

San José State University
Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Science
Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program
WGSS 10: Introduction to Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies (25087)
Spring '23

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Angela Castillo
Office Location: DMH 238A
Email: angela.castillo@sjsu.edu
Office Hours: Monday from 4:15-5:15pm, and by appointment
Class Days/Time: Monday & Wednesday, 3 - 4:15pm
Classroom: HGH 122
GE/SJSU Studies Category: D1

Course Description

This course offers an introduction to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, an interdisciplinary academic field that explores the meaning of gender in society as it relates to the status of women. Students will analyze the social construction of gender, feminism, and gender issues in relation to family, education, work, health and reproduction, law, sexuality, media/representation, and globalization. Students will apply critical concepts and tools of feminist and gender studies in their academic and personal lives, and in the community.

Course Format

This is an in-person course that meets twice a week. Some course materials and assignments will be accessed on the “Modules” section of Canvas, the colleges Learning Management System.

Faculty/Class Web Page and Canvas

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](#). You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through Canvas to learn of any updates. For help with using Canvas see [Canvas Student Resources page](#).

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

Upon successful completion of this GE course, students will be able to:

1. *Place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts (readings, class discussions & in-class writing responses).*
2. *Identify the dynamics of ethnic, cultural, gender/sexual, age-based, class, regional, national, transnational, and global identities and the similarities, differences, linkages, and interactions between them (discussions & in-class writing responses).*
3. *Evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issue (readings and quizzes).*
4. *Recognize the interaction of social institutions, culture, and environment with the behavior of individuals (class facilitation, in-class writing responses, quizzes, final).*

Required Textbook/Readings

1. Shaw, Susan M., and Janet Lee. *Gendered Voices, Voices, Feminist Visions: Classic and Contemporary Readings*. 7th edition. ISBN: 9780190924874, 019092487X. There is also an eTextbook available via Vital Source. Here is the link: https://www.vitalsource.com/products/gendered-voices-feminist-visions-susan-m-shaw-janet-lee-v9780190924935?gclid=CjwKCAiAxJSPBhAoEiwAeO_fP1iUo3AvTQfVWRWwe8wdPIXpAyoP6PPfKuqo-tWswZUfMIXQdzoJXBoCffeQAvD_BwE

Course Requirements and Assignments

1. In-Class Responses (10x10pts each = 100 points): Ten times throughout the course you will be required to do an in-class writing response or group activity based on either the readings for that week, a film shown in class, or guest speaker. These responses are my way of assessing that you are completing the readings as well as coming to class.
2. Class Facilitation (200 points): All students will be responsible for leading at least one class session with several of your classmates. This will require you to: synthesize the readings, present the material for the week, discuss strengths and weaknesses of the readings, and lead a discussion. More details on class presentations will follow.
3. Online Quizzes (13x30pts each = 390 points): At the end of each week/module, you will complete a quiz on Canvas based on what you have learned that week from the assigned readings, lecture, or other module materials. Quiz formats will vary and contain multiple choice, true/false, and/or short answer questions. Quizzes can be completed any time prior to the quiz due date, but you will only have one attempt at each quiz so you will need to complete the quiz in one sitting.
4. Final Exam (310 points): The final for this class will contain short answer questions and a short essay question. More details on the final exam will be given later in the semester.

Grading Information

I grade using a point system. Your final grade is an accumulation of points you have earned throughout the semester. The grading scale is as follows:

A+ = 970-1000	A = 940-969	A- = 900-939
B+ = 870-899	B = 840-869	B- = 800-839
C+ = 770-799	C = 740-769	C- = 700-739
D+ = 660-669	D = 630-659	D- = 600-629

Classroom Protocol

1. **If you are not feeling well, and especially if you have any COVID-19 symptoms (i.e. cough, fever, fatigue, sore throat, runny nose, congestion, etc.), please stay home.**
2. You are expected to do all of the assigned readings for the week before class meets on Monday. You are expected to bring that days reading to class, arrive on time, and participate in class activities by asking and answering questions. Anticipate a reading load of about 50-100 pages per class. Success in this course is based on the expectation that you will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities.
3. Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class time.
4. You are responsible for all assignments and announcements presented in class. If you are late or absent, it is your responsibility to contact another student.
5. You are expected to turn in work on time. Please reach out to me if you are struggling or having problems. You can send me an email on Canvas or come by my office hours.

Late Policy

Please notify me as soon as possible if an emergency interferes with your class performance and ability to turn in an assignment on time. I will accept assignments turned within two weeks past the due date. If you turn in the assignment within two weeks, you will receive up to half of the full credit for the assignment.

A Climate of Mutual Respect

A climate of mutual respect requires free expression, critical investigation, and the open discussion of ideas. All of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment or personal attack. This means opening ourselves to the lived experiences of others, which may not be our own, and treating those experiences as valid. No one is entitled to harass, discriminate, or belittle another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. On the other hand, we cannot permit ourselves to be silenced because we feel awkward discussing politically sensitive issues.

Participating as a good listener while your peers are speaking is also critical. This is your role as members of the audience. Good listening requires effort and energy; “audience member” is not a passive role. Good listening entails offering attentive, supportive nonverbal feedback, and asking questions or offering comments.

When you are involved in a class discussion reflect on the following: Do you lead? Do you follow? Do you dominate the conversation? Are you hesitant to speak up? Are you aware of other people’s desire to join in the conversation? Do you make sure everyone has a chance to contribute? When you have an emotional reaction to something someone says, how do you handle it?

A Note about Women’s Studies Classes

This class will be a challenge because:

The Workload- Officially, a three-unit course entails six hours of work outside the classroom. Each week you will be expected to read between 30-60 pages and class assignments will require a substantial amount of work outside of class.

Topic Matter- There will be frequent instances throughout the semester in which sensitive and difficult issues will be discussed. Many of these issues will require an open mind. Feminist readings of topics may go against moral or religious teachings with which you have grown up. Frequently, students in this course find that they begin to see almost everything in a new light. This experience can be both exciting and disturbing.

R-rating- As you will come to find, we may be using several texts that involve “profane” language. Some of the films that we will use in class also contain nudity and/or violence. Please be forewarned.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](#), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page \(https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php\)](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

WGSS 10: Introduction to Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Spring '23, Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Jan 25	Introduction Module: Things You Need to Know about the Course
2	Jan 30/Feb 1	Module 1: Women's and Gender Studies: Perspectives and Practices Read: Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 1-22, Readings # 1, 2, & 5 <i>Submit: Quiz #1 by Friday at 11:59pm</i>
3	Feb 6/8	Module 2: Systems of Privilege and Inequality Read: Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 41-60, Readings #9, 10, 11, & 13 <i>Submit: Quiz #2 by Friday at 11:59pm</i>
4	Feb 13/15	Module 3: Learning Gender Read: Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 95-114, Readings # 18, 19, & 20 <i>Submit: Quiz #3 by Friday at 11:59pm</i>
5	Feb 20/22	Module 4: Inscribing Gender on the Body Read: Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 155-176, Readings #23, 24, 28, & 29 <i>Submit: Quiz #4 by Friday at 11:59pm</i>
6	Feb 27/Mar 1	Module 5: Media and Culture Read: Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 222-248, Readings #30, 32, & 35 <i>Submit: Quiz #5 by Friday at 11:59pm</i>
7	Mar 6/8	Module 6: Sex, Power, and Intimacy Read: Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 280-299, Readings #37, 40, & 43 <i>Submit: Quiz #6 by Friday at 11:59pm</i>
8	Mar 13/15	Module 7: Health and Reproductive Justice Read: Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 341-373, Readings #44, 45 & 46 <i>Submit: Quiz #7 by Friday at 11:59pm</i>
9	Mar 20/22	Module 8: Family Systems, Family Lives Read: Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 398-417, Readings #50 & 51 <i>Submit: Quiz #8 by Friday at 11:59pm</i> SPRING BREAK IS MARCH 27TH – 31ST

10	Apr 3/5	<p>Module 9: Work Inside and Outside the Home</p> <p>Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 457-484, Readings #57, 60, & 61</p> <p><i>Submit: Quiz #9 by Friday at 11:59pm</i></p>
11	Apr 10/12	<p>Module 10: Resisting Gender Violence</p> <p>Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 525-552, Readings #63, 65, & 67</p> <p><i>Submit: Quiz #10 by Friday at 11:59pm</i></p>
12	Apr 17/19	<p>Module 11: State, Law, and Social Policy</p> <p>Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 584-611, Readings #71, 72, & 75</p> <p><i>Submit: Quiz #11 by Friday at 11:59pm</i></p>
13	Apr 24/26	<p>Module 12: Religion and Spirituality</p> <p>Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 637-653, Readings #77 & 80</p> <p><i>Submit: Quiz #12 by Friday at 11:59pm</i></p>
14	May 1/3	<p>Module 13: Activism, Change, and Feminist Futures</p> <p>Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 702-719, Readings #86 & 88</p> <p><i>Submit: Quiz #13 by Friday at 11:59pm</i></p>
15	May 8/10	<p>Review and Study for Final</p>
16	May 18	<p>12:15-2:30pm, Final Exam</p>