**Gender in the Everyday World: WMS 105**

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Office Hours: TR 1:00 - 2:30 Phone: 860-215-9433

# Location: C 216

*“Gender Equality Must Become a Lived Reality.”*

Michelle Obama

This introductory course explores the core concepts central to the field of Women’s and Gender Studies in connection to gender, sex and sexualities, race/ethnicity, and class. Some of the topics covered include feminism, social activism, sex trafficking, sexual assault and intimate-partner violence, influence of media, women in leadership, health care and reproductive rights, body image, and gender identity/expression. Course runs fall semesters only.

*Prerequisite: ENG 101 eligibility*

**Course Objectives**

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to

* articulate the purpose and history of Women’s and Gender Studies as a discipline;
* explain how the socialization process of learning gender is shaped by many influences, including family, culture, ethnicity, race, religion, media, and popular culture;
* identify and explain how socially constructed categories like gender, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and sexual identity intersect and influence the diversity of individuals’ experiences and serve to create systems of privilege and oppression;
* define and describe basic terms central to the field of Women’s and Gender Studies: patriarchy, feminism, gender, sex, social construction, racism, classism, heterosexism, transphobia, ageism, and ableism;
* integrate knowledge and experience to think critically to solve problems and arrive at creative solutions.

**Required Texts**

*Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies*, Melissa J. Gillis and Andrew T. Jacobs, Oxford UP.

#### Grade Percentages

* Class participation (group work, discussions, quizzes, etc.) 20%
* Notes on chapters 30%
* Exams 30%
* Take Action Project 20%

Breakdown of Grades and Policies

**CLASS PARTICIPATION (20%):** A class like this requires your engagement, which means reading *all* of the assigned material before class and participating in class discussions and group work. (If you do not do the readings, you will not be able to participate in the activities, which will affect your grade negatively.) There may be random quizzes. Any work assigned during a class period, including quizzes cannot be made up.

EXAMS (30%): History of Feminist Activism 10%; Midterm 10% and Final Exam 10%

NOTES ON CHAPTERS (30%): For each chapter, following the assigned page numbers listed on the syllabus, take notes (not in your textbook) on each section (separated by bold subheadings). Identify the main points in an outline format and make comments on them (annotate). When you annotate you are “talking to the text.” They will be checked off at the beginning of each class. If you don’t have them done, you will automatically lose 10% off the grade for that date/chapter. Periodically, as listed on the syllabus, I will collect your notes for an overall grade.

TAKE ACTION PROJECT (20%): The class will be participating in an activity together to promote social justice.

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##### CLASS POLICIES

**Deadlines:** All work is due at the beginning of class (as assigned). For each day an assignment is late, your grade will be docked one full letter grade. Allowances will be made for documented emergencies and other absences that cannot be avoided. (Email submissions will not be accepted.)

**Attendance:** The success of this course requires your attendance. If you miss class, please remember that you will not be able to make up missed quizzes, material covered in class, and group work. Eight absences is an automatic F.

**Late Arrivals:** Please be in class on time. Perpetual lateness will affect your final grade. (I lock the door.)

**Breaks:** Unless it is an emergency, *refrain from leaving the class at all times. Doing so is disruptive and will affect your grade negatively* (and – the door will be locked).

**College Emergencies:** Procedures discussed in class.

Written Requirements: Paper assignments are to be word-processed and double-spaced, with margins of 1 inch and a font size equivalent to Times New Roman size 12. MLA documentation will be the proper format for this class. This is college, so correct grammar and spelling count and will be taken into account on your grade.

### Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is essential to a useful education. Failure to act with academic integrity severely limits a person’s ability to succeed in the classroom and beyond. Furthermore, academic dishonesty erodes the legitimacy of every degree awarded by the College. In this class and in the course of your academic career, present only your own best work; clearly document all sources of any material you use from others; and act at all times with honor. Plagiarism of any sort will result in a failing grade.

**Tutoring:**Three Rivers has an excellent tutoring center located next to the library, C 113, where trained tutors are available to assist you with your academic needs.

**Electronic devices: No cell phone use. During class put them in your backpack – not on your lap or the desk**. (No laptops either.)

**Class cancellations:** If class is cancelled, a notice will be posted outside the door. I will also try to send out an email to your TRCC school email account. (Please make sure you have one and that you are signed up for My COMMNET ALERT.) School cancellations due to bad weather will also be posted on the TRCC homepage and recorded on the school's main phone number: 860-886-0177. The most reliable source will be COMMNET ALERT. To sign up, open your Commnet account and follow directions under Early Warning Alert.

**Title IX**

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 that prohibits sex-based discrimination of any kind in the educational programs or activities of federally-financed institutions, which includes Three Rivers Community College. (You can thank feminists for this amendment!)

### Board of Regents for Higher Education and Connecticut State Colleges and Universities Policy Regarding Sexual Misconduct Reporting, Support Services and Processes Policy:

### Public Act No. 14-11: An act concerning sexual assault, stalking and intimate partner violence on campus: “The Board of Regents for Higher Education (BOR) in conjunction with the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) is committed to ensuring that each member of every BOR governed college and university community has the opportunity to participate fully in the process of education free from acts of sexual misconduct, intimate partner violence and stalking.”

### Title IX Statement of Policy:“Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 protects students, employees, applicants for admission and employment, and other persons from all forms of sex discrimination, including discrimination based on gender identity or failure to conform to stereotypical notions of masculinity or femininity. All students are protected by Title IX, regardless of their sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, part or full-time status, disability, race, or national origin, in all aspects of educational programs and activities.”

### On-Campus Resources

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| **Counseling and Advising**Room A-119, (860) 215-9016 | **Campus Security**Room A-102 / Front Desk (860) 215-9053 |
| **Maria Krug****Title IX Coordinator**C131(860) 215-9053  |  |

### Local Confidential Counseling Resources

#### Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Eastern Connecticut

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| **New London Office,** 78 Howard Street, 2nd Floor, New London, CT 06320, Office: 860-442-0604Hotline: 860-437-7766 or Toll Free (888) 999-5545<http://www.saccec.org/> |

**Safe Futures – New London**

**24-Hour Hotlines for Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault: (860) 701-6000 or (860) 701-6001** <http://www.safefuturesct.org/>

*\*Safe Futures can always be reached by telephone to help in a crisis. 24 hours/day, 365 days/year, a certified crisis counselor is available to listen, let someone know they are not alone, and to offer options. We can help assess one’s safety, get someone in danger to a safe shelter or meet victims at our area hospitals or police stations. All crisis services are free and confidential.*

**Support services:** If you have a disability that may affect your progress in this course, please meet with a Disability Service Provider (DSP) as soon as possible.  Please note that accommodations cannot be provided until you provide written authorization from a DSP and they are not retroactive.

TRCC Disabilities Service Providers:

Matt Liscum – 215-9265, Room A113: Mental Health Disabilities, Learning Disabilities, ADD/ADHD Spectrum, Autism Specturm

Elizabeth Wilcox – 215-9289, Room A113: Sensory, Medical, and Mobility Disabilities

**COURSE OUTLINE - FALL 2019**

Please bring your book to class every day. You will not receive credit for class participation without it.

*AUGUST*

**Week One**

27 Introduction

29 **1.** Ask five people to define **feminism** and record their responses, taking into

 account their facial expressions and body language. (Handwritten is fine.) (Do

 not allow the interviewees to look it up on their smartphones.) **2.** Next do a search on

 the Internet for the word “feminism.” Link to a minimum of three sites that are

 positive and three that are negative and then report on your findings (website,

 message, and purpose). **3.** Type/write at least three questions that you have after

 interviewing individuals and doing research about feminism.

*SEPTEMBER*

**Week Two**

3 Chapter Eleven: “History of Women’s Activism in the United States” 317-334. Outline

 and annotate. See directions in syllabus. \**Keep in mind you will be tested on this material;*

 *also work on identifying key points that will help you when you study.*

5 Finish chapter - 335-351. Outline and annotate.

**Week Three**

10 *Ironed Jawed Angels* (video)

12 Finish video \*Since you don’t have anything due this week, I recommend that you take the time to study for the test and read Chapter One and do the homework.

**Week Four**

17 **Test on feminism and the history of women’s activism**

19 Chapter One: “Sex, Gender, and Social Construction,” 1-26. Outline and annotate.

**Week Five**

24 Chapter Three: “Gender and In/Equality” 51-80. Outline and annotate.

26 No class – take the time to read and do homework on Chapter Four

*OCTOBER*

**Week Six**

1 Chapter Four: “LGBTQQIAA Identities and Challenges” 81-115. Outline and annotate.

3 Open day

**Week Seven**

8 Outlines and annotations on Chapter One, Three, and Four due. Make sure you staple each chapter (the pages together) and put them in a folder. Film

10 Film \*Since you don’t have any homework this week, I recommend that you read ahead and do the homework for Chapter Six.

**Week Eight**

15 Chapter Six: “Beyond the Mythical Norm: Considering Race, Class, and Gender” 149-181. Outline and annotate.

17 Continue discussion

**Week Nine**

22 No class – Reading Day

24 MIDTERM

**Week Ten**

29 Chapter Seven: “Embodiment, Beauty, and the Viewer” 183-217. Outline and annotate.

31 Continue discussion

*NOVEMBER*

**Week Eleven**

5 Take Action Project ideas

7 Chapter Eight: “Work, Inequality, and Neoliberalism” 219-238. Outline and annotate.

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**Week Twelve**

12 Finish Chapter Eight, 238-250. Finish outline and annotations.

14 Take Action Project

**Week Thirteen**

19 Chapter Nine: “Gender Based Violence” 251-266. Outline and annotate.

21 Finish Chapter Nine – 266-281. Finish outline and annotations.

**Week Fourteen**

26 No class – Thanksgiving Break

28 No class – Thanksgiving Break

*DECEMBER*

**Week Fifteen**

3 Take Action Project

5 Take Action Project

**Week Sixteenn**

10 Open day

12 Final Exam

*The syllabus may change at any time and it is your responsibility to stay informed. I recommend you find someone in class you can contact if you have to miss class.*

