

## Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies: Women & Society

WMST 2100 Fall 2015  
Online sections 500, 501 & 600

Dr. Özlem Altıok  
[Ozlem.Altiok@unt.edu](mailto:Ozlem.Altiok@unt.edu)

Everything turned in for a grade in this online class - with the exception of the Final Exam - is due on a Sunday by 11:59 pm. Virtually every Sunday you have one - and sometimes three - assignments due. **You may use your book and other assigned material during exams, but you will need to have read the assigned material ahead of time** to do well on these exams. You will be expected to complete the final exam online, in one sitting any day between December 5 and December 9, 2015. It is your responsibility to manage your time accordingly, and submit everything due in this class on time.

### Weekly schedule of readings, discussions, exams and assignments

**Week 1** (August 24, Monday) Buy book, read syllabus, post Discussion 1 (self-introduction) on Blackboard (Bb) due by 11:59 pm on Sunday, August 30

**Week 2** (August 31, Monday) Unit 1 (Introduction). Post Discussions 2 & 3 before midnight on Sunday, September 6.

**Week 3** (September 7) Unit 2 (Writing), Post Discussion 4. Read "Sentence Clarity" and "Conquering the Comma" in Writing section on Home Page, **Writing Quiz** due before midnight on Sunday, September 13.

**Week 4** (September 14) Unit 3 (Communications), Post Discussion 5, **Take Exam 1** (due on Sunday, September 20. Exam 1 will test your knowledge of Units 1 and 3.

**Week 5** (September 21) Unit 4 (Privilege), Post Discussion 6

**Week 6** (September 28) Unit 5 (Learning Gender), Post Discussion 7

**Week 7** (October 5) Unit 6 (Sex, Power, Intimacy), Discussion 8, **Take Exam 2** due before midnight on October 11 (Exam covers Units 4-6)

**Week 8** (October 12) Unit 7 (Inscribing Gender), Discussion 9 and 10, Read "Writing a Paper" and "10 Minute Editing" in Writing section

**Week 9** (October 19) Work on Essay (you may utilize the Writing Lab on campus)

**Week 10** (October 26) **Body Image Essay due**, Unit 8 (Health), Discussion 11 **Exam 3** (Units 7-8) **All three are due on Sunday, November 1, so manage your time.**

**Week 11** (November 2) Unit 9 (Work), Discussion 12

**Week 12** (November 9) Unit 10 (Advanced Topics), Discussion 13. **Exam 4** due November 15 (Exam covers Units 9-10).

**Week 13** (November 16) Readings for this week listed on the Discussion 14 Forum.

**Week 14** (November 23) Post Discussion 15.

**Week 15** (November 30) Study for Final Exam (*Pre-finals week*)

**Final Exam must be completed before 11:59 pm on December 9, 2015.**

See the UNT Registrar's website for important dates (add/drop, last day to request an incomplete, etc.)

### **Course access and navigation**

The following information about access and navigation is excerpted from UNT's Center for Learning Enhancement, Assessment, and Redesign's Online Course Syllabus.

#### *Blackboard Learn*

As a student, you will have access to tutorials via Blackboard Learn. I strongly recommend that you spend some time in the first week of the semester to familiarize yourself with Blackboard Learn in general, and our course page in particular.

<http://ondemand.blackboard.com/students.htm>

See <http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/bblearn/> also for system requirements, help desk hours and more.

#### *Being a Successful Online Student*

-[What Makes a Successful Online Student?](#)

-[Self Evaluation for Potential Online Students](#)

#### *Student Support*

The University of North Texas provides student technical support in the use of Blackboard Learn and supported resources.

Use the email feature found here:

<http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/bblearn/>

Phone: 940 565-2324

Walk-ins: Sage 130

Regular hours are maintained to provide support to students. Please refer to the website <http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/bblearn/> for updated hours.

### **Expectations**

Blackboard Learn is a different platform than its predecessor. If you are not familiar with Blackboard or online coursework in general, know that there are both advantages and disadvantages. **The major advantage is that you get to set your schedule. However, that flexibility comes with a price.** It is your responsibility to keep up with the readings, assignments and discussions.

I strongly encourage you to **print the first page of this syllabus** and write the due dates on whatever calendar system you have. In addition, I will post the deadlines for each assignment and exam to the Blackboard calendar so you can get a quick overview for planning. I will NOT include Discussions in the calendar; in this course, one or two discussion posts are due virtually every Sunday night.

**\*\*Please review the syllabus, and the folders on the Blackboard page in the first week or two so that you can ask questions.\*\*** Remember that the assignments and various posts are created by a human being (me), and that humans err. If you notice a mistake or inconsistency, it is your responsibility to contact me about it. If you notice a problem

(missing values in the grade book 2 weeks past the due date for an assignment, for example) please email me as soon as you notice it.

### **Responses from me**

I will do my best to respond to emails within two (2) days. Do not wait until two hours before a deadline to ask a question about it. I do not check email over holidays or on days the university is closed. I will be reading all of your discussions, but I will not be responding to all of them once we've gotten through the first couple of weeks. Since this is a web-based course, I do not hold physical office hours. Email me with questions, but please check first to see if the syllabus answers your question.

### **Due Dates**

In this course you have weekly discussions, an average of one exam every 3 weeks, and one major writing assignment. Sometimes you have three assignments due on the same day. Readings and discussions are assigned for almost every week. Our class week is defined as Monday through Sunday.

**All due dates except the Final Exam fall on Sundays (by midnight). The final exam must be completed before midnight on December 9, 2015.** I will also post the due date for all exams and papers to the course calendar so you can keep track. Most weeks you will be tasked with reading the online unit, textbook readings, and any additional readings that might be linked within the online unit.

See the Registrar's website <http://essc.unt.edu/registrar/> for important University dates (add/drop dates, last day to request an Incomplete, *etcetera*).

### **Readings**

Readings consist of our textbook, *Women's Voices, Feminist Visions* (the **6th edition**, Susan M. Shaw and Janet Lee, ISBN-13: 978-0078027000); units on Blackboard Learn, and any external material linked in your online units and indicated on your syllabus.

I understand the complications of ordering books online, waiting for student loans, and bookstores being out of stock and such. Check Blackboard > Course Content > Misc Readings for a copy of Chapter 1, including the "Thank a Feminist" excerpt from your book. Other than this, your discussion posts due in the first two weeks, do not require the textbook.

**The term "unit"** refers to two different, but interrelated things. In its broadest, "Unit" means "the topic, and all assigned material for a given week." More narrowly, "unit" refers to the "weekly learning modules" on Blackboard. Each of the online units will direct you to that Unit's relevant readings (listed below, on this syllabus), but the online Unit also contains pertinent information you must read for that week.

When I say that Exam 1 will cover Units 1 and 3, it means unit in the broadest sense. That is, you should complete all assigned readings for Units 1 and 3 in order to do well on that

exam (Blackboard modules/units, textbook readings, and any external readings linked in the Units below).

To make sure you have read everything you needed to 1) refer to the list of weekly readings for any given week, AND 2) complete the online unit for that week, including any videos and articles linked there.

### Unit 1: Women's Studies: Perspectives and Practices

#### Textbook Readings:

Read Chapter 1, pages 1-27

Reading #4 "A Day Without Feminism," pages 34-37

Reading #6 "Facebook for Women vs. Facebook Designed by Feminists"" pages 43-45

Reading #7 "Still Needing the F Word," pages 46-47

#### Outside Readings:

National Historical Park : <http://www.nps.gov/wori/>

Declaration of Sentiments: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/senecafalls.html>

Cult of Domesticity and True Womanhood:

<http://www.library.csi.cuny.edu/dept/history/lavender/386/truewoman.html>

### Unit 2: Writing

#### Outside Readings:

"Sentence Clarity" from Writing folder on Home Page

"Conquering the Comma" from Writing folder on Home Page

National Women's History Project Quiz:

<http://www.nwhp.org/resources/quizzes/#whm>

### Unit 3: Communications

#### Outside Readings:

The Power of Talk

[http://www9.georgetown.edu/faculty/tannend/pdfs/the\\_power\\_of\\_talk.pdf](http://www9.georgetown.edu/faculty/tannend/pdfs/the_power_of_talk.pdf)

Brief summary of Tannen's genderlect theory (you will find more in the unit on Bb)

<http://changingminds.org/explanations/gender/genderlect.htm>

Deborah Cameron. 2007. What language barrier? (a critique of difference theories such as Tannen's) <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2007/oct/01/gender.books>

### Unit 4: Systems of Privilege and Inequity in Women's Lives

#### Textbook Readings:

Read Chapter 2, pages 49-71

Reading #9 "Toward a New Vision," pages 72-79

Reading #11 "Intersectionality," pp. 84-85

Reading # 12 There is no hierarchy of oppression, pp 85-86

Reading #13 "White Privilege and Male Privilege," pages 86-93

Outside Readings:

"The Women of #BlackLivesMatter" by Brittney Cooper. *Ms. Magazine*. Winter 2015 issue (find online) <http://cp.revolio.com/i/455305-winter-2015?token=ZDUyNjk5OTMwMWU5OWEzMDQwYmIxMDRlNmNlZDc0NmIxYzRjMzBjZQ%3D%3D>

Unit 5: Learning Gender in a Diverse Society

Textbook Readings:

Read Chapter 3, pages 116-135

Reading #20, "Social Construction of Gender," pages 141-144

Reading #21 "Unraveling Hardwiring", 144-149

Outside Reading:

What is This Thing Called Patriarchy? (You may not be able to save this on your computer, but you should be able to read it online)

[http://www.temple.edu/tempress/chapters\\_1100/1339\\_ch1.pdf](http://www.temple.edu/tempress/chapters_1100/1339_ch1.pdf)

Gender: Power and Privilege

[http://www.workforcediversitynetwork.com/docs/Gender\\_4.pdf](http://www.workforcediversitynetwork.com/docs/Gender_4.pdf)

Unit 6: Sex, Power, and Intimacy

Textbook Readings:

Read Chapter 6, pages 313-333

Outside Reading:

"Sexual Desire and Gender" (from a previous edition of your textbook)

"Women, Sexuality, and Social Change in the Middle East," **see Misc. Readings folder on course page for both of these.**

Unit 7: Inscribing Gender on the Body

Textbook Readings:

Read Chapter 4, pages 181-204

Reading #29, "If Men Could Menstruate," pages 209-210

Reading #33, "What We Do for Love," pages 221-231

Reading #35, "Is Fat a Feminist Issue?" pp. 233-245

"China's Cosmetic Surgery Craze" (find this under the Misc. folder on Bb)

Take the Body Image Quiz on p. 197

Outside Videos:

Jean Kilbourne's Killing Us Softly 4 (approx. 35 minutes)

- UNT Denton Media Library, Chilton Hall, room 111

- UNT Video on Demand: <http://iii.library.unt.edu/record=b3919695~S6>

Dove Evolution video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XBF6tURm99I>

The Beauty Myth excerpt video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UJh8GEU2qik>

Outside Readings:

"Writing a Paper" from Home Page > Course Content > Writing

"10 Minute Editing" from the Writing folder (same folder as above)

Unit 8: Health and Reproductive Rights

Textbook Readings:

Read Chapter 7, pages 362-394

Reading #58, "A Global Health Imperative" pages 400-406

Reading #61 "Freedom to Choose? Three Essays on Abortion Rights" pp. 424-432

Outside Readings:

Cancer Risk Assessment Survey: [http://www.wcn.org/risk\\_assessment/](http://www.wcn.org/risk_assessment/)

Cancer, Diabetes, Heart Disease, Osteoporosis, and Stroke quizzes:

<http://www.yourdiseaserisk.wustl.edu/>

See the two links included in Unit 8; one concerning the pros and cons of President Obama's health care plan, and the other about "single payer health care."

Unit 9: Women's Work Inside and Outside the Home

Textbook Readings:

Read Chapter 9, pages 470-499

Reading #70, "A Brief History of Working Women," pages 503-514

Reading #72, Maid to Order: The Politics of Other Women's Work, 517-521

Reading #75, "Power Plays: Six Ways the Male Corporate Elite Keeps Women Out," pages 525-528

Outside Readings:

Get to Work: <http://abcnews.go.com/GMA/Renewal/story?id=2161946&page=1>

Barbara Ehrenreich and Arlie Russell Hochschild (2003). *The Global Woman*: 1-13 )  
(posted under the Misc. Readings folder on Bb).

Unit 10: Advanced Topics

Textbook Readings:

From Chapter 8: Power and Family Relationships, pages 443-450

From Chapter 5: Women Confronting and Creating Culture, pages 250-272

From Chapter 10: "Anti-LGBTQ Violence: Three Essays," pp. 577-581

From Chapter 11: State, Law and Social Policy, pages 582-600

From Chapter 12: Religion and Spirituality, pages 635-650

Outside Readings:

Lila Abu-Lughod. (2002). "Do Muslim women really need saving? Anthropological reflections on cultural relativism and its others" *American Anthropologist* 104 (3): 783-90. (Find using UNT library's electronic resources)

### In lieu of Unit 11: Global feminist perspectives

#### Outside Readings:

Sharmila Rudrappa (2012). India's Reproductive Assembly Line. *Contexts*.

Özlem Altıok (2013). Reproducing the Nation. *Contexts*.

Gayle Tzemach Lemmon (2015). Too Young to Marry. *Ms. Magazine*.

Find these articles using UNT Library's electronic resources (or via a simple online search). Your Discussion 14 posts should be based on a close reading of these articles.

#### Unit Discussions

Along the left side or at the top of your browser, you should see a gray bar that has icons for Announcements, Course Content, Syllabus, Discussions, etc. Using the Discussions tab, you may post about current and future assignments, mini-biographies, Women's Studies events, and any other topics that may be relevant to this class or its content, but only the Unit Discussions are graded. Weekly Unit Discussions give you the opportunity to discuss the readings or assignment you just completed.

If your post deals with an issue outside the structured discussions, please label it to draw my and others' attention to it. For example, when you complete Unit 4, you will post your summary of and reflections on "the inequality exercise" in your textbook. If you want to post something other than that - for instance, something that happened at work regarding your promotion and how this might be explained (or not) by what we've read for this week - you should create a separate post with the subject "My promotion" or "Why did I not get a promotion" or something like that. **Be creative and specific. Always put some thought into your titles (for posts, for papers, etc.)**

Unit Discussions are graded on the basis of several categories: relevance to topic, replies to other discussions in that thread, and respect for others' ideas. It is not necessary that you agree, obviously, but it is necessary to maintain respect for one another. **You will only get full credit for discussions if you post on time AND reply to two other post AND are reading other posts/replies (not just your own post or replies to your post).** The point of the Discussion Board is to have discussion, so you need to fully participate in order to get full credit. If a classmate asks you a question about your post you must respond to it even if you have submitted your two required responses for the week. By the same token, if you are asking a question specifically to someone (their comments), please state that in your subject line on the Discussion board (e.g. "Response and question to Katie")

Again, your Unit Discussion grade will be based on two aspects - creating posts and responding to others' posts. We will have 15 graded discussion topics for this semester, and they will each be worth a maximum of 10 points (150 points total). To get the maximum grade for a discussion, **you must post a new topic in that discussion AND reply to at least two other posts showing that you read and understood other people's posts** during the scheduled week. These discussions create an exchange of ideas that you would get

during a face-to-face class on campus, so it is imperative that you **participate in the discussions in a civilized and timely manner.**

The discussions are basically your participation grade, so if you don't participate, you don't get a grade. If your participation is irregular and shallow, you will not get full points. This is an "easy" portion of your grade, but it requires you to keep up with the discussion throughout the semester. You can lose an entire letter grade by not keeping up with the Discussions, so plan now to make it a part of your weekly "to do" list.

**\*\*You will not receive full credit for late posts. You will not receive any credit if your response is more than 3 days late.\*\***

Some of the discussions require you to do a writing assignment or outside observation before you can discuss, so avoid waiting until the last minute. **Complete your weekly Units on Blackboard first as these will sometimes contain specific directions for your weekly discussion assignments.**

### **Writing**

Nearly half of your semester grade will come directly from the discussions and the body image essay. While this is not an English class, you are expected to use proper grammar and punctuation, and write intelligently. I have posted some writing resources on our course page; take advantage of these especially if writing is not your strong suit. In addition, this course has Units on Writing to help you succeed in this class. Some common mistakes made by students in past classes is also on Blackboard so that you may avoid making these same mistakes.

You will be graded on your formal writing assignments as if this were an English class. I strongly advise that you use proper English for your less formal discussion posts, also. Any time you submit an assignment in this class through the Assignments folder, it is a formal paper and should be considered as such. You will submit your Body Image Essay by *Turnitin* located under the Assignments folder to the left of our home page: Assignments > Assessments > Turnitin Assignment. You will not need a password for *Turnitin* once you are logged into our course via Blackboard. Do not email me your assignments.

Please ensure that you put your name at the top of your writing activity and in your file name, regardless of whether you copy and paste or upload your material. Ideal file names would be in this form: "Your Last and First Name - Body Image Essay title." The actual written document should also have your name at the top, and again, ideally a creative title for your paper. More details about how to submit assignments and specific assignment instructions are posted on Blackboard under the "Assignments" folder.

I will grade papers from the entire class all at once so that I can ensure consistency and fairness in grading. You will be able to make changes to your paper after you have submitted it until the due date by simply uploading a new version.



### **Body Image Essay - 175 points**

The Essay instructions will be available under the Assignments folder. It will be graded on: the quality of your arguments, use of relevant concepts discussed in this class, grammar/punctuation, sentence structure, answering all questions from the assignment, following instructions, and connecting your television viewings to your assigned reading (goes hand in hand with 'use of concepts' mentioned above). You must also identify your viewing list at the end of your paper (On what channel you watched a particular commercial, when, etc). See instructions under the Assignments folder.

### **Examinations and Quizzes**

Examinations will cover key terms (see the Glossary, on our course page, which should be of help there), key concepts, and key ideas presented in the readings. The final exam will be similar. All exams are multiple-choice and graded electronically. The final exam will be worth more points than the unit exams. Unit exams are worth 100 points each, and the final exam is worth 150 points. Your unit exam grade will be determined by the **best 3 out of 4 unit exams**. You don't have to take Exam 4 if you are satisfied with your unit exam grade, or you can miss an earlier exam as long as you take 3 of the exams. There are no make-ups for the Final Exam, which will be comprehensive. The final will be available for you to take on May 6. You must take the final by December 9, 2015.

See the final review document on Bb; it covers a lot of material, as you will see. Other than this, I do not give exam reviews because they are open book. The final exam will contain an essay question. The Final Exam, like the Unit exams, will be available online from the Home Page > Course Content > Exams.

The **Writing Quiz** after Unit 2 is **not** extra credit. It is part of your semester grade. It is worth 25 points.

### **Academic Honesty**

Trust and honesty are central for learning to occur, and I trust that an overwhelming majority of you do not need a reminder about that. However, in the interest of making expectations clear let me state that I will not tolerate academic dishonesty. Please be aware that there are two ways to commit plagiarism:

- by reproducing verbatim (or almost verbatim) another author's words, without using quotation marks and/or without providing a citation; or
- by using another author's ideas (even if you don't use their precise words) without providing a citation.

Women's Studies adheres to and enforces UNT's policy on academic integrity (cheating, plagiarism, forgery, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty and sabotage). You should review the policy (UNT Policy Manual Section 18.1.16), which may be located at [http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student\\_Affairs-Academic\\_Integrity.pdf](http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf) I will address violations of academic integrity in this course in

compliance with the penalties and procedures laid out in this policy. APPEALS: Students may appeal any decision under this policy by following the procedures laid down in the UNT Policy Manual Section 18.1.16 "Student Standards of Academic Integrity."

### **Disability accommodations**

I would like for you to succeed in this class, so I will make reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. Please see UNT's policy below:

"The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For additional information see the Office of Disability Accommodation website at <http://www.unt.edu/oda>. You may also contact them by phone at 940.565.4323."

You will need to watch one long(ish) and several short videos in this class. **Note for those with sight or hearing limitations:** the longer video available from the UNT Denton Campus' Media Library (*Killing Us Softly 4*) has closed captioning so please make arrangements in advance with the Media Library to either reserve a copy to watch at the library or to rent it for viewing elsewhere. Contact me about the shorter videos please.

### **UNT Writing Lab**

To help you produce well-organized, well-written papers for this class or others, the Writing Lab on campus is a great resource. You may want to check it out: <http://www.unt.edu/writinglab/>

### **Technical Requirements**

Most computers have no difficulty with Blackboard. However, I recommend you use the Browser and Computer Settings check at <http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/bblearn/>

I also recommend that you read through the Student Resources on the login page on Blackboard Learn.

### **Incomplete Grades**

Keep up with the class work and contact me early if there are extenuating circumstances in your life that will prevent you from completing the class this semester. I know that it is hard to think of practical things during an emergency, but I cannot lie for you. If you know you're not going to complete the class because of some tragedy, you will need to either drop the class by the deadline, withdraw from all classes, have completed all assignments prior to

the Final Exam in order to qualify for an Incomplete, or accept a failing grade. So, please take a moment to commit this to memory in case something unfortunate should befall you in this or any other class. **Do not ask for an Incomplete unless you have submitted everything prior to the Final Exam.** I will just refer you to this section of the syllabus. You cannot be passing the class if you are missing any other assignments, and I will not be able to grant an Incomplete. If you are not going to be able to finish this class, you will need to drop it before the deadline or accept a failing grade.

### **Grades**

After I have graded a particular assignment for everyone, you will be able to view your grades online in the "My Grades" (see link on the menu on the left hand side of our Bb homepage). Discussions will be graded one or two weeks after they have been opened to allow everyone time to contribute and read. Writing assignments will be graded all at once for consistency and fairness, not as you turn them in, so your grade will typically be posted within two weeks after the final due date for that assignment. Quizzes and exams will be graded automatically so you will know immediately how you did.

### **Writing**

Body Image Essay	175
Unit Discussions (15 @ max 10 pts each)	150

### **Examination**

Writing Quiz	25
Unit Exams (best 3 out of 4 @ 100 pts each)	300
Final Exam	150
<b>Total</b>	<b>800</b>

Grading scale: I will use numerical scores, which will translate into letter grades as follows:  
**A (720-800); B (640-719); C (560-639); D (480-559); F (<480)**