

WST 3015: Interdisciplinary Perspectives in Women's Studies

Writing Requirement 4,000 Words

Summer B 2025 Theme: Embodiment, Beauty Cultures, and Belonging



Artwork by April Bey, "Calathea Azul" (2022)

Instructor: Dr. Jillian Hernandez

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Office hours in person or via Zoom: Wednesdays 9:30-10:30am and by appointment

Zoom room link: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/7897322769>

Teaching Assistant: Sharlyen Lopez

E-mail: Sh.lopez@ufl.edu

Office hours via Zoom: Mondays 1:00-3:00pm and by appointment at <https://calendly.com/sh-lopez-ufl/interdisciplinary-perspective-in-women-s-studies>.

Zoom room link: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/99576334073>

About the Class

This is an introductory Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies course. Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies is an interdisciplinary academic field that examines the role of gender and sexuality in shaping society and culture. Taking an interdisciplinary approach, this course will draw on knowledge produced in a variety of fields, from anthropology to visual arts, history, philosophy, and beyond to understand women's lives. In addition to serving the writing requirement objectives, course content reflects my areas of research expertise. We will explore issues of citizenship, beauty culture, and belonging through a focus on embodiment.

Writing Requirement

This course fulfills the 4,000-word writing requirement. The Writing Requirement (WR) ensures that students both maintain their fluency in writing and use writing as a tool to facilitate learning. I will provide feedback on the content of your writing in addition to grammar, punctuation, clarity, coherence, and organization.

Course grades have two components. To receive writing requirement credit, a student must receive a grade of C (30 points) or higher and a satisfactory completion of the writing component of the course.

Our course will adhere to the **Chicago Manual of Style, 16th edition**. You can access a streamlined style guide in the Writing Resources section of our Canvas site, and the full Chicago Manual of Style is accessible via our course reserves.

This course will have a total of 4 writing assignments that will make up the 4,000-word writing requirement.

If you seek additional assistance on your writing assignments, please access the Writing Studio on campus: <https://writing.ufl.edu>

The writing studio is committed to helping University of Florida students meet their academic and professional goals by becoming better writers. Visit the writing studio online at <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>

More information about UF's writing requirement can be found [here](#).

Our learning objectives include:

- Understanding how women's lives are shaped by society and culture and how they make contributions to society and culture.
- Learning how social formations of gender, race, class, and sexuality are interconnected.
- Understanding how art, media, and popular cultures are significant areas where social formations of gender, race, and sexuality are contested.
- Learning foundational theories in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.
- Learning how to compare, contrast, and evaluate the claims of thinkers from different periods and social locations.
- Learning how to conduct visual and textual analysis.
- Learning how to clearly articulate ideas in written assignments such as essays and response assignments. Building oral communication skills through collaborative oral presentations based on course materials.

About me, Dr. Hernandez:



My research explores gender and sexuality in Black and Latinx art and popular culture, with a focus on body aesthetics and style. I have a Ph.D. in Women's and Gender Studies from Rutgers University and have a long-standing practice as a curator of contemporary art. My book Aesthetics of Excess: The Art and Politics of Black and Latina Embodiment was published by Duke University Press in 2020.

I believe that visual art, music, film, and popular culture are powerful learning tools and I use them frequently to enrich our classroom experiences. My classroom is a space for experimentation. It is a site for dialogue, where students are acknowledged as theorists, artists, and producers of knowledge. While aiming to create a safe space for students to forge connections between course material, larger society, and their own lives, I also encourage them to engage with ideas that challenge them, take productive risks, and maintain space for contradiction and flux as they progress in their intellectual development. I treat my students as whole and complex beings, and create an environment where we can discuss ideas with a mind toward the social, cultural, and ethical implications of knowledge.

I invite you to be yourself, to recognize that you hold knowledge worth sharing, and to acknowledge your creative potential!

Meet our Teaching Assistant Sharleyen Lopez:



Hello all. I hope your semester is off to a good start. My name is Sharlyen Lopez and I am the graduate teaching assistant for this course. I'm a rising 2nd year Grad Student in the Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Master's program. I have Bachelors in Feminist Studies and Chicana Studies from UC Santa Barbara. My research interests include the political, legal, and social discourse surrounding personhood and childhood innocence specifically how it directly impacts those who are confined to these narratives.

Required Texts and Media

Book: *Bad Fat Black Girl* (2021), by Sesali Bowen, HarperCollins Publishers.

Other required materials will be available as PDFs on Canvas or as web links on the syllabus.

Powerpoints are available under modules on Canvas for most texts. These are an added learning resource but are not intended to replace your own notes. I highly recommend that you take your own detailed lecture notes. Additionally, Powerpoint material does not indicate my personal endorsement of course material (or that of the teaching assistant). The purpose of these slides is for review of course concepts.

Materials and Supplies Fee

None

Grading in this Course

As a teacher, I am interested in students engaging with varied perspectives. Students in my courses are not penalized for not agreeing with a particular argument or perspective we explore. My only expectation is that you demonstrate understanding of the ideas we engage with in class.

I 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. I use this scale in determining your final grade.

Letter Grade	Points
A	100-93
A-	92-90
B+	89-87
B	86-83
B-	82-80
C+	79-77
C	76-73
C-	72-70
D+	69-67
D	66-63
D-	62-60
S	<59

Information on UF's grading policy can be found here: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

You should expect your work to be graded within 4 days of submission. If I anticipate a delay due to unforeseen circumstances, I will inform you.

Procedure for Conflict Resolution

Any classroom issues, disagreements or grade disputes should be discussed first between the instructor and the student. If the problem cannot be resolved, please contact Undergraduate Coordinator Dr. Joanna Neville: jneville@ufl.edu

Be prepared to provide documentation of the problem, as well as all graded materials for the semester. Issues that cannot be resolved departmentally will be referred to the University Ombuds Office (<http://www.ombuds.ufl.edu>; 352-392-1308) or the Dean of Students Office (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu>; 352-392-1261).

Course Evaluation

Your final grade will be based on the following: (more details on assignments are provided on Canvas)

Writing Assignment #1: Media Article on the Body (1,000 words)

Compose a 1,000 word journalistic article inspired by the content of module 1. The article is written for an imagined audience of general readers. You will select a topic of historical or contemporary relevance to key concepts of module 1 and introduce 2 key ideas from the module in the piece.

-- Submit via Assignments on Canvas

-- Value 10 points

Writing Assignment #2: Analysis on Gender, Citizenship, and Media Representation (1,250 words)

Analyze a contemporary media representation of gender and citizenship in the United States. You will choose a media representation of a political candidate, or a political candidate's domestic partner.

-- Submit via Assignments on Canvas

-- Value 20 points

Writing Assignment #3: Beauty Culture Analysis (750 words)

Conduct a in-depth analysis of a beauty product advertisement, beauty tutorial, beauty review, or other relevant content by drawing on material from module 3.

--Submit via Assignments on Canvas

--Value 10 points

Writing Assignment #4: Popular Culture or Current Event Analysis (1,000 words)

You will research and analyze a popular culture work or phenomenon or a current event on a topic of your choosing related to gender, work, money or relationships (topic must include gender and one or more of these sub-topics). The paper must be informed by and directly tied into the material in Module 3.

-- Submit via Assignments on Canvas

-- Value 10 points

Short response post, 1 due, each worth 5 points

You will draft a short response to an assigned podcast.

-- Submit via Assignments on Canvas

-- Value 5 points

Study Crew Presentation, worth 15 points

Students will be organized into “study crews”. Each study crew will be assigned a 10-minute collaborative class facilitation to conduct at the commencement of one of our class meetings. These facilitations will introduce keywords, questions, and other prompts/learning resources to jump start our class discussions. More details will be provided on Canvas.

--Group class presentation plus self/group evaluations uploaded to Assignments via Canvas.

--Value 12 points

Essay outline, worth 3 points

You will upload your outline for writing assignment #2 to prepare for your essay and receive advanced feedback on your ideas.

--Submit via Assignments on Canvas

--Value 3 points

Structured Discussion Preparations (SDP), 6 due, each worth 5 points

Structured notes in outline form on 6 texts of your choice. *Readings marked [SDP OK] are eligible for SDP assignments.*

SDP sheets will appear as word documents linked in modules.

-- Submit through the appropriate assignment link on Canvas

-- Value 5 points each (30 points total)

Course Recording Policy and Privacy Statement

Our class sessions may be audio-visually recorded for students in the class to refer back to and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who unmute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the “chat” feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials are prohibited.

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

Course Policies

Attendance policy

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>.

You are expected to attend all class meetings. Doing so will be critical to your success. However, you are not graded for attendance or participation.

This is an in-person class, meetings are not zoom recorded.

Acceptable reasons for absence from or failure to engage in class include illness; Title IX-related situations; serious accidents or emergencies affecting the student, their roommates, or their family; special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences); military obligation; severe weather conditions that prevent class participation; religious holidays; participation in official university activities (e.g., music performances, athletic competition, debate); and court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena). Other reasons (e.g., a job interview or club activity) may be deemed acceptable if approved by the instructor.

Please contact me if you anticipate an absence or soon after your absence to discuss your situation. Create your study crews early so that you have a group that you can share notes and class updates with.

Participation and Discussion Guidelines:

Your participation in this course will require your engagement with the course texts and related material. Please be prepared to participate 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 differences of perspective and each other's confidentiality. We will engage one another with consideration. Abusive and harsh language, intimidation and personal attacks will not be tolerated.

Correspondence:

I can answer questions during office hours or via e-mail. Please be aware that I receive a high volume of e-mails, 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. I will expect for you to check your UF e-mail once a day in the event that there is a schedule change or if I need to send you important information. Class alerts will be sent via the Canvas system.

Our teaching assistant is also available to assist you during office hours or via e-mail.

Academic Integrity:

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. See the UF Conduct Code website (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-student-conduct-code/>) for more information. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class

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 me as soon as possible. Assignments over three days late will not be accepted without medical or other relevant documentation.

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>.

Accessibility

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center. See “Get Started With the DRC” Disability Resource Center webpage (<https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible.

UF Counseling and Wellness Center offers individual counseling, wellness counseling, couples counseling, problem solving help, CERC crisis services, and other assistance:

<http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/>

3190 Radio Road; (352) 392-1575 (8 am-5 pm, Monday through Friday)

Sexual Harassment

Sexual Harassment is unacceptable anywhere on UF's campus. For more about UF policies regarding harassment, see:

http://www.ufsa.ufl.edu/faculty_staff/fees_resources_policies/sexual_harassment/

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. Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email that they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via ufl.bluer.com/ufl/. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here.

Consider Adding Women's Studies Major or Minor

Adding the Women's Studies major or minor can deepen your critical thinking, analysis, and skills in understanding women, gender, race, class, and sexuality in society and culture. The Women's Studies major shows graduate schools and employers that you bring advanced knowledge and skills in these areas. You have the option to designate a **general concentration**, or concentrations in **(a) health, (b) international perspectives, (c) race, (d) sexuality**. The Women's Studies major is simple to combine with another major, and up to 15 credits can double count with another degree (African American Studies, English, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology in particular have many courses that can double count). It's also the perfect complement to pre-health studies.

To add a minor in Women's Studies or Theories and Politics of Sexuality, apply online [here](#).

To add Women's Studies as a second major [here](#) (if your first major is a B.A. in CLAS) or [here](#) (if your first major is a B.S. in CLAS or any degree in another college). You may contact Undergraduate Coordinator Dr. Joanna Neville (jneville@ufl.edu) to make an appointment to discuss adding the major or minor.

Course Schedule

Module 1: *Theories of the Body*

Week 1

Monday June 30

Introduction to class

Tuesday July 1

Writing discussion and study crew meet-ups

Wednesday July 2

Read: Cesare Lombroso ["Criminal Woman, the Prostitute, and the Normal Woman"](#)

Thursday July 3

No lecture

Read Read: Sander L. Gilman. ["Black Bodies, White Bodies: Toward an Iconography of Female Sexuality in Late Nineteenth-Century Art, Medicine, and Literature."](#) [SDP OK]

Listen to [Anything for Selena podcast](#) Episode 4: Big Butt Politics and discuss on Canvas

Graded response (worth 5 points) due on **Canvas** by 11:59 pm EST Sunday July 6th, the night before class.

Week 2

Monday July 7

Lecture and discussion

Tuesday July 8

Read: Anne Meis Knupfer. 2001. ["To Become Good, Self-Supporting Women": The State Industrial School for Delinquent Girls at Geneva, Illinois, 1900-1935"](#) *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 9 (4): 420-446. [SDP OK]

Wednesday July 9

Read: Stephanie M.H. Camp, "The Intoxication of Pleasurable Amusement: Secret Parties and the Politics of the Body" from *Closer to Freedom: Enslaved Women and Everyday Resistance in the Plantation South* (2004, The University of North Carolina Press) [SDP OK]

Thursday July 10

Module recap and writing workshop

Friday July 11

No lecture, work on **writing assignment #1 due Saturday July 12**

Module 2: Embodiment, Style, and Citizenship**Week 3****Monday July 14**

In class screening: *Imitation of Life* (1934) directed by John M. Stahl

Tuesday July 15

Complete *Imitation of Life* Screening

Read: Lauren Berlant, “National Brands, National Body: *Imitation of Life*” from *The Female Complaint: The Unfinished Business of Sentimentality in American Culture* (2008, Duke University Press) [SDP OK]

Study Crew 1 presents

Wednesday July 16

Read: Keyword: Citizenship by Lauren Berlant

Read: Renato Rosaldo, “Cultural Citizenship” <https://hemisphericinstitute.org/en/enc09-academic-texts/item/681-cultural-citizenship.html>

Thursday July 17

Read: Anne Anlin Cheng, “Borders and Embroidery” from *Ornamentalism* (2018, Oxford University Press) [SDP OK]

Study Crew 2 presents

Friday July 18

No lecture, study essay #2 prompt, select political figure you will discuss in essay, and work on essay outline due Saturday July 19th

Week 4

Monday July 21

Read: Sylvia Chan Malik, "[Chadors, Feminists, Terror: Constructing a U.S. American Discourse of the Veil](#)" [SDP OK]

Study Crew 3 presents

Tuesday July 22

Read: Catherine S. Ramirez, "Black Skirts, Dark Slacks, and Brown Knees: Pachuca Style and Spectacle during World War II" from *The Woman in the Zoot Suit: Gender, Nationalism, and the Cultural Politics of Memory* (2008, Duke University Press) [SDP OK]

Study Crew 4 presents

Wednesday July 23

Read: *Ralina L. Joseph, "['Of Course I'm Proud of My Country!': Michelle Obama's Postracial Wink](#)" from *Postracial Resistance: Black Women, Media, and the Uses of Strategic Ambiguity* (2018, New York University Press) [SDP OK]

Study Crew 5 presents

Thursday July 24

Writing workshop and concepts review

Friday July 25

No lecture, work on **paper #2 due Saturday July 26**

Module 3: *Beauty Politics, Social Media Visibility, and Value*

Week 5

Monday July 28

Read: *Kathy Piess, "Women Who Painted", from *Hope in a Jar: The Making of America's Beauty Culture* (1998, University of Pennsylvania Press) [SDP OK]

In-class screening and discussion “Self-Made” Episode 1, Netflix series

Tuesday July 29

Read: Thuy Linh Nguyen Tu, “White Like Koreans: The Skin of the New Vietnam” from *Fashion and Beauty in the Time of Asia* (NYU Press, 2019) [SDP OK]

Study Crew 6 presents

Wednesday July 31

Read: *Sarah Banet-Weiser, "Shame: Love Yourself and Be Humiliated" from *Empowered: Popular Feminism and Popular Misogyny* (2018, Duke University Press) [SDP OK]

Read: Sesali Bowen, *Bad Fat Black Girl*, Chapter 1

Study Crew 7 presents

Thursday August 1

Read: *Bolivar, A. (2021), “Nothing Feels Better than Getting Paid”: Sex Working Trans Latinas’ Meanings and Uses of Money. *Feminist Anthropology*, 2: 298-311. [SDP OK]

Read *Bad Fat Black Girl* Chapter 4

Study Crew 8 presents

Friday August 2

No lecture, time to work on writing assignment

Week 6

Monday August 4

Read: Sylvia Federici “Wages for Housework”

Read: *Bad Fat Black Girl* Chapter 6

Study Crew 9 presents

Tuesday August 5

Writing workshop and concepts review

Wednesday August 6

No lecture, time to work on paper

Thursday August 7

Last assignment due noon August 7th

Friday August 8

No class, you’re done! Rest and reset for next semester, or happy graduation

