

WOMN 1500 (A01): Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies in the Humanities

Instructor

Morgan Abbott

morgan.abbott@umanitoba.ca

Office Hours:

Tuesday's 1:00-2:00pm

226 Isbister

Class Location

322 St. Paul's College

Class Schedule

Monday, Wednesday & Friday

10:30-11:20am

Voluntary Withdrawal Date

November 18th, 2025

The discipline of Women's and Gender Studies grows out of a rich and varied history of political and intellectual engagement. It is a unique academic field because it both records and investigates social changes and movements. The central goal of this course is to introduce students to the rich perspectives and approaches encompassed in studies of women, men, youth, gender, sexuality, and race with the intent to engage students in a critical analysis of the world around them. Students are expected to participate in course materials through interactive, experimental, and participatory activities. Students will learn or strengthen critical thinking, reading and essay writing skills, group/collective problem-solving skills. Students will also have a basic understanding of a variety of major issue in Women's and Gender Studies, including the intersections of gender, race, ethnicity, class, patriarchy, nationality, etc.

Required Texts

The Beauty Myth: How Images of Beauty Are Used Against Women
by Naomi Wolf (available at the BookStore)

The sun and her flowers by rupi kaur (available at the BookStore)

All other readings will be uploaded on UM Learn

Additional Information

This course fulfils the University's Written English Requirement. Therefore, all assignments will be evaluated by form (grammar, meets assignment requirements, error-free) and content. Content includes written descriptions or arguments that are clear, concise, logically structured, provide course-related and relevant evidence, and demonstrate an appropriate awareness of the audience or readership being addressed.

Acknowledgement

The University of Manitoba campuses are located on original lands of Anishinaabeg, Ininiwak, Anisiniwuk, Dakota Oyate and Dene, and on the National Homeland of the Red River Métis.

We respect the Treaties that were made on these territories, we acknowledge the harms and mistakes of the past, and we dedicate ourselves to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in a spirit of Reconciliation and collaboration.

Course Overview

EVALUATION

Assignment	Percentage	Due Dates
Attendance/Participation	10%	N/A
Film Response Papers x2	2 x 15% each (30%)	Monday, September 29 th , 2025 (in-class)
		Monday, November 3 rd , 2025 (in-class)
Critical Response Papers x4	2 x 20% each (40%)	Friday, October 17 th , 2025
		Friday, November 21 st , 2025
Final Test	20%	Monday, December 8 th , 2025 (in-class)

ALL ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED ON UM LEARN DROPBOX

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE .DOC OR .PDF FORMAT

EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to attend every class and engage appropriately in class discussion. Because this course can deal with sensitive subject matter, some students may feel comfortable enough to share from their own experience. It is expected that students value the privacy of other students and that testimonies shared in class or on the course forum online stay within this class.

If you are feeling ill, please do not risk coming to campus and potentially spreading to fellow classmates. If you do not feel well enough to attend class, please email me in advance. Course materials such as the PowerPoints will be posted online to ensure that everybody has equal access to the bulk of the material, even if they miss it in person. However, if you believe you require more in-depth notes, I encourage you find a classmate to take notes and then share them with you.

If you are feeling ill during class when a test is scheduled or assignment is due, please email me so I can accommodate you at a different time. Those who are unable to attend class to take the final test, for example, may be able to do so online via UM Learn. If you are unable to attend class during a screening of a film, I will try to find a copy available online so that you can watch on your own time. Extensions for assignments may be granted due to illness, family conflict, personal stress, etc. but please ensure you email me in advance to inform me you will not be able to meet the deadline assigned. (

<https://umanitoba.ca/governance/sites/governance/files/2022-06/self-declaration-for-brief-and-temporary-student-absences-fillable-form-final-for-website.pdf>)

If I am unable to attend class for such reasons, students will be emailed in advance of cancellations, delays, substitutes, etc. Any missed material will be posted on UM Learn to be available for students and the class itself may be virtually (via Zoom) or combined with a future class to ensure no material or content is sacrificed.

ASSIGNMENTS

Critical Response Papers:

Students are required to write **2** Critical Response Papers throughout the term based on the written course material. Each paper should be about **1500-2000 words of content**, 12 size font Times New Roman, double-spaced, with a reference list (in APA format). Students are **responding to/focusing on 1 of the assigned readings** before the respective due date. Students must include a brief summary of the chosen material and **connect it to at least 1 of the key concept(s)** raised during the course up until that point (racism, capitalism, the double-bind, intersectionality, white-saviour complex, commodity fetishism, gender binary, etc.). The main topic/issue should be fully explained in the paper with specific reference to the reading, including examples and direct quotes for support. Additionally, students must explain why the material is relevant/significant and connect it to examples beyond the confines of the chosen material in order to demonstrate critical thinking and connection to broader social structures in society (should not be something already discussed/analyzed within that material or in a course lecture). Students must choose different course materials as well as different key concepts in each of the papers.

This assignment will be evaluated in terms of content and writing style. This means that your work will be marked in terms of demonstrated comprehension of the concept under consideration, level of engagement with the material, and clarity and precision of the writing. “Demonstrated comprehension of the concept” and “level of engagement with the material” means the extent to which you are able to effectively define and make clear that you understand your chosen concept and are able to do some of your own thinking about it. “Clarity and precision of writing” refers to grammatical correctness, proper paragraph structure and organization, and correct word usage throughout the paper. Even if the content of your writing is good, if your writing style and format are poor, the content becomes difficult to understand. You should be striving, as a writer, to ensure that your ideas are always clearly and concisely expressed in a format that your readers will find easy to read and to follow. Papers must be uploaded in Word or PDF format (no weblinks to GoogleDocs or similar) to the appropriate assignment Dropbox in UM Learn by 11:59pm on the day they are due. Please ensure to include your name, student number, and the course code for this course on each paper.

Assignments not submitted properly on UM Learn will receive an automatic F. Assignments submitted late without notice/approval for extensions are penalized. For more information about proper APA formatting, please consult the following resource or with a writing tutor:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/apa_style/apa_formatting_and_style_guide/general_format.html

Film Response Papers

During designated classes (indicated on the schedule below), students will respond, in writing, to one of screenings of the course that was shown during that week. For this term, these screenings are *Hidden Figures* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Students are encouraged to connect the screening to course concepts (that will become evident after watching these films). The purposes of these in-class writing assignments are as follows:

- to allow students as many opportunities as possible to engage with course material and to receive feedback on their written work
- to encourage students to improve their writing skills in anticipation of both the final written paper and the final test
- to discourage plagiarism by requiring students to write and submit their own work

Final Test:

To be taken on the last class of the course **in person**. This test will be inclusive of the course's key concepts, related material and various terminology up until that point. The test may include multiple choice, matching, true or false and short answer questions. There will be a review class for the final in the final weeks of the course (see schedule below).

more detailed guidelines and samples will be posted on UM Learn closer to assignment due dates

GRADING SCHEME

A+	Exceptional	90-100%
A	Excellent	80-89%
B+	Very Good	75-79%
B	Good	70-74%
C+	Satisfactory	65-69%
C	Adequate	60-64%
D	Marginal	50-59%
F	Failure	Less than 49%

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1. Students are advised to read the pertinent pages of the course calendar for the rules regarding Registration, Voluntary Withdrawals, Academic misconduct including plagiarism and Appeals
http://umanitoba.ca/student/records/media/Undergrad_Final_V7.pdf
2. **Formatting Assignments:** Assignments must be double-spaced in a standard 12-point font with regular margins. No separate title page is necessary. Your name and student number should appear at the top of the first page, followed by the assignment title. All assignments must include works cited page and follow standard scholarly practices for citing materials. Assignments are to be submitted in APA, format unless otherwise instructed. For help with various styles, click on
libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/content.php?pid=356868&sid=2918540

Style guides are also available in the reference section of the Elizabeth Dafoe Library.

3. **Resources for EAL Students:** I will attempt to present course material in a way that takes into consideration diverse learning styles and needs of students, including those for whom English is an additional language. If you require further information or support, please see me during my office hours.
4. **University of Manitoba Libraries (UML):** As the primary contact for all research needs, your liaison librarian can play a vital role when completing academic papers and assignments. Liaisons can answer questions about managing citations, or locating appropriate resources, and will address any other concerns you may have, regarding the research process. Liaisons can be contacted by email or phone, and are also available to meet with you in person. A complete list of liaison librarians can be found by subject or name. Also, general library assistance is provided in person at 19 University Libraries, located on both the Fort Garry and Bannatyne campuses, as well as in many Winnipeg hospitals. For a listing of all libraries, please consult the following: <http://bit.ly/1sXe6RA>. When working remotely, students can also receive help online, via the Ask-a-Librarian chat found on the Libraries' homepage: www.umanitoba.ca/libraries
5. **Mental Health:** For 24/7 mental health support, contact the Mobile Crisis Service at 204-940-1781
6. **Student Counselling Centre:** Contact SCC if you are concerned about any aspect of your mental health, including anxiety, stress, or depression, or for help with relationships or other life concerns. SCC offers crisis services as well as individual, couple, and group counselling. Student Counselling Centre:
<http://umanitoba.ca/student/counselling/index.html> 474 University Centre or S207 Medical Services.
7. **Student Support Case Management:** Contact the Student Support Case Management team if you are concerned about yourself or another student and don't know where to turn. SSCM helps connect students with on, and off-campus resources provide safety planning and offer other supports, including consultation, educational workshops, and referral to the STATIS threat assessment team. Student Support Intake Assistant <http://umanitoba.ca/student/case-manager/index.html>
520 University Centre (204) 474-7423
8. **University Health Service:** Contact UHS for any medical concerns, including mental health problems. UHS offers a full range of medical services to students, including psychiatric consultation. University Health Service <http://umanitoba.ca/student/health/>
104 University Centre, Fort Garry Campus. (204) 474-8411 (Business hours or after hours/urgent calls)
9. **Health and Wellness:** Contact our Health and Wellness Educator if you are interested in information on a broad range of health topics, including physical and mental health concerns, alcohol and substance use harms and sexual assault. Health and Wellness Educator <http://umanitoba.ca/student/health/wellness/welcome.html>

Katie.Kutryk@umanitoba.ca 469 University Centre (204) 295-9032

- 10. Live Well @ UofM:** For comprehensive information about the full range of health and wellness resources available on campus, visit the Live Well @ UofM site:
<http://umanitoba.ca/student/livewell/index.html>

All students are required to respect copyright as per Canada's Copyright Act. Staff and students play a fundamental role in the University's copyright compliance as we balance user rights for educational purposes with the rights of content creators from around the world. The Copyright Office provides copyright resources and support for all members of the University of Manitoba community. Visit <http://umanitoba.ca/copyright> for more information.

- 11. Your rights and responsibilities:** As a student at the University of Manitoba, you have rights and responsibilities. It is essential for you to know what you can expect from the University as a student and to understand what the University expects from you. Become familiar with the policies and procedures of the University and the regulations that are specific to your faculty, college or school. The Academic Calendar <http://umanitoba.ca/student/records/academiccalendar.html> is a critical source of information. View the sections University Policies and Procedures and General Academic Regulations. While all of the information contained in these two sections is important, the following information is highlighted.

- If you have questions about your grades, talk to your instructor. There is a process for term work and final grade appeals. Note that you have the right to access your last examination scripts. See the Registrar's Office website for more information including appeal deadline dates and the appeal form <http://umanitoba.ca/registrar/>
- You are expected to view the General Academic Regulation section within the Academic Calendar and accurately read the Academic Integrity regulation. Consult the course syllabus or ask your instructor for additional information about demonstrating academic integrity in your academic work. Visit the Academic Integrity Site for tools and support <http://umanitoba.ca/academicintegrity/> View the Student Academic Misconduct Procedure for more information.
- The University is committed to a respectful work and learning environment. You have the right to be treated with respect, and you have expected conduct yourself in an appropriately respectful manner. Policies governing behaviour include the:

- 12. Respectful Work and Learning Environment:**
http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/230.html

- 13. Student Discipline:**
http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/students/student_discipline.html and,

14. Violent or Threatening Behaviour

http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/669.html

15. If you experience Sexual Assault or know a member of the University community who has, it is essential to know there is a policy that provides information about the supports available to those who disclose and outlines a process for reporting.

Please see this website: <http://umanitoba.ca/student/sexual-assault/>

The Sexual Assault policy may be found at

http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/230.html .

More information and resources can be found by reviewing the Sexual Assault site
<http://umanitoba.ca/student/sexual-assault/>

Understanding Consent: <http://umanitoba.ca/student/sexual-assault/understanding-consent.html>

To make a report of sexual assault see: <http://umanitoba.ca/student/sexual-assault/make-a-report.html>

16. For information about rights and responsibilities regarding Intellectual Property view the policy http://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/media/Intellectual_Property_Policy - 2013_10_01.pdf For information on regulations that are specific to your academic program, read the section in the Academic Calendar and on the respective faculty/college/school website <http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/>
17. Contact an Academic Advisor within our faculty/college or school for questions about your academic program and regulations <http://umanitoba.ca/academic-advisors/>
18. Student Advocacy: Contact Student Advocacy if you want to know more about your rights and responsibilities as a student, have questions about policies and procedures, and/or want support in dealing with academic or discipline concerns. <http://umanitoba.ca/student/advocacy/>
- 520 University Centre 204 474 7423 student_advocacy@umanitoba.ca
19. Academic Integrity: Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating, exam personation, ("Personation at Examinations" (Section 5.2.9) and "Plagiarism and Cheating" (Section 8.1). You are expected to view the General Academic Regulation section within the Academic Calendar and specifically to inform yourself with respect to what constitutes Academic Integrity. Consult the course syllabus or ask your instructor for additional information about demonstrating academic integrity in your -7- academic work. Visit the Academic Integrity Site for tools and support <http://umanitoba.ca/academicintegrity/>
20. The minimum penalty for plagiarism on a written assignment is F on the paper and may result in an

FDISC (discipline) in the course. This notation appears on the student's transcript.

21. Students who are unable to meet a course requirement due to medical circumstances are currently not required to submit medical notes. However, students are required to contact their instructor or academic advisor by email to inform of the missed work and to make arrangements for extensions, deferrals, or make-up assignments. Please follow these guidelines if you are unable to meet an academic requirement for your courses. – Contact your instructor for term work such as a class, quiz, midterm/test, assignment, lab; - Contact an advisor in your faculty/college/school of registration for a missed final exam (scheduled in the final examination period); - Inform your instructor/advisor as soon as possible do not delay. Note for final exams, students must contact within 48 hours of the date of the final exam; and - Email your instructor/advisor from a U of M email address, and include your full name, student number, course number, and academic work that was missed.
22. Student coursework will be retained for 90 days after the end of the appeal period.
23. All work for this course should be completed independently without use of Chat-GPT or Artificial Intelligence (AI). For more information on what constitutes as AI, go to <https://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/academic-supports/academic-integrity>

COURSE SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3rd

Introduction to course and course outline/assignment guidelines, course expectations, etc.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5th

Screening: Status Quo: The Unfinished Business of Feminism in Canada (Karen Cho)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th

A Vindication of the Rights of Women (Mary Wollstonecraft) – The Prevailing Opinion of a Sexual Character Discussed

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10th

A Room of One's Own (Virginia Woolf) – chapter 1

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12th

The Second Sex (Simone de Beauvoir) - Introduction

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th

Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses (Chandra Talpade Mohanty)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17th

The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House (Audre Lorde)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th

Library presentation by Janice Winkler (proper formatting and library research)

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd

In-class screening: Hidden Figures (Theodore Melfi)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24th

In-class screening: Hidden Figures (Theodore Melfi) continued

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26th

In-class screening: Hidden Figures (Theodore Melfi) continued

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29th

IN-CLASS FILM RESPONSE PAPER

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1st

the sun and her flowers (rupi kaur) "Wilting"

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3rd

the sun and her flowers (rupi kaur) "Falling"

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6th

the sun and her flowers (rupi kaur) "Rooting"

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8th

the sun and her flowers (rupi kaur) "Rising"

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10th

the sun and her flowers (rupi kaur) "Blooming"

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13th

THANKSGIVING DAY: NO CLASSES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15th

Making the Personal Political: Class in the Family (bell hooks)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17th

Never Done: The Challenge of Unpaid Work in the Home (Meg Luxton)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20th

Policy Discourses on Sexual Violence: From the Royal Commission to the (Post-)Neoliberal State (Lise Gotell)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22nd

Strategic, Cynical, and Sinister Representation: Reconceptualizing and Recasting Women's Representation (Alexandra Dobrowlsky)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24th

Women, Madness, and Exercise (Jennifer Jane Hardes)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27th

In-class screening: A Streetcar Named Desire (Elia Kazan)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29th

In-class screening: A Streetcar Named Desire (Elia Kazan) continued

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31st

In-class screening: A Streetcar Named Desire (Elia Kazan) continued

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd

FILM RESPONSE PAPER

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5th

Chick Flicks and Chick Culture (Suzanne Ferriss & Mallory Young)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7th

What Is A True Gamer? (Thekla Morgenroth et al.)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10th – FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14th: READING WEEK/FALL BREAK

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17th

The Beauty Myth: How Images of Women Are Used Against Women (Naomi Wolf) – Introduction & The Beauty Myth

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19th

The Beauty Myth: How Images of Women Are Used Against Women (Naomi Wolf) – Work & Culture

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21st

The Beauty Myth: How Images of Women Are Used Against Women (Naomi Wolf) – Religion

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24th

The Beauty Myth: How Images of Women Are Used Against Women (Naomi Wolf) – Sex & Hunger

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26th

The Beauty Myth: How Images of Women Are Used Against Women (Naomi Wolf) – Violence

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28th

The Beauty Myth: How Images of Women Are Used Against Women (Naomi Wolf) – Beyond the Beauty Myth

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1st

In-class Final Test Review

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3rd

Work/Study Period

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5th

Work/Study Period

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8th

In-class Final Test

Blue writing indicates the required reading will be uploaded via UMLearn

Green writing indicates an in-class presentation or assignment (no reading required)

Red writing indicates a holiday or eliminated class time

