

WMST 2601 - Introduction to Women's Studies

Fall 2026 Syllabus, Section 03, CRN 42596,

Credit hours: 3

Instructor

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Public Instructor Information

Instructor Title: Adjunct Instructor

Instructor Professional Qualifications:

Ph.D. in Human Sexuality Studies, Widener University; Graduate Certificate in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies, Temple University; M.Ed. in Human Sexuality Studies, Widener University; MA in College Student Development and Administration, Shepherd University; BS in Sociology, Shepherd University

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Course Description

2601. Introduction to Women's Studies. Introduces key concepts, theoretical frameworks, and interdisciplinary research drawn from current scholarship about women. Concentrates on major issues relevant to the status and roles of contemporary women, including examination of effects of sexism, racism, ethnicity, and class distinction. 3 s.h.

Course Readings

Group	Title	Author	ISBN
Required	Gendered Voices Feminist Visions: Classic and Contemporary Readings, Eighth Edition	Susan M. Shaw and Janet Lee	10. 019092487X
Optional	Is Everyone Really Equal? (Chapter 1)	Sensoy, Özlem, and Robin DiAngelo	
Optional	Everyday Bias. (Chapter 1)	Ross, Howard	
Optional	Gender: A Graphic Guide	Barker, Meg-John, and Julia Scheele	
Optional	Queer: A Graphic History	Barker, Meg-John, and Julia Scheele	
Optional	Introducing the New Sexuality Studies, 2nd Edition	Seidman, Steven and Fischer, Nancy	0415781264
Optional	Intersectionality	Crenshaw, Kimberlé	
Optional	Understanding Patriarchy	hooks, bell	
Optional	Transgender, Transsexual, and Gender Variant Individuals	Galupo, Stuart, and Siegel	
Optional	Gender, Pronouns, and Thought.	Everett	
Optional	Women and Body Hair: Social Perceptions and Attitudes.	Basow and Braman	
Optional	Human Nature: On Fat Sexual Identity and Agency	Pause	
Optional	The Human Rights of Intersex People: Addressing Harmful Practices and Rhetoric of Change	Carper	
Optional	Are We Having Sex Now or What?	Christina	
Optional	This Practice from BDSM Should Be Part of Everyone's Sex Lives—No Matter How You Play!	Brown-James	



Optional	Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Polyamory & Poly Relationship Styles	Brown-James
Optional	Why We Love	Fisher, Helen
Optional	Anatomy of Love: A Natural History of Mating, Marriage, and Why We Stray	Fisher, Helen
Optional	A Cross-Cultural Perspective on Romantic Love	Jankowiak and Fisher
Optional	Demographic Trends in the United States: A Review of Research in the 2000s.	Cherlin, Andrew
	Public and Private Families	Cherlin, Andrew
Optional	Exiles from Kinship	Weston
Optional	Gender and Sexual Politics: American Gay Rights and Feminist Movements	Murphy
Optional	The U.S. Supreme Court and the Politics of Gay and Lesbian Rights	Maddox

The course readings are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances, research developments, current events, and/or to ensure better learning.

Schedule of Topics and Assignments

Week of	Reading(s)	Proposed Topic	Due/To Prepare for Class
8/24	Chapter 1 – Women’s and Gender Studies: Perspectives and Practices	Course Introduction What Is Women’s & Gender Studies?	Discussion Post #1: Welcome & Introductions Syllabus Quiz
8/31	Avoiding Plagiarism and Self-Plagiarism Guide Purdue OWL resources Sensoy and DiAngelo, Is Everyone Equal? Chapter 1 Ross, Everyday Bias Chapter 1	Academic Discourse & Inquiry	Discussion Post #2: Building an Academic Conversation Online Assignment #1: Source Check
9/7	Chapter 3 – Learning Gender Seidman & Fischer, Introducing the New Sexuality Studies – Theoretical Perspectives	Constructing Gender & Sexuality	Discussion Post #3: Learning and “Doing” Gender Online Assignment #2: Media Check-In
9/14	Chapter 2 – Systems of Privilege and Inequality Crenshaw – Intersectionality bell hooks – Understanding Patriarchy	Theoretical Perspectives: Systems of Privilege & Inequality	Discussion Post #4: Seeing Intersectionality Online Assignment #3: The Mythical Norm & Social Institutions
9/21	Chapter 3 – Learning Gender	Masculinity, Femininity & Gender Roles	Discussion Post #5: The Rules of Masculinity & Femininity Critical Reflection Portfolio 1
9/28	Chapter 3 – Learning Gender Galupo, Stuart, & Siegel – Transgender, Transsexual, and Gender Variant Individuals Everett – Gender, Pronouns, and Thought	Beyond the Binary: Gender Diversity & Trans Experiences	Discussion Post #6: Beyond the Binary Online Assignment #4: Trans Visibility Profile



10/5	Chapter 4 – Inscribing Gender on the Body Basow & Braman – Women and Body Hair: Social Perceptions and Attitudes Pause – Human Nature: On Fat Sexual Identity and Agency Carper – The Human Rights of Intersex People	Social Construction of Bodies	Discussion Post #7: Who Defines a “Normal” Body? Online Assignment #5: Body Norms in Everyday Life
10/12	Chapter 5 – Media and Culture	Representation, Media & Popular Culture	Post #8: Popular Culture & Media Representation Online Assignment #6: Representation Reimagined
10/19	Chapter 6 – Sex, Power, and Intimacy Christina – Are We Having Sex Now or What?	Sexuality & Intimacy	Discussion Post #9: Who Defines Sex? Critical Reflection Portfolio 2
10/26	Chapter 6 – Sex, Power, and Intimacy Brown-James – This Practice from BDSM Should Be Part of Everyone’s Sex Lives—No Matter How You Play! Brown-James – Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Polyamory & Poly Relationship Styles Listen: All My Relations – “Decolonizing Sex”	Exploring Monogamy, Non-Monogamy & Relationship Diversity	Discussion Post #10: What Makes a Relationship “Legitimate”? Online Assignment #7: Decolonizing Sex & Relationship Diversity
11/2	Fisher, Anatomy of Love, Chapter 9 Fisher, Why We Love, Chapter 3 Watch: Dawn Maslar – How Your Brain Falls in Love	The Experience of Love: Attachment & Neurobiology	Discussion Post #11: What Shapes Love? Online Assignment #8: Love & Neuroscience
11/9	Chapter 8 – Family Systems, Family Lives Cherlin – Demographic Trends in the United States Weston – Exiles from Kinship, pp. 21–41	Families, Relationships & Care Across the Lifespan	Discussion Post #12: What Counts as Family? Draft Feminist Cultural Analysis Project: Analysis
11/16	Chapter 11 – State, Law, and Social Policy Murphy – Gender and Sexual Politics Maddox – The U.S. Supreme Court and the Politics of Gay and Lesbian Rights	Gender, Law & Public Policy	Discussion Post #13: The History & Politics of Marriage Online Assignment #9: Reproductive Politics Check-In
11/23	Chapter 12 – Religion and Spirituality	Gender, Religion & Culture: Institutions, Identity & Global Perspectives	Discussion Post #14: Religion – Constraint, Empowerment, or Both? Online Assignment #10: Gender Across Contexts
11/30	Chapter 13 – Activism, Change, and Feminist Futures	Where Do We Go From Here? Feminism, Gender & the Future	Discussion Post #15: Imagining Gender Futures Critical Reflection Portfolio 3
12/7		Final Course Application	Final Feminist Cultural Analysis Project

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