

Violence Against Women

WST 3325

Section: 3325

Academic Term: Fall 2025

Class periods: Tuesday 4, Thursday 4-5

Location: In Canvas

Instructor:

Dr Maddy Coy

Email: m.coy@ufl.edu

Office: Ustler 303

Office Phone Number: 352-273-0391

Office Hours: Wednesday 10am-1pm and by appointment

Course Credits: 3

Course Description

Violence against women persists in every country in the world as a pervasive violation of human rights and a major impediment to achieving gender equality
(United Nations, 2006)

This course focusses on what we know and what we think we know about violence against women, described by United Nations as a 'global injustice' (United Nations, 2006). It approaches all forms of violence against women as a continuum, and challenges assumptions regarding violence against women with empirical evidence. The course adopts an intersectional approach to fully understand violence against women and explores the transnational dimensions of violence against women and local specificities. This includes how prevalence of violence against women varies and what intervention and prevention looks like in different contexts.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, students will be able to critically engage with:

- the evidence base on the extent of violence against women globally and in the US, with a focus on different forms of violence and how these practices are globalized
- theoretical frameworks for understanding violence against women and the extent to which these accommodate transnational perspectives
- myths and stereotypes about victims and perpetrators and how these are related to sex/gender, race, ethnicity, class and citizenship status
- impacts of violence and abuse, specialist support for victim-survivors, and global feminist activism.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the course, students are expected to be able to:

- define different forms of violence against women and the connections between them;
- understand conceptual frameworks that locate violence against women in social structures;

- recognize and deconstruct myths and stereotypes about victims and perpetrators;
- identify sources of empirical data about violence against women and current gaps in the evidence base;
- incorporate international and transnational perspectives.

These learning outcomes will be evidenced through assignments. This course is part of the International Scholars Program and assignments will include evaluation for ability to incorporate an international perspective. The course is also supported by the Center for European Studies.

WHAT TO EXPECT: This course entails a rigorous and demanding reading load, from diverse sources. To succeed, you will need to read early and often, and take responsibility for what you do not understand by asking questions. This class requires a lot of discussion, in class and in small groups. All accommodations will be honored. My aim is to create a discussion space where we can engage with each other in as meaningful a way as possible. This entails creating a learning space and community based on inclusion, dignity, respect, anti-racism, and freedom from discrimination.

Students are encouraged to employ critical thinking and to rely on data and verifiable sources to interrogate all assigned readings and subject matter in this course as a way of determining whether they agree with their classmates and/or their instructor. No lesson is intended to espouse, promote, advance, inculcate, or compel a particular feeling, perception, viewpoint or belief. The course will cover different perspectives and viewpoints. Your analysis is your own and there is no expectation to endorse a particular position. All assignments will be graded on how arguments are built using existing evidence.

Course Pre-Requisites / Co-Requisites

None

Materials and Supply Fees

None

Required Textbooks

None. All required reading will be available in Canvas

Course Schedule

Reading assignments must be completed before coming to class. Please note that this schedule of readings is subject to minor modifications. All changes in the syllabus will be announced in class and posted via Canvas.

Schedule	Topic	Reading
Week 1 21 st August	What is violence against women?	Welcome and introduction to our learning space, including discussion of syllabus and course assignments
Week 2 26 th and 28 th August	Defining violence against women	Please complete <u>both</u> readings in Canvas by Tuesday
Week 3 2 nd and 4 th September	The prevalence of violence against women globally	Readings and materials in Canvas.
Week 4 9 th and 11 th September	Gender, patriarchy and power (1)	Readings in Canvas.
Week 5 16 th and 18 th September	Gender, patriarchy and power (2)	Readings in Canvas. ONLINE QUIZ THIS WEEK
Week 6 23 rd and 25 th September	Sexual violence	Readings in Canvas DRAFT OF FIRST HALF OF REFLECTIVE BLOG <u>CAN</u> BE SUBMITTED THIS WEEK
Week 7 30 th September and 2 nd October	Domestic/intimate partner violence	Readings in Canvas.
Week 8 7 th and 9 th October	Violence against women in the family	Readings in Canvas
Week 9 14 th and 16 th October	Perpetrators	Reading in Canvas FULL REFLECTIVE BLOG DUE WEDNESDAY
Week 10 21 st and 23 rd October	Sexual exploitation and trafficking on a global scale	Readings in Canvas
Week 11 28 th and 30 th October	Impacts of violence	Readings in Canvas. READING REFLECTION DUE THIS WEEK
Week 12 4 th and 6 th November	Femicide	Readings in Canvas
Week 13 13 th November	Feminist activism NO CLASS TUESDAY (HOLIDAY)	Readings in Canvas. MEDIA ANALYSIS DUE THIS WEEK
Week 14 18 th and 20 th November	Prevention	Readings in Canvas.
Week 15 25 th and 27 th November	FALL BREAK	
Week 16 2 nd December	Closing discussions	NARRATED POWERPOINT PRESENTATION DUE THIS WEEK

Classroom expectations

Violence against women is surrounded by myths and stereotypes. Studying this topic can also be emotionally challenging. If you find the discussions difficult, please leave the room for as long as you need to and/or you can speak to me privately. There will be basic ground rules for class, as below.

1. **Never ask another student in the course if they are a victim-survivor** (While it is up to individual students as to whether they choose to discuss their own experiences in class, it is inappropriate for anyone to ask another person if they have been violated/abused in any way).
2. **Always maintain confidentiality** with respect to other students' experiences.

Details of specialist support services are at the end of this syllabus. You might not need them, but you might know someone who does.

Attendance Policy, Class Expectations, and Make-Up Policy

Attendance for this class is not mandatory, but please bear in mind how missing class will affect your ability to process the content and course materials. Catching up on notes is no substitute for being part of class discussions, and absence is likely to be reflected in quality of your assignments. If you miss class, before you come and talk to me, please make sure you have completed the readings for the class you missed and reviewed notes from a classmate. Make-up lectures will not be given during office hours but questions on readings, after you have reviewed the notes of a classmate and completed the readings on your own, are welcome and will enthusiastically be answered.

International Scholars Program: This course fulfils one of the curriculum requirements of the International Scholars Program. It is also supported by the Center for European Studies.

Assignment details

There are five assignments for this course. Grading rubrics, where relevant, are in Canvas.

1. Quiz 1 (8%)

This quiz will be available for 24 hours in Canvas during week 5. You will have 30 minutes to complete it when you have opened it. Questions will be based on course content from weeks 2-5, with reference to core concepts from earlier in the course. Please make sure you are up to date with readings and lecture content.

2. Reflective learning blog 1 (32%)

This document should be your account of what you have learned during **WEEKS 2-8 of class** (i.e., from when course readings and discussions begin). There will be one entry that covers each week of teaching and the themes we covered: **a total of 7 entries**.

Each weekly entry represents four points e.g., missing a week means missing four points. An additional four points are allocated across the whole blog for addressing the international and transnational dimensions of violence against women. This comprises the total of 32 points.

You should refer to concepts, literature and data from the readings. A works cited page should be included. A good grade will require more than description; you should reflect analytically on how your thinking has (or has not) changed, what you were most challenged by, and any new connections. There are no strict word limits, but you should aim for around 1 double spaced page per week, with a maximum of 9 pages, not including title and works cited pages. **You are strongly encouraged to keep this blog weekly, so that you do not end up trying to reconstruct it retrospectively.**

The full blog is due in week 9. You can submit a draft of the first half of the blog for feedback in week 6. I will return feedback during week 7, so you will have a chance to amend the first half based on my feedback. **Blogs that are submitted late (after week 10 of the course) will not receive full credit.**

3. Reading reflection (5%)

You will choose **ONE** of the readings from weeks marked with a * **listed in Canvas** to write a 200-250 words reflection on its content. You should demonstrate that you have completed the reading and include what you gained from it and/or what you were most challenged by. You should focus on the argument in the reading and avoid framing this in terms of what you 'like' or 'dislike'. Instead, you should critically analyze the perspective and evidence presented in the reading.

4. Analysis of a media report about violence against women (25%)

How the media report violence against women has been subject to much scrutiny. Your task will be to analyze a media story that will be provided in Canvas. In approximately 3-4 double spaced pages, discuss the article and highlight main themes. What discourses are evident in the article? How are victims and perpetrators represented? References to literature and key concepts, and a works cited page, are essential.

5. Narrated PowerPoint Presentation (30%)

This assignment will bring together the themes from the course. You should prepare a presentation in PowerPoint or Canva and use an audio file to narrate an explanation for each slide, with a total time of around 8-10 minutes. Three prompts will be detailed in Canvas. You should choose **ONE** of the three. References to literature and key concepts are expected. The presentation file should be uploaded to Canvas by midnight Wednesday, week 16.

Evaluation of Grades

Assignment	Points	Percentage of Final Grade
Quiz	8	8%
Reflective learning blog	32	32%
Reading reflection	5	5%
Analysis of media article	25	25%
Narrated presentation	30	30%
TOTAL	100	100

FINAL GRADE

At the end of the semester, final grades will be determined by the following formula:

94 and more points = A	80-83 points = B-	67-69 points = D+
90-93 points = A-	77-79 points = C+	64-66 points = D
87-89 points = B+	74-76 points = C	60-63 points = D-
84-86 points = B	70-73 points = C-	59 and fewer points = E

Consider adding a (second) major in Women's Studies!

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, and 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 (for example, African American Studies, English, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology have many courses that can double count). It's also the perfect complement to pre health studies. To add Women's Studies as a second major apply [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). To add a minor in Women's Studies or in Theories and Politics of Sexuality, apply online [here](#). Contact undergraduate coordinator Dr. Joanna Neville (jneville@ufl.edu) to make an appointment to discuss adding the major or stop by her office hours.

This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please see [this link](#).

Specialist support on campus and in the community

Office of Victim Services

<https://police.ufl.edu/divisions/behavioral-services/office-of-victim-services/>. Located at 1515 Museum Road, (352) 392-5648 (Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.) (352) 392-1111 (24 hour support).

Alachua County Victim Services & Rape Crisis Center

<https://alachuacounty.us/Depts/CSS/VictimServices/pages/victimservices.aspx> and 352-264-6760 24 hour helpline

Peaceful Paths Domestic Violence Agency, <https://www.peacefulpaths.org/> and 352-377-8255 (24 hour helpline)