

Introduction to Women's Studies: WS100

TT 9:35-10:50, Pierce 101

Professor Victoria Sturtevant

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Office: LANGUAGE HALL 102

Office Hours: Tues. 2-3, and by appt.

Required Texts:

Feminist Frontiers IV by Laurel Richardson, Verta Taylor, and Nancy Whittier (FF)

Sula by Toni Morrison

Bastard Out of Carolina by Dorothy Allison

In The Time of the Butterflies by Julia Alvarez

Course Objectives:

This course is intended as a preliminary survey of the social, economic, and ideological operations of gender in culture. Emory's Women's Studies program endorses no particular political philosophy, and students' work and discussion will not be judged on the basis of their adherence to a particular political stance. However, some interest in and commitment to the well being of women (and frankly to human beings everywhere) *must* underlie our work in this course.

To that end, students are asked to commit to the following guidelines for interaction inside and outside the classroom:

- to listen respectfully to their classmates
- to embrace disagreement
- to keep discussion focused on academic issues
- to expect to become uncomfortable sometimes, and to accept discomfort as a prerequisite for intellectual and personal growth

Requirements and Particulars:

Readings: Complete the assigned readings before the first class of the week. You will be responsible for the information contained in the readings whether we cover it in discussion or not. I also reserve the right to assign extra readings during the course of the semester, with as little as one class-period warning. If you miss a class, please check with another student in case there has been some supplemental reading assigned. Similarly, there are two outside video screenings for this class. As the screening times are not part of our pre-arranged class meeting times, please try to make room in your schedules to attend. If you cannot make it to the screening, it is your responsibility to watch the video before the class period in which we discuss it (usually the first class after the screening time). Plan ahead for this eventuality, and contact me *early* if finding a way to watch the video presents undue difficulties for you.

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Conferences: Students may arrange to meet with me any time during the semester. If you have any concerns about your performance, your grade, or if you are falling behind, *please let me know as early as possible* so we can arrange a strategy to help you. It is your responsibility to let me know if you need help. I am available by email, by office phone, during office drop-in hours (Tues. 2-3) or by appointment.

If you have any condition or disability which requires accommodation, please notify me as soon as possible (today after class or via email).

Grading: Please note that the plus/minus grading system is in effect for this course. Your grade will be broken down in the following way:

Participation (30%): This grade includes attendance, preparedness, attention, and verbal class comments. Attendance alone is not remotely sufficient. Each student is responsible for making one comment, or asking or answering one question at each and every class meeting. It is up to you to make sure you are an active part of the class dynamic. If you miss more than 2 class periods this grade will suffer. Please notify me if you know that you will be absent for any reason, so I can give you make-up materials. Although it is helpful for me to know where you are, be advised that notifying me does not constitute an 'excused' absence.

I reserve the right to quiz you on the readings any day of the semester. Quiz grades will count toward your participation grade. If you are absent on the day of a quiz, the quiz will not be figured into your grade, although the absence will.

Short papers, group work, and other daily informal assignments will also be figured into the participation grade. Do not take this 30% for granted: you start with zero and must earn your way up.

Midterm Exam (20%) and Final Exam (20%) Both exams will be in an essay/short answer format. A review session will precede each exam, but please do not assume that I will cover every exam question at these sessions. As these examinations are time-consuming to administer, make-up or early examinations will only be offered under the most dire circumstances.

Longer Paper and Presentations (30%): This project will be completed in stages, so that students can develop an original idea into a sophisticated analysis.

Step 1: Students will meet with me to discuss possible topics for their presentation and end-of-term paper by September 21.

Step 2: Students will turn in 1-page paper proposals by September 28.

Step 3: Students will keep me apprised of their research via email, meetings, or class discussion.

Step 4: I will review rough drafts of papers if they are turned in before November 16 (this review is optional, but recommended).

Step 5: Students will give 10 minute presentations of their research during the last weeks of classes, November 28-December 7.

Step 6: The final, 7-9 page paper is due in my mailbox by 5 p.m. December 12.

The Honor Code is in effect throughout this course. Academic honesty is absolutely essential to our conduct as a university, and any student found to be in violation of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Council and will receive an F in the course.

Course Calendar:

Aug. 31: Introductions, terminology, classroom guidelines.

Sept. 5-7: Basic Constructs

Frye, *Oppression* (FF 1)

Yamato, *Something About the Subject Makes it Hard to Name* (FF 6)

MacIntosh, *White Privilege and Male Privilege* (Handout)

Lorde, *The Master's Tools* (FF 5)

Sept. 12-14: Perspectives on Power and Difference

Allen, *Where I Come From is Like This* (FF 3)

Truth, *Ain't I a Woman?* (FF p. 20)

Anzaldua, *En Rapport, In Opposition* (FF 16)

Morrison, *Sula*, Part I

Sept. 19-21: Sex/Gender

Lorber, *Night to His Day* (FF 7)

Shapiro, *Transsexualism* (FF 8)

Rich, *Compulsory Heterosexuality* (FF 10)

Film: *Orlando*, directed by Sally Potter, 1993.

Sept 21: Deadline to meet with me about project proposals

Sept. 26-28: Race/Identity/Labor

Glenn, *From Servitude to Service Work* (FF 9)

Collins, *The Social Construction of Black Feminist Thought* (FF 11)

Morrison, *Sula*, Part II.

Sept. 28: Paper Proposals Due

Oct. 3-5: Socialization

Richardson, *Gender Stereotyping in the English Language* (FF 12)

Chodorow, *Family Structure and Feminine Personality* (FF 17)

Spelman, *Gender in the Context of Race and Class* (FF p.158)

Allison, *Bastard*, ch. 1-5.

Oct. 10-12: Socialization II

Dill, *The Means to Put My Children Through* (FF 18)

Pogrebin, *The Secret Fear* (FF 19)

Thorne, *Girls and Boys Together* (FF 20)

Exam Review

Oct. 17: No Class/Fall Break

Oct. 19: Midterm Exam

Oct. 24-26: Labor/Economics

Kessler-Harris, *The Wage Conceived* (FF 22)

Reskin, *Bringing the Men Back In* (FF 23)

Jones, *Race, Sex and Class*. (FF 24)

Allison, *Bastard*, ch. 6-10.

Oct. 25 7 p.m. Self-Defense workshop with Lorne Coleman. Location TBA

Oct. 31-Nov. 2: Family Values

Hochschild, *The Second Shift* (FF 27)

Segura, *Working at Motherhood* (FF 28)

Solinger, *Race and Value* (FF 29)

Allison, *Bastard*, ch. 11-22.

Nov. 7-9: Sexuality and the Body

Lewin, *Negotiating Lesbian Motherhood* (FF 30)

Tolman, *Doing Desire* (FF 34)

Galler, *The Myth of the Perfect Body* (FF p. 342)

Film: *Camila*, directed by Maria Luisa Bemberg, 1985.

Nov. 14-16: Law/State/Violence

Martin & Hummer, *Fraternities and Rape on Campus* (FF 40)

Schneider & Jenness, *Social Control, Civil Liberties . . .* (FF 46)

Edin, *Surviving the Welfare System* (FF 44)

Alvarez, *Butterflies*, Parts I & II

Nov. 16: Deadline for review of Rough Drafts

Nov. 21: The Big Picture

Ault & Sandberg, *Our Policies, Their Consequences* (FF 48)

Taylor & Whittier, *The New Feminist Movement* (FF 53)

hooks, *Black Students Who Reject Feminism* (FF p. 546)

Alvarez, *Butterflies*, Part III, Epilogue, Postscript

Nov. 23: No Class/Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 28-Dec. 7: Student Presentations

Dec. 12: Wrap-up/Exam Review

Dec. 12: Final Papers Due in my office, by 5 p.m.

Final Exam