

**WGST 238: Gender, Race, and Feminism**  
Georgetown University  
Summer 2016 (June 6<sup>th</sup> – July 8<sup>th</sup>)  
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 explore the intersection of gender, race and other components of social identity from an interdisciplinary perspective. We will address the inter and intra relationship of women of color with feminism, locally and globally. While examining theories and bodies of knowledge, we will analyze how historical and contemporary realities of women of color are influenced by a legacy of structural inequalities. Students will learn the importance of applying knowledge from a variety of theoretical and political standpoints. The approach to this course will pay particular attention to sociological aspects of identity as well as cultural representations that are manifestations of systems of oppression. This course aims to move us from being limited in feminist theory and text as a variation on the theme of “woman” or being a component in referencing gender, race, class, and sexuality, into the realization that it is possible not only to hope for but also to make change.

### **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](mailto: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 (30%)

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 (60% - each presentation and analysis is worth 30%)**

Over the course of the session, students will individually present **twice** 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.

The individual presentation will be worth 10% and the critical analysis paper will be worth 20% (a total of 30% for each individual presentation and critical analysis).

**Paper Requirements:**

- All papers should be typed, double-spaced using 12-point font.
- A bibliography of all work read or viewed must be cited in the paper. If you use films, newspapers, broadcast media, television shows, internet sources etc., they must also be cited according to MLA or APA format including retrieval date.
- Internal citations in the text must include the page number of publication using the correct version of MLA or APA or it will constitute as a plagiarized paper.
- Papers should be carefully proof read and grammatically correct before submitting for a grade.
- Any student who plagiarizes his/her work will receive an “F” in the course.
- The student will be penalized one letter grade for each day a paper is late.
- No Wikipedia citations are allowed.