



蘇州大學
Soochow University

SES 201 Introduction to Women's and Gender

Studies

Summer 2023

Course Credits: 4

Contact Hours: 55 hours

Instructor: TBA

Email: TBA

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to provide students a contemporary, interdisciplinary, and intersectional introduction to women's and gender studies. The field of Women's and Gender Studies critically examines power structures, inequalities, and systems of oppression, explores a wide range of topics, including but not limited to feminist theory, women's history, gender identity and expression, sexuality, reproductive rights, intersectionality, social justice, and feminist activism. Through this course, students will get familiar with diverse methodologies, including literary analysis, historical research, sociological studies, and cultural studies, and develop analytical and critical thinking skills while gaining a deeper understanding of gender dynamics and their impact on individuals and societies.

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

1. Understand and explain the foundational concepts and theories within Women and Gender Studies;
2. Critically examine how social norms, institutions, and discourses shape and reinforce gender roles and hierarchies;
3. Understand the historical context and evolution of feminist movements;
4. Engage with diverse perspectives and voices within contemporary Women's and Gender Studies, recognize the importance of inclusivity and intersectionality in feminist discourse;
5. Analyze the scholarly texts, theories, and research within the field, develop



critical thinking skills to identify and challenge gender-based assumptions and biases;

6. Recognize the role of feminist theory and activism in bringing about social change and challenging inequalities.

PREREQUISITES

N/A

GRADING

Grades will be determined by accumulating points, with 100 points being the maximum, as follows:

ITEM	POINTS
4 Assignment Essays	40 Points
Midterm 1	15 Points
Midterm 2	15 Points
Final Exam	30 Points
Total	100 Points

Late submissions will be graded at the end of the course. Grades will be assigned according to the following rule:

$A \geq 90 > B \geq 80 > C \geq 70 > D \geq 60 > F$.

We reserve the right to make adjustments to the overall grading policy.

COURSE MATERIALS

Required Texts:

L. Ayu Saraswati, Barbara L. Shaw, Heather Rellihan, Introduction to Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, 2nd Edition, Oxford University Press, 2020.

Recommended (Optional) Texts or Other Materials:

Lisa Wade, Myra Marx Ferree, Gender: Ideas, Interactions, Institutions, 2nd Edition, W. W. Norton & Company, 2018.

COURSE TOPICS



MODULE	TASKS
Module 1	<p>Topics: Topic 1: Introduction: Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Topic 2: Gender Binary Topic 3: Research on Sex Difference and Similarities Topic 4: Intersectionality Assignment Essay#1</p>
Module 2	<p>Topics: Topic 5: Feminist Politics: Where We Stand Topic 6: Making Masculinity: Adolescence, Identity, and High School Topic 7: Bodies and Performances Topic 8: Trans-forming Bodies and Bodies of Knowledge: A Case Study of Utopia, Intersectionality, Transdisciplinary, and Collaborative Pedagogy Assignment Essay#2</p>
Module 3	<p>Topics: Topic 9: Historical Perspectives and Intersections: Feminisms in the 19th Century Topic 10: Feminisms in the 20th Century Topic 11: Feminisms in the 21th Century Topic 12: Privilege and Oppression Assessments: Midterm#1 Assignment Essay#3</p>
Module 4	<p>Topics: Topic 13: Rethinking the Family Topic 14: From Labor Market Reform to Mutual Assistance Activism Topic 15: Reproductive Politics Topic 16: Gendered Violence Assessments: Midterm#2 Assignment Essay#4</p>
Module 5	<p>Topics: Topic 17: Popular Culture and Media Representations Topic 18: Gender and Work Topic 19: Science, Technology, and Cultural Competence Topic 20: Final Exam Review, Q&A Assessments: Final Exam</p>

ATTENDANCE



1) Class attendance is required. Missing classes without permission will lead to decrease in overall grade.

Missing less than two classes: no penalty.

Missing more than two classes: 7% will be taken off from the overall grade.

If the instructor reports a student's frequent missing of class to the Soochow University Academic Administration Office, the student might get a written warning and might be prohibited from attending final exam.

2) Participants in this course are expected to arrive in class promptly and adequately prepared. The primary objective of this course is to critically engage with the readings and the subject matter. Therefore, course participants are expected to have completed the reading prior to class and prepare thoughtful reflections/commentaries to share with fellow colleagues.

LEARNING REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Late assignments are not acceptable and are subjected to grade deductions.
- 2) Assignments submitted in the wrong format will be counted as not submitted.
- 3) Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
- 4) Make-up for midterm and final exams only with valid excuses, as defined by the University.
- 5) In order to earn a Certificate of Completion, participants must thoughtfully complete all assignments by stated deadlines and earn an average quiz score of 50% or greater.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

The use of electronic devices in class is distracting, both for the user and for the rest of the class. Only non-programmable calculators can be used in the tests and exam. Any attempts to use cell phones and other electronic communication devices will be seemed as cheating. Laptops are discouraged, unless you use them for activities DIRECTLY related to the course (e.g., note taking, reading course documents).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY



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Soochow University highly values the academic integrity and aims to promote the academic fairness, honesty and responsibility. Any academic dishonesty behaviors and any attempts to cheats and plagiarism will be reported to the university administration office. A written warning and the relevant penalties will be imposed. The record might be shown on the official university transcript.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

Soochow University is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at Soochow University. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome.

Note:

Please contact the University Administrative Office immediately if you have a learning disability, a medical issue, or any other type of problem that prevents professors from seeing you have learned the course material.