

San José State University
Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Science
Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program
WGSS 10: Introduction to Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies (47519), Fall '24

Course and Contact Information

Instructor: Angela Castillo
Office Location: DMH 238A
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Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday, 1:30 – 2:30pm, and by appointment
Class Days/Time: Monday & Wednesday, 12 – 1:15pm
Classroom: Clark 234
GE/SJSU Studies Category: D1

Course Description

This course offers an introduction to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, an interdisciplinary academic field that explores the meaning of gender in society as it relates to the status of women. Students will analyze the social construction of gender, feminism, and gender issues about family, education, work, health and reproduction, law, sexuality, media/representation, and globalization. Students will apply critical concepts and tools of feminist and gender studies in their academic and personal lives, and in the community.

Course Format

This is an in-person course that meets twice a week. Some course materials and assignments will be accessed on the “Modules” section of Canvas, the college’s Learning Management System.

Faculty/Class Web Page and Canvas

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](#). You are responsible for regularly checking with the messaging system through Canvas to learn of any updates. For help with using Canvas see the [Canvas Student Resources page](#).

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

Upon successful completion of this GE course, students will be able to:

1. *Place contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and spatial contexts (readings, class discussions & in-class writing responses).*
2. *Identify the dynamics of ethnic, cultural, gender/sexual, age-based, class, regional, national, transnational, and global identities and the similarities, differences, linkages, and interactions between them (discussions & in-class writing responses).*
3. *Evaluate social science information, draw on different points of view, and formulate applications appropriate to contemporary social issue (readings and quizzes).*
4. *Recognize the interaction of social institutions, culture, and the environment with the behavior of individuals (class facilitation, in-class writing responses, quizzes, final).*

Required Textbook/Readings

1. Shaw, Susan M., and Janet Lee. *Gendered Voices, Voices, Feminist Visions: Classic and Contemporary Readings*. 8th edition. ISBN: 978019762262, 0197622615. There is also an eTextbook available via Vital Source. Here is the link: <https://www.vitalsource.com/products/gendered-voices-feminist-visions-susan-m-shaw-janet-lee-v9780197622629>

Course Requirements and Assignments

1. In-Class Responses (10x10pts each = 100 points): Ten times throughout the course you will be required to do an in-class writing response or group activity based on either the readings for that week, a film shown in class, or guest speaker. These responses are my way of assessing that you are completing the readings as well as coming to class. These responses cannot be made up. If you are not in class when they are assigned, you will lose points.
2. Class Facilitation (200 points): All students will be responsible for leading at least one class session with several of your classmates. This will require you to: synthesize the readings, present the material for the week, discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the readings, and lead a discussion. More details on class facilitations will follow.
3. Online Quizzes (13x30pts each = 390 points): At the end of each week/module, you will complete a quiz on Canvas based on what you have learned that week from the assigned readings, lecture, or other module materials. Quiz formats will vary and contain multiple choice, true/false, and/or short answer questions. Quizzes can be completed any time prior to the quiz due date, but you will only have one attempt at each quiz so you will need to complete the quiz in one sitting.
4. Final Paper and Showcase (310 points): Your final assignment for the class will be a paper. You will share your findings with the class. More details on this assignment will be provided later in the semester.

AI Generative Tools Policy

You may use generative AI programs, e.g. ChatGPT, to help generate ideas and brainstorm. You should note, however, that the material generated by these programs may be inaccurate, incomplete, biased or otherwise problematic. Beware that use may also stifle your own independent thinking and creativity.

Generative AI also derives its output from previously created texts from other sources that the models were trained on, yet doesn't cite sources. **You may not submit any work generated by an AI program as your own. This is a form of plagiarism.** If you include material generated by an AI program, it should be cited like any other reference material (with due consideration for the quality of the reference, which may be poor). When/if you use Artificial Intelligence (AI) platforms in your assignments, please write a note to clarify where in your process you used AI and which platform(s) you used. **Failure to do so constitutes an academic integrity violation, and I will follow [the institution's policy](#) and report those instances.** See this article for proper APA formatting of such citations: [How to cite ChatGPT](#).

Grading Information

I grade using a point system. Your final grade is an accumulation of points you have earned throughout the semester. The grading scale is as follows:

A+ = 970-1000	A = 940-969	A- = 900-939
B+ = 870-899	B = 840-869	B- = 800-839
C+ = 770-799	C = 740-769	C- = 700-739
D+ = 660-669	D = 630-659	D- = 600-629

Classroom Protocol

1. You are expected to do all of the assigned readings for the week before class meets on Monday. You are expected to bring that day's reading to class, arrive on time, and participate in class activities by asking and answering questions. Anticipate a reading load of about 50-100 pages per class. Success in this course is based on the expectation that you will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course-related activities.
2. Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off and put away during class time.
3. You are expected to attend all class meetings and you are responsible for all assignments and announcements presented in class. If you are late or absent, it is your responsibility to contact another student. I'm unable to respond to emails asking what you missed. Please come see me in my office hours if you have further questions after contacting another student.
4. If you are facing personal difficulties that may affect your ability to come to class and/or complete assignments, it is important to inform me as soon as possible. Reach out to me via email or come by my office hours. Maintaining timely communication is key to success in this course.

Late Policy

On-time submission is strongly encouraged. Students are expected to submit all assignments by the designated due date. Late work will be accepted up to two weeks after the original due date. However, a penalty of 50% of the total points will be applied to any late assignment. Please note that this policy is in place to encourage timely completion of assignments and to ensure fairness to all students.

A Climate of Mutual Respect

A climate of mutual respect requires free expression, critical investigation, and open discussion of ideas. All of us must help create and sustain an atmosphere of tolerance, civility, and respect for the viewpoints of others. Similarly, we must all learn how to probe, oppose and disagree without resorting to tactics of intimidation, harassment, or personal attack. This means opening ourselves to the lived experiences of others, which may not be our own, and treating those experiences as valid. No one is entitled to harass, discriminate, or belittle another on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender, national origin, or sexual preference. On the other hand, we cannot permit ourselves to be silenced because we feel awkward discussing politically sensitive issues.

Participating as a good listener while your peers are speaking is also critical. This is your role as a member of the audience. Good listening requires effort and energy; "audience member" is not a passive role. Good listening entails offering attentive, supportive nonverbal feedback, and asking questions or offering comments.

When you are involved in a class discussion reflect on the following: Do you lead? Do you follow? Do you dominate the conversation? Are you hesitant to speak up? Are you aware of other people's desire to join in the conversation? Do you make sure everyone has a chance to contribute? When you have an emotional reaction to something someone says, how do you handle it?

A Note about Women's Studies Classes

This class will be a challenge because:

The Workload- Officially, a three-unit course entails six hours of work outside the classroom. Each week you will be expected to read between 30-60 pages and class assignments will require a substantial amount of work outside of class.

Topic Matter- There will be frequent instances throughout the semester in which sensitive and difficult issues will be discussed. Many of these issues will require an open mind. Feminist readings of topics may go against moral or religious teachings with which you have grown up. Frequently, students in this course find that they begin to see almost everything in a new light. This experience can be both exciting and disturbing.

R-rating- As you will come to find, we may be using several texts that involve “profane” language. Some of the films that we will use in class also contain nudity and/or violence. Please be forewarned.

University Policies

Per relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc., and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page \(https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php\)](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

WGSS 10: Introduction to Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Fall ‘24, Course Schedule

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice.

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	Aug 21	Introduction Module: Things You Need to Know about the Course
2	Aug 26/28	Module 1: Women’s and Gender Studies: Perspectives and Practices Read: Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 23-51 <i>Submit: Quiz #1 by Friday at 11:59pm</i>
3	Sept 4	Module 2: Systems of Privilege and Inequality Read: Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 53-73 <i>Submit: Quiz #2 by Friday at 11:59pm</i> <i>Sept. 2nd is Labor Day (No Class)</i>
4	Sept 9/11	Module 3: Learning Gender Read: Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 120-155 <i>Submit: Quiz #3 by Friday at 11:59pm</i>
5	Sept 16/18	Module 4: Inscribing Gender on the Body Read: Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 176-216 <i>Submit: Quiz #4 by Friday at 11:59pm</i>
6	Sept 23/25	Module 5: Sex, Power, and Intimacy

		Read: Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 238-262 <i>Submit: Quiz #5 by Friday at 11:59pm</i>
7	Sept 30/Oct 2	Module 6: Media and Culture Read: Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 298-318 <i>Submit: Quiz #6 by Friday at 11:59pm</i>
8	Oct 7/9	Module 7: Health and Reproductive Justice Read: Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 349-373 <i>Submit: Quiz #7 by Friday at 11:59pm</i>
9	Oct 14/16	Module 8: Family Systems, Family Lives Read: Shaw and Lee: 400-420 <i>Submit: Quiz #8 by Friday at 11:59pm</i>
10	Oct 21/23	Module 9: Paid Employment Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 445-478 <i>Submit: Quiz #9 by Friday at 11:59pm</i>
11	Oct 28/30	Module 10: Resisting Gender Violence Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 510-537 <i>Submit: Quiz #10 by Friday at 11:59pm</i>
12	Nov 4/6	Module 11: State, Law, and Social Policy Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 568-581 <i>Submit: Quiz #11 by Friday at 11:59pm</i>
13	Nov 13	Module 12: Religion and Spirituality Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 602-637 <i>Submit: Quiz #12 by Friday at 11:59pm</i> <i>Nov 11th is Veterans Day (No Class)</i>
14	Nov 18/20	Module 13: Activism, Change, and Feminist Futures Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 661-690 <i>Submit: Quiz #13 by Friday at 11:59pm</i>
15	Nov 25	Final Paper Showcase <i>Nov 27th is a Non-Instructional Day (No Class)</i>

16	Dec 2/4	Final Paper Showcase
17	Dec 9	Final Paper Showcase Final Paper is due on Monday, 12/15, 9:45am - 12pm