

WGS 368: Women and World Cultures
Spring 2015
DV1143

Instructor: Courtney Cauthon PhD
courtney.cauthon@utoronto.ca

Office: ER212
Office Hours: Wednesday 3-4pm

Course Description

Women and World Cultures examines the diversity and shared experiences of women in western and non-western societies. This is primarily a history course, supplemented with some contemporary perspectives. It compares women in diverse economic, cultural and religious settings. Furthermore this course will use performance as a concept and a set of practices from which to begin an interrogation of the diverse ways that women engage with and contribute to the world through politics, economics, and aesthetics.

Exclusion: ERI368H5; NEW368H1; WGS368H1.

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- describe and critically assess the impact and contributions of women to cultures throughout the world
- critically analyze how performance may be used as a tool for identifying and problematizing the role of women in the construction and dissemination of culture
- identify how performance brings together political, economic, and aesthetic actions into sites of agency and change
- evaluate the relation between history, the present, and the production of the future in regards to women's positions in culture
- articulate how the relationship between gender, race, and class manifests in the creation and dissemination of culture and how this produces sites of privilege and oppression
- demonstrate effective collaborative working and individual writing skills

Course Requirements

Mid Term Test	25%
Film Review	20%
Essay Proposal	10%
Essay	35%
Class Participation	10%

You will receive detailed guidelines for the assignments as the due dates approach. Brief descriptions for the assignments are provided below.

Mid Term Test

The mid-term test will be comprised of short answer questions and one short essay. The test will focus on material drawn from course readings and lectures. It will ask students to draw conclusions regarding the larger course themes. **The Mid Term Test will be administered during class on Wednesday February 11th.**

Film Review

Each Student must select one film from a list provided and write a 2 page (double spaced, 12 point font) review of the film. The film review should follow the guidelines provided and answer the posed questions. **Film Reviews are due on March 11th, but will also be accepted earlier.**

Essay Proposal

Each student must submit a 300 word (1/2 page, double spaced, 12 point font) proposal for their course paper. Included with the proposal each student must submit an annotated bibliography with 4 entries. **This proposal is due Wednesday February 11th.**

Essay

Each student must select a topic related to a course theme. They must then research this topic and write a 5 page (double spaced, 12 point font) essay that explores the topic. **Essays are due April 1st.**

Participation

Class discussion and hands-on learning activities that compliment the lectures are an integral component of this course. Due to this your active participation is needed for your success in the course. Active participation entails: showing up regularly and on time with required course materials (i.e. readings, homework, etc.), demonstrating engagement with the readings by participating in class discussions and activities, actively and respectfully listening to your peers.

General Course Information:

Students are expected to be punctual and attend **ALL** classes throughout the term. Missing classes will seriously jeopardize your ability to do well in this course and detract from the class learning environment.

Out of respect for classmates and the course team cell phones and other electronic communication devices should be turned off during class and computers should be used for note taking only.

The instructor will not post the lecture notes or power point slides as these are intended to illustrate the lecture and are for the benefit of students in attendance. If you require clarification or have questions, please contact the instructor. Please remember that you can make use of office hours.

Email Policy:

All email communication with the instructor must occur using the student's University of Toronto email.

Please make sure you consult the course syllabus, other handouts, and the course website before submitting inquiries by email.

In the subject line of each email the student should include the course identifier (WGS336) and a concise clear statement of purpose. If the student does not appropriately identify their email in the subject line they may not receive a response.

In the body of the email the student needs to identify him or herself and respectfully frame their message using a proper salutation and complete sentences.

Students can expect a response to their emails within three days, excluding weekends.

Grades will not be discussed electronically. Please set up a meeting with the instructor or attend office hours to discuss grades.

Grading Policy:

The grading of assignments and tests follows the guidelines outlined in the University of Toronto's Governing Council's *University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy*. For more information please refer to the following websites:

<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/uniassgpp.htm>

https://registrar.utm.utoronto.ca/student/calendar/calendar_detail2.pl?Topic=Grading%20Scheme

Absence and Late Assignment Policy:

In accordance with University of Toronto policies students are required to declare their absence on ROSI (<https://www.rosi.utoronto.ca/main.html>) in order to receive academic accommodation for any course work such as missed tests, late assignments, and final examinations.

If the student knows of an absence prior to the date of the test, assignment or exam they must contact the instructor as soon as possible so arrangements can be made. The instructor should be contacted by email and an appointment should be booked in order for consideration of accommodation to be made.

If the student is not aware of an absence prior to the date of the test, assignment or exam they must contact the instructor within 48 hours of the absence in order for accommodation to be considered. The instructor should be contacted by email and an appointment should be booked in order for consideration of accommodation to be made.

The penalty for late submission of assignments is 5% of the final assignment grade per day; assignments will not be accepted 5 days after the due date unless accompanied by a University of Toronto medical certificate.

Notice of Collection: The University of Toronto respects your privacy. The information on this form is collected pursuant to section 2(14) of the University of Toronto Act, 1971. It is collected for the purpose of administering accommodations for academic purposes based on medical grounds. The department will maintain a record of all medical certificates received. At all times your information will be protected in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

If you have questions, please refer to www.utoronto.ca/privacy or contact the University's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Office at 416-946-5835. Address: Room 201, McMurrich Bldg., 12 Queen's Park Crescent, Toronto, ON, M5S 1A1.

Accessibility:

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the AccessAbility Resource Centre as soon as possible. AccessAbility staff (located in room 2047, South Building) are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. Please call 905-569-4699 or email access.utm@utoronto.ca. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course. For more info, please see <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/access/>.

All UTM students are eligible to use the resources of the Academic Skills Centre. For information regarding, e.g., individual appointments, writing workshops, and peer facilitated study groups, see <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/asc/>.

Religious Observances:

The University has a policy for consideration of **religious observance**: “It is important that no University member be seriously disadvantaged because of her or his religious observation....students have an obligation to alert members of the teaching staff in a timely fashion to upcoming religious observances and anticipated absences. Every effort will be made avoid scheduling tests, examinations or other compulsory activities at these times.”

Academic Integrity:

Plagiarism is a very serious, punishable offence that can result in a failing grade for this course. All use of words or ideas from the published works of another individual or individuals must be properly acknowledged. Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism, a serious academic offence that will not be tolerated. Please note that changing a few words in text(s) from other writers does not make it your own. If you paraphrase, please give the name of the authors, dates of publication and page numbers. In general, you should use direct quotations and paraphrases sparingly. If there is uncertainty regarding what constitutes plagiarism, or what are acceptable forms of citation and referencing, students should consult the instructor. Please see the following websites for more information:

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>
<http://www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/>

Turnitin.com

This course will utilize Turnitin.com for essay assignments. Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described in the Turnitin.com website. For students who do not wish to use this service, a draft of the essay with all sources noted must be submitted ten days prior to the assignment due date.

Course Materials

All readings are available on the course Blackboard site.

Course Schedule

- Jan 7** **Introduction: The Production of Culture Through Performance**
- Jan 14** **Part I: Defining Terms and defining a framework for Women, Culture, and Performance**
Hall, Stuart. "Cultural Studies: Two Paradigms." *Media, Culture and Society* 2 (1980): 57-72.

Lengermann, P., & Niebrugge-Brantley, J. (2001). Classical feminist social theory. In G. Ritzer, & B. Smart (Eds.), *Handbook of social theory*. (pp. 125-138). London: SAGE Publications Ltd.
- Jan 21** **Part II: Defining Terms and defining a framework for Women, Culture, and Performance**
Walters, Suzanna Danuta. "Visual Pressures: On Gender and Looking" *Material Girls: Making Sense of Feminist Cultural Theory*. Berkley: University of California Press, 1995. 50-66. Print.

Audre Lorde. "Age, Race, Class, and Sex: Redefining Difference." *Race, Class and Gender*. Eds. Margaret L. Andersen and Patricia Hill Collins. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth/Thomson Learning, 2004. 64-71. Print.
- Jan 28** **Politics: Women, Trauma and Social Memory**
Bosco, Fernando J. "Human rights politics and scaled performances of memory: conflicts among the Madres de Plaza de Mayo in Argentina" *Social & Cultural Geography* Volume 5.3: 2004. Web. Scholars Portal Journals.

Sontag, Susan. "Chapter 5" *Regarding the Pain of Others*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003. Print.
- Feb 4** **Politics: Women, Conflict, and Advocating for Peace**
Baaz, M. E., and M. Stern. 2009. "Why Do Soldiers Rape? Masculinity, Violence, and Sexuality in the Armed Forces in the Congo (DRC)." *International Studies Quarterly* 53 (2):495-518.

Film: God Sleeps in Rwanda (29min)
Found on Vimeo: <http://vimeo.com/48711552>
- Feb 11** **Mid Term Test**
- Feb 18** **Reading Week**
- Feb 25** **Economics: Women, Work, and the Globalized Economy**
Film: China Blue (90 min)
Found on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gk4JYKspO0U>

- Mar 4** **Economics: Micro Credit and Gender Equality?**
 Parthasarathy, Soma Kishore. "Fact and Fiction: Examining Microcredit/Microfinance from a Feminist Perspective" Published by Association for Women's Rights in Development
 Found at AWID website: <http://www.awid.org/Library/Fact-and-Fiction-Examining-Microcredit-Microfinance-from-a-Feminist-Perspective2>
- Mar 11** **Aesthetics: Art and the Creation of Social Change**
 Tuchman, G. (1975), Women and the Creation of Culture. *Sociological Inquiry*, 45: 171–202.

 Adams Jacqueline. "Art in Social Movements: Shantytown Women's Protest in Pinochet's Chile" *Sociological Forum*. 17.1: 2002. Web. *Jstor*.
- Mar 18** **Aesthetics: Interrogating the Gaze of the Other**
 Fusco, Coco, "The Other History of Intercultural Performance" *TDR* 38.1: 1994. Web. *Jstor*.
- Mar 25** **The Technological: Women, Culture and Blogging**
 Gregg, Melissa. "Posting with Passion: Blogs and the Politics of Gender." *Uses of Blogs*. Eds. Axel Bruns and Joanne Jacobs. Digital Formations Vol. 38 Gen. Ed. Steve Jones. New York: Peter Lang, 2006. 151-60.
- April 1** **Where do we go from here?**
 Shayoni Mitra. "Violating Performance: Women, Law and the State of Exception," in *Gender, Space, Resistance*, edited by Anita Singh, DK Publishing: 2013.