnicity, social class, sexuality, and age.
- 5) To understand how gender shapes the distribution of value resources, power, and privilege in ways that systematically benefit men over women.
- 6) And to increase your awareness of the ways in which women have proactively fought to change the aspects of the social structure that create social inequalities for and among women.

### **REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS**

**Textbook:** Margaret Anderson, *Thinking about Women: Sociological Perspectives on Sex and Gender* (Updated 10<sup>th</sup> edition). Paperback. You can buy an e-text version of this book through UF's ALL ACCESS program for less than \$20.

**Top Hat:** This is a student response system which allows you to respond to questions I pose during lecture/discussion. It will also be used to take attendance. More information about this will be provided on Canvas and in class.

**COURSE WEB-SITE:** I will post all course materials on Canvas. You can access the course web-site through Myufl (from the UF homepage). All assignments must be submitted through the web-site or through Top Hat.

**WRITING REQUIREMENTS:** This course has a 2000 word writing requirement. For information about UF's writing requirement, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/writing-requirement.aspx>. Essentially, your papers are evaluated not only for content but also for writing style and grammatical correctness.

#### **CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE:**

When you are in our classroom, your major concern should be learning as much as you can about the subject matter of the course. Thus, you should be physically and mentally engaged in the material that is being presented and discussed without disturbing your fellow learners (including your teachers).

This is a course in which very interesting – and sometimes controversial – issues are considered. Ideally, each of you will be actively involved in classroom discussions. In order for everyone to feel comfortable voicing their opinions or asking questions, a climate of mutual tolerance and respect is essential.

#### **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

By enrolling in this course, you are indicating your consent to the University of Florida Honor Code:

*"We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity. 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."*

Violation of the Honor Code will not be tolerated and can result in immediate failure and additional disciplinary action. If you do not know what behaviors are considered a violation, it is your responsibility to find out. **Visit the following website for more information: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/honorcode.php>**

#### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students who require accommodations must first register with the Disability Resource Center in the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>). The Disability Resource Center will provide documentation for you to submit to your instructors. Please give this documentation to me no later than the second week of class. For more information, contact the Disability Resource Center (which is located at 001 Reid Hall, south side, ground floor) by phone at 392-8565. Please let me and/or Stephanie know if there is anything else we can do to make your experiences in the course more effective and rewarding.

## REQUIREMENTS/ASSIGNMENTS

### ***Attendance and Participation:***

Regular attendance is expected of all students, as is active participation in class sessions. As noted above, we will use Top Hat, which will enable us to record your attendance as well as your participation. Top Hat is a student response system which involves your use of your phone, table, or lap top. Each class you attend is worth 1 point. Each class session in which you actively participate (which is determined by responses to Top Hat questions as well as in-class exercises) is worth 2 points. No points for attendance and participation will be given on the days in which the Mid-term and Final are given. Points available:  $40 \times 1 = 40$  for attendance;  $40 \times 2 = 80$  for participation. Total points: 120. (Please see the University policy on excused absences.)

### ***Weekly Reading Quizzes:***

Starting with Week 2, there will be weekly quizzes. (There will not be a quiz during the week of February 20 or during the first and last week of class.) You can drop the lowest of your 11 quiz grades. Quizzes will take the form of multiple choice questions. See the syllabus for dates on which quizzes will be scheduled. Each quiz will be worth 10 points. Total points available: 100

### ***Analysis and Application Essay***

Throughout the semester, several documentaries will be shown. You will be asked to write a paper that is approximately 1500 words long. Viewing/discussion guidelines will be provided for each documentary. More information will be provided on Canvas.

### ***Mid-Term and Final Exams:***

Each of these will consist of three short answer essays (short=4 to 5 sentences) and one longer essay (roughly 250 words). Each exam will be worth 150 points. Study guides for each chapter will be posted on Canvas.

### **Components of Final Grades**

Attendance	40 points
Participation	80 points
Quizzes	100 points
Film Analysis Paper	100 points
Mid-term Exam	150 points
Final Exam	150 points
 TOTAL POINTS:	 620 points (used as basis of grade determination)

### **Computation of Course Grade:**

A	589 points
A-	570 points
B+	539 points
B	527 points
B	508 points
C+	477 points
C	465 points
C-	446 points

For more information about the number of grade points associated with each letter grade (as established by UF policy), please go to the following website:  
<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

### **TOPIC OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

**Please note:** It may occasionally become necessary for me to change the dates of topics/reading assignments. I will give as much advance warning of changes as possible.  
**Also note:** ALWAYS check the Canvas web pages to see what additional on-line readings and videos are assigned for the module. I am only listing the reading from the textbook.

#### **MODULE 1 Studying Women (January 9,11)**

READING FOR THE WEEK: Anderson Text: Chapter 1

#### **MODULE 2 The Social Construction of Gender (January 16, 18)**

READING FOR THE WEEK: Anderson Text, Chapter 2

#### **MODULE 3 Gender, Culture, and the Media (January 23, 25)**

READING FOR THE WEEK: Anderson Text, Chapter 3

#### **MODULE 4 Sexuality and Intimate Relationships (January 30, February 1)**

READING FOR THE WEEK: Anderson Text, Chapter 4

#### **MODULE 5: Gender, Work, and the Economy (February 6, 8)**

READING FOR THE WEEK: Anderson Text, Chapter 5;

#### **MODULE 6: Gender and Families (February 13, 15)**

READING FOR THE WEEK: Anderson Text, Chapter 6;

#### **MODULE 7: Gender, Health, and Reproduction (February 20, 22, 27)**

READING FOR THE WEEK: Anderson Text, Chapter 7

**Mid-term Exam: March 1**

**MODULE 8: Women and Religion (March 13, 15)**

READING: Anderson Text, Chapter 8

**MODULE 9: Gender, Crime, and Deviance (March 20, 22)**

READING: Anderson Text, Chapter 9

**MODULE 10: Gender, Education, and Science (March 27, 29)**

READING FOR THE WEEK: Anderson Text, Chapter 10;

**MODULE 11: Women, Power and Politics (April 3, 5)**

READING FOR THE WEEK: Anderson Text, Chapter 11

**MODULE 12: Women and Social Reform (April 10, 12)**

READING FOR THE WEEK: Anderson Text, Chapter 12

**Module 13: Contemporary Frameworks in Feminist Theory (17, 19)**

READING FOR THE WEEK: Anderson Text, Chapter 13

**Final Exam: April 24**