



Course: GST/SOC 2300
Course title: Introduction to Gender Studies
Professor: Dr. Larissa Werhnyak
Term: Fall 2022
Meetings: TTh 2.30-3.45

Professor's Contact Information

Office phone: 972.883.6259
Office location: HH 2.132
Email: larissa.werhnyak@utdallas.edu
Office hours: TTh 11.00-12.30 and by appointment. I am happy to meet with students via videochat (Teams, Collaborate, Discord) or phone, as well as in person.

Course Information

Enrollment Restrictions: None

Course Description: This course will introduce the concept of gender and consider the ways gender shapes individuals, social institutions, and cultures. It will examine gender, class, sexuality, race/ethnicity, and nationality as interactive systems. Topics include arguments regarding biological determinism; the socio-cultural construction of gender; the historical development of masculine and feminine ideals; the psychology of sex roles; and the influence of gender on families, workplaces, and other institutions.

Learning Outcomes:

- 1) Students will consider the relationships between individual and societal factors in determining conceptions of gender and will be able to describe the ways gender norms shape the lives of individuals by privileging certain definitions of masculinity and femininity, as well as by regulating expressions of gender identity.
- 2) Students will recognize that gender norms are not static and will be able to trace key changes in the development of gender norms over time. They will also analyze the influence of gender on institutions like families, workplaces, schools, and political systems, as well as how conceptions of gender can be influenced by those institutions.
- 3) Students will be able to demonstrate how gender, race, class, national origin, religion, and sexuality function as interactive systems.

Required Texts & Materials: Lisa Wade & Myra Marx Ferree, *Gender: Ideas, Interactions, Institutions*, 2nd. ed. (ISBN 978-0393667967)

Texts may be purchased from the UTD Bookstore and are also available from Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and many independent and used booksellers. Electronic texts are acceptable.

This text will be supplemented by additional materials posted to eLearning. You may also be asked to view films via streaming services that could require a minimal rental or subscription fee. All assigned texts are required unless otherwise designated.

Materials posted to eLearning will be available to all registered students, as they are intended to supplement the classroom experience. These materials may be downloaded but should not be reproduced or shared with those not enrolled in the course or uploaded to any other online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these university requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Course Policies

Communication: The primary methods of communication this semester will be UT Dallas email and eLearning announcements. Ensure that emails sent by the instructor to the class list are not filtered into a junk or spam folder, and check regularly for eLearning announcements. (If possible, adjust your settings to receive a notification when announcements are posted.)

The Course Hub document, posted to the front page of the eLearning site, is intended to serve as a central repository for all course-related information; it will be updated regularly.

Generally, student messages will be answered within 48 working hours. If your question has not been addressed within this time frame, feel free to follow up with the instructor.

Class attendance: At UT Dallas, course attendance policies are set by individual faculty members. Regular and punctual attendance is expected regardless of instruction modality. Students who fail to attend class regularly are at greater risk of academic difficulty.

Try as best you can to attend all class meetings, whether they be online or face-to-face. This, of course, does not mean that you need to attend class when you are ill, utterly exhausted, or facing a crisis. Use your best judgement and try to find a balance between academic responsibilities and self-care.

If you miss a class session or two, you are not required to notify me of your absence (although you may do so!) Check email and the Course Hub document for updates and announcements; catch up on reading and assigned work when feasible; get notes from a classmate; and contact me with any questions you might have about the material you missed.

If you anticipate the possibility of a more substantial absence (e.g., missing more than two consecutive classes,) please contact me sooner rather than later so that we can work out alternative strategies that will allow you to succeed in the course.

Class participation: Regular class participation is expected from each student. Class participation is directly tied to academic success, and in this course, contributes directly to each student's final grade. Remember that participation may include contributing questions, answers, or ideas during group discussions; working with small groups; posting to discussion boards; completing activities in class or as homework; or participating in peer workshoping.

Deadlines & late work: I set deadlines, in large part, to motivate the timely completion of work and to help ensure that students do not fall seriously behind. While I reserve the right to refuse to accept late work submitted without prior consent, as well as the right to penalize late submissions, I am generally willing to work with students needing extensions. If you suspect you may need extra time to complete an assignment, please communicate with me earlier, rather than later, in order to discuss your options.

Course access & navigation / technical requirements: Course materials can be accessed using your UT Dallas NetID account on the eLearning website. In addition to basic computer and Internet competence, success in this course requires familiarity with eLearning. You should be able to access announcements and the course calendar; find posted readings and assignment sheets from the course homepage; post to discussion boards; and submit assignments to designated dropboxes.

Please review important technical requirements on the Getting Started with eLearning page, where the section addressing course access and navigation is particularly relevant. Additionally, the Student eLearning Tutorials page provides support for specific tools and functionalities.

UT Dallas provides eLearning technical support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The eLearning support center includes a toll-free telephone number for immediate assistance (1.866.588.3192); you can also access support via an email request or the online chat service.

Server unavailability / other technical difficulties: The university is committed to providing a reliable learning management system to all users. However, in the event of an unexpected server outage or unusual technical difficulty that prevents students from completing a time-sensitive assignment or activity, the instructor will provide an appropriate accommodation based on the situation. Students should immediately report any problems to the instructor and also contact the online eLearning Helpdesk. The instructor and the Helpdesk will work with the student to resolve the issues as quickly as possible.

Class recordings: Most meetings of this course will not be recorded. Students are expected to follow university policies regarding access to recorded materials, and are expressly prohibited from recording any part of this course unless the Office of Student AccessAbility has approved a request to record.

Recordings provided by the instructor may not be published, reproduced, or shared, and may not be uploaded to any online environments except to implement an approved Office of Student AccessAbility accommodation. Failure to comply with these requirements is a violation of the student code of conduct.

If the instructor or a UTD school, department, or office plans to make use of recordings outside of the instructional setting, consent of the students identifiable in the recordings is required prior to such use unless an exception is permitted by law. Failure to comply with these requirements is a violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Assessment & Grading

Grading criteria:

Midterm exam:	25%
Final exam:	25%
Essay pre-writing:	10%
Essay:	20%
Exercises:	20%

Coursework:

Exercises are day-to-day activities focused on course topics and materials. They're intended to encourage you to engage with assigned texts and ideas presented in class sessions, as well as to think creatively and to grapple with concepts that may be unfamiliar. (Real-time contributions to class sessions, in the form of questions, comments, and the like, can also raise your daily work grade.) Daily work is assessed on a completion (pass/fail) basis, and students will be given credit so long as they make a genuine good-faith effort to complete the work.

Exams evaluate the student's understanding of and ability to think critically about assigned course materials, including readings, films, lectures, and activities. Both exams will primarily consist of short-answer questions and will be open-book, thus requiring no special software (lockdown or etc.) Still, please remember that exams are individual learning adventures, not collective projects, and collaboration on exam responses constitutes academic dishonesty.

Exam questions will be posted to eLearning as a PDF, and students will have several days over which to respond to the exam questions. Responses should be uploaded to a designated eLearning dropbox by the stated deadline.

Essay assignments ask students to develop arguments about topics related to gender, often in conjunction with a cultural text (e.g., an advertisement or a music video.) These assignments require deeper and more thorough engagement with course materials, as well as the use of critical thinking skills in the consideration of how knowledge about gender might contribute to a clearer understanding of some facet of the broader culture.

Standards for written work: All work will be submitted electronically, generally through eLearning dropboxes. Submission of files in PDF format is recommended; DOC and PAGES are generally also fine, although formatting is not always preserved. Some students have encountered problems when submitting from Google Docs or Box; the most frequently-occurring issue is that the document appears both to you and the instructor as a blank page. If this occurs, you may of course send your non-blank document to the instructor via email, but avoiding these file formats may help to minimize anxiety. **Chrome is the preferred browser for eLearning;** attempted submissions from other browsers have historically been plagued by an array of glitches.

Written work should be double-spaced and free from pervasive spelling, mechanical, and grammatical errors. Make reasonable choices about margins, font, and the like. In general, I expect essay submissions to be thoroughly edited and proofread. Responses to exam questions are not held to

such high standards, but should still be as clear, well-organized, and error-free as possible, given time constraints. Daily work is treated more leniently, but please do your best to communicate clearly and professionally while not holding yourself to perfectionistic standards.

Grading scale:

A+ :	97-100%
A:	93-96%
A-:	90-92%
B+:	87-89%
B:	83-86%
B-:	80-82%
C+:	77-79%
C:	73-76%
C-:	70-72%
D+:	67-69%
D:	63-66%
D-:	60-62%
F:	Below 60%

"A" grades are reserved for students who fulfill all course requirements and demonstrate a mastery of course content and concepts.

"B" grades are awarded to students who fulfill all course requirements and demonstrate a competent understanding of course content and concepts.

"C" grades are awarded to students who fulfill all course requirements and demonstrate familiarity with course content and concepts.

"D" grades reflect a partial knowledge of course concepts and content; some basic requirements are fulfilled.

"F" grades are assigned to students who have not demonstrated knowledge of course concepts and content; basic requirements are not fulfilled.

Deadlines

Midterm exam:	October 7-10
Essay (final submission):	November 18
Final exam:	December 9-13

**The descriptions and timelines provided in this syllabus are subject to change at the instructor's discretion.

Additional Resources & Policies

Academic support resources: The Academic Support Resources webpage lists resources that provide assistance and support to the UTD campus community. (See <https://provost.utdallas.edu/syllabus-policies/#academic-support-resources>).

UTD syllabus policies & procedures: The university policies and procedures provided at the UT Dallas Syllabus Policies page constitutes an addendum to this syllabus.

Comet Creed

This creed was voted on by the UT Dallas student body in 2014. It is a standard that Comets choose to live by and encourage others to do the same:

"As a Comet, I pledge honesty, integrity, and service in all that I do."