

WST 6935 (27621)
Girlhood Studies

M 12:50PM- 3:50PM

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Ocqua Gerlyn Murrell

Office hours: Wednesdays 1PM- 3PM in-person or virtual and by appointment.

Instructor email, phone contact, office location, and zoom link are provided in the course Canvas page.

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of this course is to draw on materials and methodologies from a variety of disciplines, and explore the diverse experiences, challenges, and identities of girls from a global and intersectional perspective. This course delves into the complex intersections of gender, age, race, class, sexuality, and ability in shaping girls' lives across diverse cultural and geographical contexts. Students will critically examine the construction of girlhood within various social, political, economic, and cultural frameworks. By employing an intersectional lens, the course emphasizes the interconnectedness of multiple identity markers and their impact on girls' lived experiences. The intersectional approach recognizes that girlhood is not a monolithic category but is shaped by the interplay of various social forces.

Key topics include:

Perspectives on Girlhood: Explore contemporary materials on the constructions of girlhood that consider colonial legacies, cultural traditions, and evolving notions of femininity.

Global Contexts of Girlhood: Analyze the impact of globalization, migration, and transnational forces on the experiences of girls in different parts of the world.

Media Representations and Popular Culture: Investigate the role of media, popular culture, and digital spaces in shaping and reinforcing stereotypes and expectations related to girlhood.

Education and Empowerment: Examine the intersections of education, empowerment, and agency for girls, considering access to education, gender-based violence, and grassroots movements advocating for change.

Health and Well-being: Explore the intersections of gender, health, and well-being, including issues such as reproductive rights, mental health, and environmental issues.

Activism and Resistance: Investigate the ways in which girls globally engage in activism and resistance, challenging oppressive systems and advocating for social change.

Course Objectives: After this course, you will have been provided with the tools and resources to further your own research inquiries you developed throughout the course. Upon completion you will have the ability to:

- Identify gaps within the field of girlhood and girls' studies.
- Become familiar with the methods used in girlhood and girl's studies research.
- Understand what girlhood and girls' studies offers as an intellectual and social justice project.
- Develop and expand critical thinking skills through writing assignments and class discussions.

Course Outcomes: By the end of the course, students will be equipped with a nuanced understanding of the challenges faced by girls globally and the tools to critically assess and contribute to the ongoing discourse in Critical Girlhood Studies. Students will be expected to have achieved the following learning outcomes:

- 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 scholarly articles, literature, artwork, and case studies to deepen their understanding of the complexities surrounding girlhood.

COURSE MATERIALS

- All texts, materials, and videos for the course are available as pdfs or links in Canvas or on Course Reserves but the books are listed below in case you would prefer to purchase. I would recommend checking out Thriftbooks.com for used and cheaper options.
 - *The Secret Lives of Girls* by Sharon Lamb
 - *Black Beach* by Glynis Guevara
 - *I Am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai
 - *Girlhood in the Borderlands* by Lilia Soto
 - *Monkey Bridge* by Lan Cao
- Materials and Supplies Fees: \$49 Packback subscription

ASSESSMENT AND GRADES

Graded Course Activities

Participation = 15% of final grade

We learn best when we all show up and prepare ourselves to engage. Participating in a 3-hour seminar discussion entails labor, and that labor should be respected and distributed with equity. Not completing the assigned reading and/or failing to participate places a greater burden on others to keep the conversation going. I understand that at times other commitments may keep you from being able to read everything that is assigned. When this occurs, I suggested skimming

or reading selections from each of the assigned materials so that you can participate in seminar. Mid-way through the semester I will provide you with feedback on your participation in class.

Research Paper = 25% of final grade

You will conduct and write an original girls' studies research paper with an academic focus, or on that explores issues of praxis, activism, or pedagogy. The paper should be between 10-12 double spaced pages (12pt font). You should utilize some course material in addition to relevant scholarship you find on your own. More instructions on Packback. You must discuss your research idea with me by **March 25th**. You will then submit the paper through Packback on Canvas on **April 30th by 5:00PM**.

PLEASE review the *research paper rubric* in Packback in Canvas

Packbacks (13) = 15% of final grade

You are required to complete 13 Packback submissions. This is where you will post an inquiry about the week's readings. You are required to post your question by **Thursdays at 11:59PM** and respond to a classmate's question by **Sundays at 11:59PM**. All due dates are in Packback and Course Schedule.

Essays (2) = 20% of final grade

You are required to complete 2 essays that are approximately 1800 words or 4 pages, throughout the semester in the DeepDive section of Packback. Due dates are in the course schedule. Each essay will have its own requirements and guiding questions. 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.

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

PLEASE review the *essay rubric* in Packback in Canvas

Final Project = 25% of final grade

Students will be required to complete a final project in the form of a collage, poetry series, artwork, or original song. All mediums must come with an artist statement of no more than 2 pages double spaced. This is your chance to be creative as possible with this project. Based on the topics covered throughout the semester, you will reflect on your own girlhood and create a piece that describes your lived experience(s). These will be due and presented in class on our final class meeting on April 22nd. We will talk more about this throughout the semester. The final project decision should be turned in on **March 31st by 11:59PM**. More information can be found in Packback.

Grading Scale and Policies

Total Points	Letter Grade
90 to 100	A
80 to <90	B
70 to <80	C
60 to <70	D
Less than 60	F

A minimum grade of C is required for general education credit. More information on UF grading policy can be found [here](#).

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.

[The syllabus calendar provides an overview; course Canvas page includes additional information for students registered in the course]

Section	Topics	Assignment or Activity Due
1	Mapping the Field	All assignment due dates can be found in Cavas
2	Methodology	
3	North American Girlhood	
4	Caribbean Girlhood	
5	South Asian Girlhood	
6	African Girlhood	
7	Asian American Girlhood	
8	Central American & South American Girlhood	
9	Global Girlhood	

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND RESOURCES

Attendance

Attendance is required. 2 classes can be missed without penalty.

Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should contact the Disability Resource Center by visiting [here](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor 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 [here](#). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email received from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via [here](#). Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students [here](#).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

UF'S Honesty 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 and can be found [here](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

In-Class Recording suggested wording:

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 guest lecturer during a class session.

Publication without the 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.

For a list of additional campus resources, see section C 5 [here](#).

The Office for Accessibility and Gender Equity can be found [here](#).

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)