

Capstone Seminar in Women's Studies

WST4935 Section 49RM

Class Periods: W 7-9

Location: UST108

Academic Term: Spring 2020

Instructor:

Dr Maddy Coy

Email: m.coy@ufl.edu (please contact me by email, not Canvas)

Office: Ustler 303

Office Phone Number: 352-273-0391

Office Hours: Monday 1-2pm, Thursday 10am-12pm and by appointment

Course Description

This class is the "capstone" to the Women's Studies major, an opportunity for four years of coursework to culminate in a substantial independent project that engages with and extends the intellectual agenda of the broad community of Women's Studies scholars. Our theme for the class will be "feminist futures". We will discuss and explore together becoming, and living, as a feminist, and what this means for your future professional and personal plans. Your final paper will be a 'state of knowledge' review on a topic of your choosing, which will represent your intellectual contribution to the topic.

Course Pre-Requisites / Co-Requisites

WST 3015 (Interdisciplinary Perspectives in Women's Studies)

Course Objectives

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

- demonstrate knowledge of literature on feminist theory;
- draw on core conceptual frameworks in feminist literature, including intersectionality;
- develop research questions to build a final project;
- position themselves and their experience in relation to key debates about feminism.

These course objectives will be evidenced through assignments.

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. Documentaries will be shown, and you will be given viewing/discussion guidelines.

Materials and Supply Fees

None

Required Textbooks

None. All readings are available online via weblink or 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 E-learning.

Together in the class we will create time for to work on your projects, especially towards the end of the course. This will mean you need to come to these classes with a sense of what would be most useful to you, any questions, doubts, or issues you are struggling with.

	<i>Topic</i>
Week 1 6 th January	Introduction
Week 2 13 th January	Living a Feminist Life
Week 3 20 th January	Planning your project
Week 4 27 th January	Feminist theory
Week 5 3 rd February	Planning your projects
Week 6 10 th February	Feminist theory and activism
Week 7 17 th February	Feminist theory and activism
Week 8 24 th February	PRESENTATIONS
Week 9 2 nd March	SPRING BREAK
Week 10 9 th March	Feminist theory
Week 11 16 th March	"She's beautiful when she's angry"
Week 12 23 rd March	Discussion of Roxane Gay essay
Week 13 30 th March	Writing workshop

Week 14 6 th April	Projects
Week 15 13 th April	Projects
Week 16 20 th April	Closing discussion

Attendance Policy, Class Expectations, and Make-Up Policy

Attendance for this class is not graded, 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.

Presentations: If you are unable to attend the session to deliver your presentation, a make-up opportunity will be available during my office hours.

Assignment details

There are five assignments for this course.

1. Annotated bibliography. WEEK 4 (15 points, 15%)

You will complete an annotated bibliography that outlines five relevant resources for your project. The articles/books should be listed in chronological order, use an established citation style of your choice, and should include brief (one long paragraph) annotations that both summarizes and analyze/evaluate the work (i.e. that includes your voice as the author). See slides in Canvas for tips on how to prepare annotated bibliographies.

2. Project outline. WEEK 7 (20 points, 20%)

Your project outline should set out your research question, and how you will approach answering it. You should write this succinctly in maximum 3 pages, with a rationale for why you have chosen your research question and how it will advance knowledge on feminist futures.

3. Presentation on your project. WEEK 8 (10 points, 10%)

You will present an outline of your project to the class. This entails preparing a PowerPoint presentation and summarizing your project: topic and focus, rationale and proposed sources. Your project is not expected to be fully developed at this stage. This is an opportunity for you to engage classmates in discussion and participate in a knowledge exchange. Points will be allocated for presentation and communication of content.

4. Evaluation Essay. WEEK 11 (25 points, 25%)

This assignment is required for all students in the Capstone class. You will be reading a selected article and then writing a "position paper" of 4-5 pages – meaning you will "position" yourself relative to the arguments the author lays out in the essay. Additional details will be provided on Canvas and discussed in class.

5. Final paper. DUE WEDNESDAY WEEK 16 (30 points, 30%)

You will prepare a final paper that is a 'state of knowledge' review on a topic of your choosing, and makes recommendations for further feminist inquiry. The paper should be 12-15 pages, double spaced, and will

include a justification for your focus, your analysis of the material you drawn on to answer it and reflections from the course literature (and anything else you have read). The paper will be formatted according to appropriate academic conventions, with an established citation style and clear structure. More details will be given in class and on Canvas.

Evaluation of Grades

Assignment	Points	Percentage of Final Grade
Annotated bibliography	15	15%
Project outline	20	20%
Presentation of project outline	10	10%
Evaluation essay	25	25%
Final paper	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

In cases where the number of points falls in between letter grades, points will be rounded to the nearest whole number.

More information on UF grading policy may be found at:

<http://gradcatalog.ufl.edu/content.php?catoid=10&navoid=2020#grades>

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

UF COURSE POLICIES

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, <https://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc>) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to me when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.

University 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 Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Software Use

All faculty, staff, and students of the University are required and expected to obey the laws and legal agreements governing software use. Failure to do so can lead to monetary damages and/or criminal penalties for the individual violator. Because such violations are also against University policies and rules, disciplinary action will be taken as appropriate. We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to uphold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity.

Student Privacy

There are federal laws protecting your privacy with regards to grades earned in courses and on individual assignments. For more information, please see:

<http://registrar.ufl.edu/catalog0910/policies/regulationferpa.html>

CAMPUS RESOURCES

Health and Wellness

U Matter, We Care:

If you or a friend is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352 392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to the student.

Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc>, and 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

University Police Department at 392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies), or <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>.

Specialist support

For specialist support in the aftermath of sexual assault, the Office of Victim Services on campus offer confidential, free support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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)

Academic Resources

E-learning technical support, 352-392-4357 (select option 2) or e-mail to Learning-support@ufl.edu.
<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>.

Career Resource Center, Reitz Union, 392-1601. Career assistance and counseling.
<https://www.crc.ufl.edu/>.

Library Support, <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>. Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center, Broward Hall, 392-2010 or 392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.
<https://teachingcenter.ufl.edu/>.

Writing Studio, 302 Tigert Hall, 846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.
<https://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>.

Student Complaints Campus: https://www.dso.ufl.edu/documents/UF_Complaints_policy.pdf.

On-Line Students Complaints: <http://www.distance.ufl.edu/student-complaint-process>.