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Women's/Gender Roles in Contemporary Society

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CUNY City College

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Women's/Gender Roles in Contemporary Society
Fall 2018
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City College
NAC 5101

Monday and Wednesday 12:30-12:15;

Office hour Monday 12:30-1:30

Office location to be announced

(make sure to check in with me if you are planning to come by the office or need to meet at different time)

Required texts – readings will be posted on Blackboard. You are responsible for printing them and bringing them to class. You are welcome to read them in a digital format as well but will need to be able to refer to specific parts of the text while we discuss them. If you cannot print let me know in advance and I will print them for you. I will not be able to print on the day of the class so I suggest you talk to me early in the semester if this is a problem. I might add additional readings to this syllabus as we go so please check Blackboard before each class.

Course Description

We live in an exciting and diverse world whose dynamics are sometimes hard to follow. It is easy to get stuck in one's own worldview and remain there. In order to discover the other world views it is important to learn about alternative histories, points of view and traditions. Women's/Gender Roles in Contemporary Society is an introduction to issues that arise when women's lives and gender roles become the focus of critical inquiry. How do different societies and academic disciplines define women? How do women's experiences vary in relation to factors such as race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, age and nationality? How have women resisted, adapted to, and transformed "women's space" in the United States and elsewhere? Active participation is a crucial element of this class and creative expression is highly encouraged. You are allowed 4 absences. More than four absences will affect your grade.

Attendance

Attendance for the class is mandatory. Many graded assignments will be given based on what happens in class and won't be able to complete if you were not there. Look at assignment descriptions for details.

Learning Outcomes

1. The difference between sex and gender; shifting definitions of “woman”
2. Variation in gender based experiences across nations, cultures, time, class, race, etc.
3. Intersectionality of race, class, gender, ethnicity, sexuality; interlocking oppression
4. Major issues or “big questions” pertaining to contemporary gender based issues
5. Key figures and concepts in feminist theory
6. Applying cross-cultural and global awareness to “big questions” about women and gender
7. Considering an issue from multiple perspectives
8. Thinking critically
9. Constructing arguments with evidence obtained from research
10. Recognizing sexist/racist writing and thinking
11. Engaging in critical self-reflection, promoting self-awareness
12. Connecting knowledge and experience, theory and activism, Women’s Studies and other courses
13. Communicating effectively in writing and speech
14. Applying knowledge for social transformation, citizenship
15. Using gender as a category for analysis
16. General Education and Self and Society Proficiencies

As part of the College’s General Education Curriculum, this course is designed to enhance your understanding of relationship between the individual and society. Students successfully completing this course will develop the following proficiencies:

Oral and written communication skills - Students will produce well-reasoned written or oral arguments using evidence to support conclusions.

Critical thinking skills - Students will evaluate evidence and arguments critically or analytically.

Information literacy skills

Students will gather, interpret, and assess information from a variety of sources and points of view.

Individual and Society

Students will identify and apply the fundamental concepts and methods of a discipline or interdisciplinary field exploring the relationship between the individual and society.

Other useful information

Gender and Names

Please let me know your gender pronoun and name if it does not match the name on the class roster. Everyone is expected to respect names and pronouns people ask us to use.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is an essential part of the pursuit of truth, and of your education. We are all responsible for maintaining academic integrity at City College – it is the rock on which the value of your degree is built. If you cheat on a test or plagiarize by using someone else's work or ideas, you defeat the purpose of your education. In addition, academic dishonesty is prohibited in the City University of New York, and is punishable by failing grades, suspension and expulsion.

Details can be found here (also on Blackboard)

[CCNY Academic Integrity Information](#)

Additional Accommodations

Students with disabilities seeking accommodations and/or support services at City College are required to register with the AAC/SDS. For information call 212-650-5913 *or* email disabilityservices@ccny.cuny.edu *or* visit the office in the North Academic Center, Room 1/218. The AAC/SDS is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 am-5:00 pm during the academic year. More can be found here:

[CCNY Accessibility Information](#)

Complaints of Discrimination

The City College and The City University of New York are committed to addressing discrimination complaints promptly, consistently and fairly. Any City College employee, student, applicant for admission or employment or other participant in the College's programs or activities who believes he or she has been unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of age, color, disability, national or ethnic origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status may file a complaint in writing with the Office of Diversity and Compliance using the [Discrimination Complaint Form](#) by e-mail to the Dean of Diversity, Michele A. Baptiste mbaptiste@ccny.cuny.edu, or by stopping in the EEO Compliance office in Shepard Hall, Room 109.

The City College of New York does not discriminate against any student on the basis of pregnancy or related conditions. Absences due to medical conditions relating to pregnancy will be excused for as long as deemed medically necessary by a student's doctor and students will be given the opportunity to make up missed work. Students needing assistance can seek accommodations from the Office of Accessibility in NAC 1/218, or by calling the Interim 504/ADA Coordinator and Title IX Coordinator, Michele A. Baptiste at 212.650.6310, Room 109 in Shepard Hall.

Grades and Assignments

Grades

Weekly writings	20%
In class group work	20%
Exams	20%
Final research paper	20%
In class presentation	10%
Quizzes	10%

Assignment explanation

Weekly writings 200 points

You are asked to write responses to readings and to share them with the class. Please upload them to the **blog** on the blackboard weekly. There will be ten of these each worth 20 points. Late entries will lose points.

Presentations (submit on wiki tool) 100 points

Two page paper you will be asked to present in class. The topic will be given to you by the instructor. These have to be done on the day you have signed up to present. Missing the class on that day will result in an F on this assignment. They cannot be made up but you will be able to pick when you want to do them.

Exams (submitted under content exam) 200 points

Two exams will be posted on Blackboard and are done at home. Each is worth 100 points. They are not timed. They have to be submitted by the due date to qualify for full points. If they are submitted late the grade will be reduced by point for each missed week.

Research Paper (submitted via blackboard) 200 points

This paper needs to be 7 pages long and connected to the readings and/or class discussions. You will need to propose a topic to me and get it approved before week 5. The paper should be well researched and cited and while you are welcome to use in class readings you should have at least 3-5 sources outside of the class assigned material. The proposal will be submitted under wiki section of tools, the final paper is submitted under the assignment under content. Proposal is worth 50 points, paper is worth 150. The final paper will be presented at the final. Attendance at the final is mandatory and cannot be rescheduled or made up. Missing the final will result in a penalty of -25 points.

Group Project 200 points

There will be a series of in class group assignments you will be ask to complete and submit as a group. Missing a class when these are done will result in receiving an F for that project. You will be able to MISS TWO without a penalty. Total number of points you can earn is

200, each is worth 50. These will not be announced in advance so you are encouraged to attend all classes.

Quizzes 100 points

There will be quizzes you will need to complete before class starts. They will be posted on Blackboard and cannot be done after the deadline. Once the due date passes they will not be visible on Blackboard. They will consist of several simple questions proving you completed the readings. You can miss TWO quizzes with no penalty. These will be timed and in order to complete them you will have to have read the assigned readings already. Each quiz is worth 10 points.

Schedule

This schedule is subject to change. Please check Blackboard daily to make sure you don't miss something. Also make sure you check email linked to your Blackboard account because all communication will be sent to you through Blackboard. All readings are in the folders labeled by the weeks. The writing and other assignments are in their respective folders.

Week ONE Introductions

August 27 Introductions to class and ourselves!

August 29 Women, men, feminism, patriarchy ... key concepts.

Week TWO Terminology

September 5 gender work book exercise

Week THREE Feminism

September 12 - Watch the video *We Should all be Feminists* at home and complete writing two

Week FOUR Feminisms

September 17 Feminism, Patriarchy

Week FIVE Science and Gender

September 24 and 26 Science and Education

Week SIX Essentialism and Social Construction

October 1 Defining the terms and examples

October 3 In class watching - *The Ascent of Women*

Week SEVEN Essentialism and Social Construction

October 8 NO CLASS

October 10 Guest speaker (Lepa Mladjenovic)

Week EIGHT Privilege and Intersectionality

October 15 Butler Articles EXAM 1 POSTED

October 17 Crenshaw articles

Week NINE Privilege and Intersectionality

October 22 EXAM 1 DUE; Privilege Articles and exercise

October 24 Dark Girls Documentary (in class)

Week TEN Colorism and Racism

October 29 100 colorism questions exercise, colorism readings

October 31 Race shorts, racism in Hollywood

Week ELEVEN Nationalism and Globalization

November 5 Nationalism and feminism readings

November 7 Angela Davis Feminism and Abolition

Week TWELVE

November 12 Diasporic Identities

November 14 Women rights and embracing of hate based ideologies

Exam 2 POSTED

Week THIRTEEN Violence

November 19 Exam 2 DUE

November 21

Week FOURTEEN Sex Work

November 26

November 28

Week FIFTEEN Resistance Manifestos

December 3 Free Angela and all Political Prisoners (documentary, watching in class)

December 5 Group activity - write a manifesto

Week SIXTEEN Utopias

December 10 Group activity - utopias

FINAL TBA