

Do not copy without the express written consent of the instructor.

SYLLABUS – WST 3105

Gender Issues Across the Globe

Course Description

What is a gender issue? Who gets to define what counts as a gender issue—especially across diverse cultures and contexts? This class is an introduction to ‘gender issues’ across the globe, as defined especially by women’s groups, across multiple cultural locations and contexts. The overall aim is to think critically about our own understandings of what these issues are, what kinds of assumptions we might make that shape our understandings, and to hopefully expand those understandings, based on paying attention to and learning from the voices of local groups. In this spirit, we will talk about gender issues that you might expect to talk about, such as violence against women or access to reproductive care. However, we may not always do this in the expected ways. For example, bigger questions here include questions like: How do we define violence against women or reproductive care? What are the parameters of these issues? How do global or transnational forces shape these so-called ‘local’ issues? Beyond these conversations, we will also talk about issues that we may not typically think of as ‘women’s or ‘gender’ issues, such as access to clean water and environmental degradation, food security, war, and economic inequality.

Student Learning Outcomes and Objectives

1. Students will compare/contrast their own and others’ perspectives concerning what constitutes a gender issue and why
2. Students will be able to assemble a multi-perspective analysis of a given gender issue
3. Students will be able to discuss prevailing world conditions that shape contemporary gender issues
4. Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of the interrelatedness of local and global contexts in the shaping of gender issues
5. Students will be able to demonstrate acceptance of shared responsibility for addressing processes that contribute to experiences of gender inequality
6. Students will demonstrate a willingness to address processes that contribute to experiences of gender inequality

Required Texts

Lee, Janet and Susan M. Shaw. 2011. *Women Worldwide: Transnational feminist perspectives on women*. New York: McGraw Hill.

Grading

Your grade in this course will consist of the following components:

1. Mid-term Exam (15%)
2. Final Exam (15%)

Do not copy without the express written consent of the instructor.

3. Class Paper (20%)
4. Reflective journals (25%)
5. Attendance and Participation (25%)

Reading Schedule

1. The Politics of defining Gender Issues across the Globe and Transnational Feminisms
 2. World Media
 3. Global Politics of the Body
 4. Sexualities Worldwide
 5. Politics of Women's Health
 6. Reproductive Freedoms
 7. Families in Global Context
- Mid-Term Exam
8. Violence against Women Worldwide
 9. Women's Work in the Global Economy
 10. Women and Environmental Politics
 11. Women and Political Systems Worldwide
 12. Women, War and Peace
 13. Case Study: HIV/AIDS in Women's Lives

Class Papers due

Final Exam