

Georgetown University
Summer 2015 (June 1, 2015 – July 3, 2015)
WGST 238: Race, Class, and Feminism
MTWR 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ICC Rm. 212

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Office hours: By Appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will focus on race, class, and gender as structured relations of oppression and exploitation. The central focus of this course will be to develop an understanding of how systems of oppression reinforce each other as well as how they intersect to create an overall *matrix of domination*. Central to this class is the idea that there is no construction of race separate from gender; no construction of class separate from race; and no construction of gender separate from other forms of domination. This course will explore some of feminism's main theories, which have been used to illuminate our understanding of contemporary social issues. This course is intended to be critical, examining controversial issues from a variety of theoretical and political standpoints.

POLICIES

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY HONOR SYSTEM

Students are expected to abide by the Georgetown University Undergraduate Honor System. If you have not already done so, please familiarize yourself with the material and information posted on the Honor Council's website.

ACADEMIC RESOURCE CENTER

Students with disabilities should contact the Academic Resource Center (arc@georgetown.edu) for further information about accommodations available to you. The Center is located in the Leavey Center, Suite 335. The Academic Resource Center is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students with disabilities and for determining reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and University policies.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Academic dishonesty and plagiarism: As members of this class and the Georgetown University community, all students are expected to act honestly. This includes but is not limited to a pledge to never lie, cheat, steal, or in any other way act in an unethical manner. Unethical behavior is taken very seriously in this class.

Of particular importance to this class is a consideration of plagiarism. Plagiarism is when you misrepresent someone else's words, thoughts, ideas or organization as your own – intentionally or unintentionally. Again, intent does not matter when it comes to plagiarism. You are responsible for taking all steps necessary to make sure that your ideas are your own, or that proper credit is given for the ideas and words of others.

Plagiarism is not just directly copying sections of a paper from someone else or buying a paper from the Internet. It also includes not properly citing authorities that you've consulted, giving your essay to someone else for editing, or plugging your own words into someone else's sentence structure. Plagiarism will always result in an "F" on the assignment in which it took place, with no chance for make-up, and

may be grounds for failure of the class. Please see the Student Code of Conduct for a more in depth discussion of plagiarism and the penalties involved. If you have any concerns about plagiarism or about a specific writing assignment, please contact me before you turn in the assignment. Once an assignment is submitted, it cannot be changed.

ACADEMIC ETIQUETTE

- While healthy disagreement and difference in opinion is expected and encouraged, I do expect that discussions should be conducted in a respectful and civil manner. If I interpret any of your comments as verbal harassment, I will ask you to leave the class.
- If you want feedback on your writing or class performance, please make an appointment to see me. **I do not give feedback on your papers via email.** All email correspondence must be limited to questions for which I can give you a quick response.
- Unless specified by me, all your assignments must be turned in as hard copies. Electronic submissions or attachments via email are not acceptable.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS & MISSED WORK

If you miss a class session, **it is always your responsibility to obtain notes and assignments.** If your absence is excused, *missed homework and in-class work should be turned in by the next class period* for full credit (don't come in the next time & ask when it is due. I will expect you to automatically have it in your hand); if your absence is unexcused, make-up work will not be accepted.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

All readings will be available through blackboard. You are responsible for maintaining access to blackboard and email.

COURSE ACTIVITIES AND STUDENT ASSESSMENT

1. Class Participation (10%)

This class is based on the educational premise that knowledge is constructed through an interactive process rather than absorbed passively. Therefore, the format for the course will be a combination of lecture, discussion, and group work, with an emphasis on dialogue and sharing perspectives. **Attendance is crucial to your academic performance. You are expected to be an active and informed participant in all class discussions and to complete all assignments and exercises on time.** I expect that you will have read the assigned texts by the dates indicated on the syllabus and that you are prepared to participate in discussion. I also expect that all participation will be thoughtful and respectful. If you miss class, you are responsible for getting notes from a classmate, including any altered assignments or announcements that were made. **Missing more than two classes will have an effect on your participation grade. Your grade will also be affected by a lack of participation and/or failure to attend the entire class period.**

2. Weekly Short Paper (20%)

Each week you are to turn in a short paper, two pages at most, in which you answer a question you generate on the basis of your understanding of the reading assignments.

The purpose of this exercise is to test your ability to get to the essential points in a given reading assignment, and to learn how to begin to think theoretically. As you strive to understand an author's theoretical contribution, you will start developing your own grasp of a given theorist's style of thinking and view of the social world.

3. Individual Presentation & Critical Analysis (30%)

Students will individually present on selected article(s) that will be assigned early on in the course related to the units of the course. Students will prepare a 45-minute – one-hour presentation covering the assigned article(s). Students should come prepared to discuss the main points/arguments of the article as well as class activities and/or discussion questions to explore the assigned article(s).

On the day of the presentation students will submit a 3-5-page critical analysis paper on the article(s) presented.

4. Final Paper (40%)

The final paper will be 8-10 pages. It should reflect your learning in this course, consisting of a presentation of those elements in the theoretical analysis of class, race, or gender, or the connections between class, race or gender, which you found most useful from the standpoint of your research interests and general intellectual concerns. You can choose to write an abstract theoretical paper or a paper where you identify those theoretical insights, issues, and questions most pertinent for the research problems that concern you. The essay should be typed; double-spaced or legibly printed and should be at most, 10 pages in length, excluding footnotes and bibliography. Cite works and provide your references in accordance with the MLA, APA, or Chicago style formatting.