Introduction to Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies
GSWS 0100-1100 (11457) Spring 2016
Tuesday/Thursday 1:00-2:15
407 Cathedral of Learning

Instructor: Dr. Yoko Suzuki
Email: yos8@pitt.edu
Office hours: 2:20-3:20, Tuesday

Course Description:
What is sex? What is gender? What is sexuality? How are these concepts related to culture? To nature?
To help you answer these important questions, this course will introduce you to the exciting field of
gender, sexuality, and women’s studies. We will use a range of interdisciplinary concepts, tools, and
methods to understand and analyze sex, gender, femininity, masculinity, and sexuality. Through readings,
multimedia, and class discussion, we will study how gender and sexuality are socially and culturally
constructed. In addition, we will consider how gender intersects with other identity categories such as
race, class, ethnicity, nation, age, ability, and sexuality. Because we all have a gender, this course is crucial
for any profession and for understanding the world around us. It is also a great opportunity for you to
develop your written and oral skills. The course is open to all students regardless of background. As a
prerequisite for more advanced courses in the program and as the intro course for current or future
students in the Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies major or certificate, this course will prepare you
for more advanced courses in the program. Also, you will learn to apply the critical vocabulary used in
gender studies to your major and minor fields of study. This course fulfills your “SS” requirement,
but NOT “W” requirement.

Course Objectives:
At the end of the course, you should achieve the following:
· Demonstrate an introductory understanding of the field of gender, sexuality, and women’s studies, and
utilize a range of interdisciplinary tools and methods for understanding and analyzing sex, gender, and
sexuality in culture.
· Develop a rich comprehension of both feminist and queer approaches to the social and cultural
construction of gender, sex, and sexuality.
· Construct and enhance a critical understanding of intersectionality, including an awareness of gender
and its complex intersections with other social, cultural, and biological categories, including but not
limited to sex, race, ethnicity, class, nationality, sexuality, ability, and age.
· Cultivate a language framework for thoughtfully articulating the critical vocabulary in the field of
gender, sexuality and women’s studies.
· Improve reading and writing skills through effective synthesis of written material, and subsequently, the
ability to convey course concepts in a concise and clear manner both verbally and in writing.
· Develop a skillset to think critically and thoughtfully about the self and others through a deepened
understanding of how social, cultural, and biological categories shape our lives, and our understandings of
the world.

Required Texts:
All additional materials will be available on CourseWeb.

Course Requirements and Grading:
Participation (in-class writing, oral presentations) (25%)
4 Short response papers (20%)
Article+ Presentation (15%)
Final paper (6-8 pages) (30%)

Attendance and Participation
Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class; if you arrive late, you must speak to me after class or your attendance will not be recorded. Please make every effort to arrive to each class on time—frequent tardiness will be noted and points will be deducted from your attendance grade. If you have a valid reason for missing or being late for a class, please let me know by e-mail before the class. If notifying me ahead of time is not possible because of an illness or emergency, you must let me know before the next class, and come prepared with adequate documentation (Dr.'s notes, funeral programs, etc.) confirming your illness or emergency. If you miss 4 or more classes, you risk failing the course.

Participation means more than attendance. You are expected to finish all the assigned material before class and come prepared to contribute to class discussions. The following behaviors will negatively affect your participation grade: talking (private conversations, using a cell phone), texting, surfing the Internet, leaving classroom, sleeping.

We will occasionally have in-class writing activities and short oral presentations, which will be a part of your participation grade.

Short response papers
Response papers must be one page (single spaced, Times New Roman 12-point font). The schedule indicates 4 due dates. You may submit each paper on or before the due date. You may hand in ONLY ONE response paper per class. One of the papers must be written in response to an event on the GSWS Program events calendar that you attend, and it must be turned in the class period following the event. All response papers must be turned in at the beginning of class. If you are absent for a class, you cannot hand in a paper for that class.

Each response paper should include the following three components:
1. Key points and concepts of the assigned readings or an event.
2. Question(s) or comment(s) for class discussions based on the readings or an event.
3. Connection(s) to other course materials, personal experiences, current events, etc. If you reference materials that are not assigned in this course, you need to provide a citation.

Article+ Presentation
Each student will be responsible for leading the discussion for one of the assigned readings. The presentation should address the key terms/concepts and include your own questions and concerns about the reading that prompt discussion. In addition, you have to bring one item to supplement your presentation. This item can be anything (another article, a song, your clothing, etc.), and can be used to support/contradict/complicate the argument in the article. You will give a 5 to 10 minute in-class presentation using power point slides.

Final Paper (6-8 pages)
The final paper will be a 6 to 8-page (double-spaced) research paper that explores how gender issues are problematized in your area of interest. Some potential topic ideas include analysis of gender: in a certain institution such as workplace, school, and family, in a specific governmental policy, in a specific advertisement, in a magazine article or newspaper piece, in a film, in a work of art, in a piece of literature, in a music video, in the lyrics of a song, on a television show, etc. I encourage you to pursue a topic that considers intersection of gender and other variables (race, class, sexuality, religion, etc). I will ask you to submit your paper topic and a short abstract with sources you intend to use by the dates indicated in the
schedule below. You must use Times New Roman 12 point font, 1-inch margins, and consult MLA handbook for instructions on citing sources.

GSWS EVENTS (extra credit)
Extra credit will be added to your attendance grade for one-page (single-spaced) responses to GSWS events. Responses must be turned in within 2 weeks of the event. Late responses will not be accepted.

Late Assignments
Late assignments will be marked down 10% per day.

Cell phones, Computers, etc.
You are allowed to use lap tops/tablets for coursework only. Using any technology for personal reasons will negatively impact your participation grade.

University Policies:

Academic Integrity
Students in this course will be expected to comply with the University of Pittsburgh's Policy on Academic Integrity. Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity. This may include, but is not limited to, the confiscation of the examination of any individual suspected of violating University Policy. Furthermore, no student may bring any unauthorized materials to an exam, including dictionaries and programmable calculators.

Disability Services
If you have a disability that requires special testing accommodations or other classroom modifications, you need to notify both the instructor and Disability Resources and Services no later than the second week of the term. You may be asked to provide documentation of your disability to determine the appropriateness of accommodations. To notify Disability Resources and Services, call (412) 648-7890 (Voice or TTD) to schedule an appointment. The Disability Resources and Services office is located in 140 William Pitt Union on the Oakland campus.

Copyright Notice
Course materials may be protected by copyright. United States copyright law, 17 USC section 101, et seq., in addition to University policy and procedures, prohibit unauthorized duplication or retransmission of course materials. See Library of Congress Copyright Office and the University Copyright Policy.

Classroom Recording Policy
To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student’s own private use.

Gender-Inclusive/Non-Sexist Language Guidelines
Aspiring to create a learning environment in which people of all identities are encouraged to contribute their perspectives to academic discourse, The University of Pittsburgh Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Program provides guidelines and resources regarding gender-inclusive/non-sexist language. Following these guidelines fosters an inclusive and welcoming environment, strengthens academic writing, enriches discussion, and reflects best professional practices.
Language is gender-inclusive and non-sexist when we use words that affirm and respect how people describe, express, and experience their gender. Just as sexist language excludes women’s experiences, non-gender-inclusive language excludes the experiences of individuals whose identities may not fit the gender binary, and/or who may not identify with the sex they were assigned at birth. Identities including trans, intersex, and genderqueer reflect personal descriptions, expressions, and experiences. Gender-inclusive/non-sexist language acknowledges people of any gender (for example, first year student versus freshman, chair versus chairman, humankind versus mankind, etc.). It also affirms non-binary gender identifications, and recognizes the difference between biological sex and gender expression. Students, faculty, and staff may share their preferred pronouns and names, and these gender identities and gender expressions should be honored.

These guidelines fulfill the best intentions of the University of Pittsburgh’s Non-Discrimination Policy: [https://www.cfo.pitt.edu/policies/policy/07/07-01-03.html](https://www.cfo.pitt.edu/policies/policy/07/07-01-03.html). For additional information please visit the Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies Program: [http://www.gswstudies.pitt.edu/](http://www.gswstudies.pitt.edu/)

**Schedule: Readings, Assignments, and Events**

**Week 1:** *Introduction to the course*
Thu, 1/7, Introduction, Essentials for Effective Classroom Discussions

**Week 2:** *Women’s and Gender Studies: Perspectives and Practices*
Tue, 1/12
Chapter 1. Introduction (1-19)
#1, 3, 4

Thu, 1/14
#5, 7, 8

**Week 3:** *Systems of Privilege and Inequality (male privilege, cisgender privilege)*
Tue, 1/19
Chapter 2. Introduction (49-70)
#10, 11
Presentation 1

Thu, 1/21
#13, 14, 17
Presentation 2
DUE: Short Response #1

**Week 4:** *Learning Gender (femininity, masculinity, LGBTQ)*
Tue, 1/26
Chapter 3. Introduction (116-135)
#20, 21
Presentation 3
Thu, 1/28
#24, excerpts from Kate Bornstein, *Gender Outlaw*
Presentation 4

**Thu, 1/28, 4:00-5:15pm, 602 CL

Week 5: **Inscribing Gender on the Body**
Tue, 2/2
Chapter 4. Introduction (181-203)
#28, 30
Presentation 5

Thu, 2/4
#32, 35, 36
Presentation 6

**Fri, 2/5, 3:00-4:30pm, WPU Lower Lounge
Susan Wells, “In Search of the Clitoris: Writing and the Body in Our Bodies, Ourselves”

Week 6: **Media and Culture 1**
Tue, 2/9
Chapter 5. Introduction (250-274)
#38, 40
Presentation 7

Thu, 2/11
#42, 44
Presentation 8
DUE: Short Response #2

Week 7: **Media and Culture 2**
Tue, 2/16
Presentation 9

Thu, 2/18
#47, 48
Presentation 10

**Thu, 2/18 4:00-5:30pm, 401 CL
Gabriella Lukacs, “Career Porn: Blogging and the Good Life”

Week 8: **Sex, Power, and Intimacy (homosexuality, heterosexuality, asexuality)**
Tue, 2/23
Chapter 6. Introduction (313-333)
Week 9: **Health and Reproductive Justice**
**Mon, 2/29 6:00-7:30pm, 602 CL**
Kale Fajardo, “Queer/Asian Filipinos in Oregon: A Trans*Colonial Approach”

Tue, 3/1
Chapter 7. Introduction (362-372)
#56, 57
Presentation 13

Thu, 3/3
#59, 61
Presentation 14
DUE: Final Paper Topic
DUE: Short Response #3

Week 10: **Spring Break-No Class**
Tue, 3/8

Thu, 3/10

Week 11: **Family Systems, Family Lives**
Tues, 3/15
Chapter 8. Introduction (433-451)
#62, 63
Presentation 15
Thu, 3/17
#65, 66
Presentation 16

Week 12: **Work Inside and Outside the Home**
**Mon, 3/21 4:00-5:30pm, 1228 CL**
Deborah Harris, “Taking the Heat: Women Chefs and Gender Inequality in the Professional Kitchen”

Tue, 3/22
Chapter 9. Introduction (470-499)
#69, Excerpts from *Taking the Heat: Women Chefs and Gender Inequality in the Professional Kitchen.*
Presentation 17
Thu, 3/24
#70, 75, 76
Presentation 18
DUE: Final Paper Abstract with Sources

Week 13: **Resisting Gender Violence**
Tue, 3/29
Chapter 10. Introduction (537-564)
#78, 80
Presentation 19

Thu, 3/31
#82, 84
Presentation 20
DUE: Short response #4


Week 14: **State, Law, and Social Policy**
Tue, 4/5
Chapter 11. Introduction (582-604)
#85, 86
Presentation 21

Thu, 4/7
#88, 90
Presentation 22

Week 15 **Religion and Spirituality**
Tue, 4/12
Chapter 12. Introduction (635-649)
#95, 97
Presentation 23

Thu, 4/14
#98, 102
Presentation 24

Week 16: **Activism, Change, and Feminist Futures**
Tue, 4/19
Chapter 13. Introduction (692-714)
#103, 104
Presentation 25

Thu, 4/21
#105, 107, 108
Presentation 26

Week 17: Tue, 4/26 Final Paper Due by 2:00pm (hard copy only)