

Winter 2022
Dec 22, 2022 - Jan 16, 2023



CRITICAL PERSPECTIVES IN WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

Credits: 3 units

Note: This syllabus is subject to change. All changes will be posted here, and on our class Blackboard announcements.

Critical Perspectives in Women's and Gender Studies introduces students to the historical background and theoretical frameworks of women's studies. Central to the course is an analysis of the range of feminist scholarship, and the intersections of gender, race, class and sexuality. Students will examine contemporary issues in women's studies and the implications of feminist thought for society and the individual.

See [course policies](#) and [course schedule](#).

Course Requirements (1000 total points):

- 10% Professionalism
- 25% Weekly Quizzes & Assignments
- 10% Film Club Presentation & Report
- 10% Research Project
- 10% Abstract and Annotated Bibliography
- 10% Draft of Mid-Year Symposium Presentation or Action Project
- 15% Mid-Year Symposium Presentation or Action Project
- 10% Final Class Presentation

Need Help?

Contact Professor Dr. Michele Meek, mmeek@bridgew.edu My pronouns are she/her, and please call me Michele or Professor Meek. :)

Office Hours: Wed 12-1:30 PM (drop in person in my office at Maxwell 215A or book via Zoom), Thu 10:30- noon (book via Zoom only) or by appointment.

There is no textbook for this class. All readings and films are on Blackboard or available publicly on the Internet or screened in class. You should regularly check Blackboard for announcements and submission of assignments.

Course Schedule

Readings and films will be posted under Readings & Films in Blackboard. Any changes to the schedule here will be posted in Blackboard Announcements. There will be regular in-person pop quizzes. I allow makeups for illness. Notes are not needed—you are adults, and I trust you.

WEEK 1:

Class meeting with introduction to key terms; course schedule and tools; overview of assignments;



and shorts film screening.

Read/Watch:

- ◆ Read "Feminism" at History.com <https://www.history.com/topics/womens-history/feminism-womens-history>
- ◆ Read "Seneca Falls Convention" at History.com <https://www.history.com/topics/womens-rights/seneca-falls-convention>
- ◆ Watch "Seneca Falls Convention" and "Women's Suffrage" from Ken Burns' documentary Not for Ourselves Alone (Ken Burns, 1999) at <https://www.pbs.org/kenburns/not-for-ourselves-alone/video/>
- ◆ Read "Ain't I a Woman" (Sojourner Truth, 1851/1875) at <https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/texts/aint-i-a-woman>
- ◆ See also timeline of women's history <https://www.pbs.org/independentlens/sistersof77/timeline.html>

Assignments Due: TBA

- ◆ Attribution Assignment Draft (Blackboard Assignment)

Read/Watch:

- ◆ Watch She's Beautiful When She's Angry (Mary Dore, 2014)
- ◆ Read "The Problem That Has No Name" excerpt from The Feminine Mystique (Betty Friedan, 1963)
- ◆ Watch "An Introduction to Simone de Beauvoir's The Second Sex" at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dgc0-Cn4AAs>

Assignments Due: TBA

- ◆ Film Club: She's Beautiful When She's Angry (Blackboard Assignment & In Class Presentation)

WEEK 2:

NOTE: In Class Screening of The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson (David France, 2017)

Read:

- ◆ Read "The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House" (Audre Lorde, 1984)
- ◆ Read "White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack" (Peggy McIntosh, 1989)

Assignments Due: TBA

- ◆ Attribution Assignment Revision (Blackboard Assignment)
- ◆ Film Club: The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson (Blackboard Assignment & In Class)



Presentation)

Read:

- Read "Why Sex Is Not Binary" (Anne Fausto-Sterling, 2018) at <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/25/opinion/sex-biology-binary.html>
- Read "Why Don't You Tell Them I'm a Boy" (Florence Dillon, 1999)

Assignments Due: TBA

- Thesis Statement or Question for Mid-Year Symposium Presentation or Premise for Action Project (Blackboard Assignment)

Read/Watch:

- Watch Paris is Burning (Jennie Livingston, 1990)
- Read "Does visibility equal progress? A conversation on trans activist media" (2016) <https://www.ejumpcut.org/archive/jc57.2016/-Feder-JuhaszTransActivism/index.html>

Assignments Due: TBA

- Film Club: Paris is Burning (Blackboard Assignment & In Class Presentation) Research Report for Mid-Year
- Presentation or Action Project (Blackboard Assignment)

Read/Watch:

- Watch The Mask You Live In (Jennifer Siebel Newsom, 2015)
- Read "What Are Little Boys Made Of?" (Michael Kimmel)

Assignments Due: TBA

- Film Club: The Mask You Live In (Blackboard Assignment & In Class Presentation)

WEEK 3:

Read:

- Read "A Question of Class" (Dorothy Allison, 1994)
- Read "Visionary Feminism" (bell hooks, 2000)

Assignments Due: TBA

- Abstract and Annotated Bibliography for Mid-Year Presentation / Action Project (Blackboard Assignment)



Read/Watch:

- ◆ Watch RGB (Betsy West, Julie Cohen, 2018)

Assignments Due: TBA

- ◆ Film Club: RBG (Blackboard Assignment & In Class Presentation)
- ◆ For Mid-Year Symposium track, submit form at Undergraduate Research to participate.

Read/Watch:

- ◆ Watch "Why We're Confused About Consent—Rewriting Our Stories of Seduction" (Michele Meek) at TED.com
- ◆ Read excerpt from Sexual Consent (Milena Popova, 2019)
- ◆ Read "The Careless Language of Sexual Violence" (Roxanne Gay)

Assignments Due: TBA

- ◆ Draft of Mid-Year Presentation or Action Project Report (Blackboard Assignment)

NOTE: In Class Screening of The Janes (Emma Pildes, Tia Lessin, 2022) Read:

- ◆ Read "One Month Post-Roe" <https://www.gutmacher.org/article/2022/07/one-month-post-roe-least-43-abortion-clinics-across-11-states-have-stopped-offering>

Assignments Due: TBA

- ◆ Submit Final Research Presentation for Inclusion at BSU's Mid-Year Symposium. Film Club:
- ◆ The Janes (Blackboard Assignment & In Class Presentation)

WEEK 4:

Read/Watch:

- ◆ Read or Listen to "Kavanaugh Allegations Recall 1991's Supreme Court Scandal, With Key Differences" at <https://www.npr.org/2018/09/17/648783307/from-anita-hill-to-christine-blasey-ford-the-similarities-and-differences>
- ◆ Watch Anita Hill's Opening Statement at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wWD1Cce2AUo> and questioning at <https://www.cnn.com/videos/politics/2018/09/18/anita-hill-1991-questioned-sexual-harassment-senate-orig-js.cnn>
- ◆ Watch Christine Blasey Ford's Opening Statement at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wfc5aG1friU> and questions at <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2018/oct/06/brett-kavanaugh-confirmation-battle-key-moments>



Assignments Due: TBA

- ◆ Final Mid-Year Symposium Projects or Action Project Reports (on Blackboard): note if you are doing the Symposium, you must also upload your project to Undergraduate Research as well.
- ◆ Present in person at Mid-Year Symposium or via virtual platform.

Assignments Due: TBA

- ◆ In Class Presentations on Final Projects

Course Policies

Path to Success in this Course: To succeed in this course, please do the following:

- ◆ Approach class with curiosity about the subject and an eagerness to learn. Complete weekly assignments and other activities on time.
- ◆ Participate in class discussions and online community assignments.
- ◆ Read the syllabus, course assignment sheets, and other guidelines. Ask questions when you have them! Put your best effort into every assignment. If you have difficulties, communicate that to me as soon as possible.

Course Outcomes: In this course, you will:

- ◆ Understand key contemporary theories relating to gender and intersectionality. Build knowledge on the history of feminism and women's rights.
- ◆ Analyze how women's and gender studies intersects with LGBTQIA+ rights, Black Lives Matter, #MeToo and other movements.
- ◆ Develop proficiency with academic research and writing on the topic of gender and women's studies. Improve public writing skills on the topic of gender and women's studies.
- ◆ Create an infographic on the topic of gender and women's studies.
- ◆ Present a final project in the StARS, BSU's end of the year student symposium.

Course Assignments: Please see assignment details on Blackboard. All assignments must be completed to pass course.

Grade Scale: A 95 A- 90 B+ 88 B 85 B- 80 C+ 78 C 75 C- 70 D+ 68 D 65 F 59

Late Assignments: Consistently late assignments without contacting me about your issues will severely impact your professionalism portion of your grade in this class.

Plagiarism & Academic Integrity: It is your responsibility to understand plagiarism and its consequences. Consult the [BSU Student Handbook](#) about academic honesty and related issues. Plagiarism consists of using someone else's work as your own (even if you have paraphrased it) without a citation. Cases of plagiarism warrant failure for the assignment and possibly the course and will be



reported. See BSU's [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

Notice on Title IX and Sexual Violence: BSU's Office of Equal Opportunity and the Title IX Coordinator work to ensure that all members of the campus community flourish in a supportive and fair climate. See the [Sexual Violence Advocacy and Support Center](#) regarding resources for victims/survivors.

Note on Access: If you have any special circumstances that might impact your participation, success, and/or comfort in class, please contact me as soon as possible, so that reasonable accommodations can be made. These may include (but are not limited to) having a documented disability, involvement in upcoming religious observances, speaking English as a second language, etc. If you have not done so already, please register with the [Office of Student Accessibility Services](#), which is responsible for coordinating accommodations and services for students with disabilities.