

WST 4020 (25073)
Girlhood Studies

Meeting Time: W 4:05PM-7:05PM
Modality: In-Person

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Ocqua Gerlyn Murrell (she/they)

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Critically examines the construction of girlhood through social, political, economic, and cultural frameworks. Uses materials and methodologies from various disciplines to explore various experiences, challenges, and identities of girls from global and intersectional perspective. Presents complex intersections of gender, age, race, class, sexuality, and ability across diverse cultural and geographical contexts.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

- Identify gaps within the field of girlhood and girls' studies.
- Identify what girlhood and girls' studies offers as an intellectual and social justice project.
- Analyze scholarly articles, literature, artwork, and case studies to deepen their understanding of the complexities surrounding girlhood.
- Apply the terminology, concepts, theories, and methodologies used within the discipline.
- Design a girlhood and girl's studies research project using qualitative methods.
- Demonstrate critical thinking skills through writing assignments and class discussions.

COURSE MATERIALS

All texts, materials, and videos for the course are available as pdfs, links in Canvas, or on Course Reserves.

- *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

ASSESSMENT AND GRADES

Graded Course Activities

Participation = 15% of final grade

Participation is based on verbal engagement during class by answering questions, completing in class activities, and providing comments and/or questions regarding assigned readings for each class. 15% participation grade = 1% x 15 class periods.

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 one that explores issues of praxis, activism, methods, or pedagogy. The paper should be between 8-10 double spaced pages (12pt font). You should utilize some course material in addition to relevant scholarship you find on your own. More instructions in Canvas.

PLEASE review the *research paper rubric* in Canvas

Reading Notes (10) = 15% of final grade

You are required to submit 10 reading notes on the week's readings. You can choose which 10 weeks you want to submit reading notes for. All due dates are in Course Schedule and are due on the Tuesday before class. Reading notes template is provided in Canvas.

Essays (1) = 20% of final grade

You are required to complete 1 essay that is approximately 1800 words or 4 pages. Due date is in the course schedule. Our course will adhere to the **Chicago Manual of Style, 17th edition**. Full Chicago Manual of Style is accessible via Modules in Canvas.

PLEASE review the *essay rubric* 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 scheduled final exam date.

Grading Scale and Policies

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

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.

Section	Topics	Readings	Assignment or Activity Due
1	What is Girlhood Studies?	Kearney- "Coalescing the Development of Girls' Studies"	None
2	Mapping the Field	Vanner- "Toward a Definition of Transnational Girlhood"	Reading Notes
3	Methodology & Queerness	Mandrona- "Ethical Practice of Girlhood Studies" Mitchell- "Charting Girlhood Studies" Calixte- "Beyond 'Us' Versus 'Them'" Newbigging- "Looking for Queerness" Gonick- "Sugar and Spice and Something More Nice?"	Reading Notes
4	Methodology & Literature	Allen & Green-Barteet- "Girls Who Persist and Resist" Mallan- "On Secrets, Lies, and Fiction"	Reading Notes Essay 1

5	North American Girlhood	Lamb- The Secret Lives of Girls	Reading Notes
6	North American Girlhood	Soto- Girlhood in the Borderlands De Finney & Saraceno- "Warrior Girl"	Reading Notes
7	Caribbean Girlhood	Spencer- "Reshaping Girlhood, Reimagining Womanhood" Murrell- "It's Just High School" Guevara- Black Beach	Reading Notes
8	South Asian Girlhood	Yousafzai- I Am Malala	Reading Notes
9	South Asian Girlhood	Tambe- "Defining Girlhood in India" Chakraborty- "Bollywood as a Role Model" Weems- "Refugee Chic"	Reading Notes
10	African Girlhood	Mitchell- "Reframing African Girlhood" Katshunga- "Contesting Black Girlhood(s)"	Reading Notes Final Project Decision
11	Asian American Girlhood	Player- "People Get Mistaken"	Reading Notes
12	Central American Girlhood	Gillam- "Representing Black Girlhood in Brazil"	Reading Notes
13	South American Girlhood	Cao-Monkey Bridge	Reading Notes
14	Global Girlhood	Global Girlhood Report 2023	Reading Notes Research Paper
15	Final Project Presentations	None	Final Project

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

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