

WST2612: Social Science Perspectives On Gender and Sexuality Spring 2026

I. General Information

Instructor:

Name: Dr. Ecem Ece

Email: emineeece@ufl.edu

Office Hours: 12:00-2:00 pm on Tuesdays on Zoom or by appointment

Teaching Assistant:

Name: TBA

Email:

Office Hours:

Course Description

This course explores the social construction of gender, sexuality, race, class, and other identity categories. Readings focus on individuals, families, and cultural groups, mainly in the US but with attention to other nations. It includes subjects as intimate as the body and violence and as pervasive as politics and the law. It emphasizes differences in daily life experiences of health care, education, sports, and religion. It also examines the potential of movements for social change.

Note: This course covers a variety of ideas and views about the topics of focus, taught as objects of analysis within the larger course of instruction. Emphasis is on critical thinking, examination of evidence, and evaluation of arguments. No lesson is intended to compel a particular feeling or belief. Endorsing or agreeing with a particular view is not expected or required.

Course Format: Virtual, asynchronous

Prerequisites: None.

General Education Designation: None.

Course Materials

Ryle, Robyn. Questioning gender: A sociological exploration (5th ed.). Sage Publications, 2024.

Materials will be available through the following means:

UF All-Access Program

II. Course Goals

Course Objectives

This course will:

- Introduce foundational social science perspectives and concepts related to gender and sexuality, with attention to how these interact with factors such as age, class, and race.

- Examine real-world applications of gender and sexuality frameworks through analysis of topics like healthcare, media, marriage, and political engagement in both U.S. and global contexts.
- Develop critical thinking and analytical skills to interpret and assess diverse lived experiences of individuals, families, and cultural groups regarding gender and sexuality.

Student Learning Outcomes

A student who successfully completes this course will be able to:

- Describe key social science perspectives related to gender and sexuality.
- Discuss and evaluate perspectives on how gender and sexuality function in society and everyday life.
- Analyze evidence of people's experiences related to gender and sexuality in different social contexts.

III. Graded Work

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the [Catalog](#). Detailed instructions for each course assignment are available on Canvas.

Overview of Graded Components

Quizzes (11x3=33 points): Quizzes are designed to reinforce students' understanding of fundamental concepts from the readings. Each quiz is worth 3 points and consists of 6 multiple-choice questions focusing on key terms and foundational ideas essential for progressing through the course material.

Discussion and Response Posts (11x3=33 points):

Discussion Post (2 pts): Students are required to reflect on the prompt, utilizing key concepts, sharing insights, and providing thoughtful discussion incorporating examples.

Response Post (1 pt): Students are expected to engage with one of their classmates' posts by adding meaningful commentary and furthering the discussion.

Response Papers (Writing Requirement) (12x2=24 points): Response papers (each worth 12 points) help students identify and develop an understanding of the construction of social scientific knowledge and develop reading and writing skills. Papers must be 1000-1100 words each and submitted in Word format via Canvas. This will total the 2000-word writing requirement.

Presentation (10 points): The presentation assignment (worth 10 points) allows students to examine a case related to gender and sexuality in media and popular culture and present their findings. Students will select a specific theme, issue, or example within this field and deliver a 10-15-minute presentation. Detailed instructions for the presentation are provided in the assignment prompt.

Extra Credit (3 points): Introduction Discussion & Response Post

TOTAL: 100+3 (extra credit) =103 points

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Number Grade
A	100-93
A-	92-90
B+	89-87

Letter Grade	Number Grade
B	86-83
B-	82-80
C+	79-77
C	76-73
C-	72-70
D+	69-67
D	66-63
D-	62-60
E	59-0

See the UF Catalog's "[Grades and Grading Policies](#)" for information on how UF assigns grade points.

IV. Course Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings/Preparation	Work Due
Week 1	Introduction + Chapter 1	Chapter 1	Introduction Discussion & Response Post (extra credit) + Quiz 1; Discussion & Response Post 1
Week 2	Chapter 2	Chapter 2	Quiz 2; Discussion & Response Post 2
Week 3	Chapter 3	Chapter 3	Quiz 3; Discussion & Response Post 3
Week 4	Chapter 4	Chapter 4	Quiz 4; Discussion & Response Post 4
Week 5			Response Paper 1
Week 6	Chapter 5	Chapter 5	Quiz 5; Discussion & Response Post 5
Week 7	Chapter 6	Chapter 6	Quiz 6; Discussion & Response Post 6
Week 8	Chapter 7	Chapter 7	Quiz 7; Discussion & Response Post 7
Week 9	Chapter 8	Chapter 8	Quiz 8; Discussion & Response Post 8
Week 10		Spring Break	
Week 11			Response Paper 2
Week 12	Chapter 9	Chapter 9	Quiz 9; Discussion & Response Post 9
Week 13	Chapter 10	Chapter 10	Quiz 10; Discussion & Response Post 10
Week 14	Chapter 11	Chapter 11	Quiz 11; Discussion & Response Post 11
Week 15			Presentations

V. University Policies and Resources

This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please see [this link](#). The direct link is <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>.