Introduction to Gender Studies
Spring 2020

GST 2301-010, MWF 11:00-11:50 a.m. in A101
Professor: Dr. Kornasky
Email: Linda.Kornasky@angelo.edu
Office Hours: MW 10:00-11:00 a.m. and 12:00-1:00 p.m., and by appointment
Office: Academic 001a
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Class Policies

Required Textbook:

Course Description: This course will examine ideas about gender roles and the biology of gendered identity and sexual behavior that shape human culture. Students will consider how conventions and norms related to gender often work to prevent people from seeing the processes by which many aspects of gender—both masculinity and femininity—and sexual orientation are constructed by a range of social institutions: education, the family, religion, the workplace, the law, and mass media. Through course readings, class discussion, and written and oral assignments, students will investigate theories about the social construction of gender and the interrelationship of human culture and biology from a variety of perspectives within gender studies research, including both the well-established field of women’s studies and the newer, rapidly growing, field of men’s studies.

Learning Outcomes:

- In this course, students will learn interrelated gender studies terms and concepts, such as sex and gender, sexism, biological essentialism, the (male) mind/(female) body dichotomy, “first, second, and third wave” feminism, separate male (public) and female (private) spheres, the feminine mystique, the beauty myth, patriarchy vs. matriarchy, the sexual double standard, gender polymorphism, androgyny, intersexuality, compulsory heterosexuality/heteronormativity.
- Students will learn to integrate their understanding of these terms and concepts with observations of practical contexts. They will learn to apply these concepts to critique gendered experiences and assumptions.
- Students will learn to employ these concepts to understand and evaluate a variety of cultural texts.

Assignments:

- Pop Culture Project---------------------------------15%
- Paper-------------------------------------------------20%
- Midterm Examination---------------------------------20%
- Blog Assignments (1 point each)-------------------10%
- Final Examination----------------------------------25%
- Class Participation---------------------------------10%

100%

Weekly Blog Activity: Throughout the semester there will be ten required online assignments in our course blog due on Fridays. For these assignments, please log on to our course blog to publish a comment
and a reply to one of your classmates’ comments prior to class on Fridays: [https://asugst2301spring2020.blogspot.com/](https://asugst2301spring2020.blogspot.com/) Blog comments/replies will be given grades of full credit, half credit, or no credit.

**Attendance:** Students are allowed a total of three unexcused absences without penalty. For each additional unexcused absence, 5 points (1/2 letter-grade) will be deducted from the final course grade. Six or more excused or unexcused absences may be grounds for failing the course. Students are responsible for preparing for the class following any absence and for informing me when they miss roll call because of being late. Being late twice equals one absence.

**Academic Honesty:** Students must understand the principles of academic integrity and abide by them in all classes and/or course work at the University. Academic Misconduct violations are outlined in Part I, section B.1 of the *Code of Student Conduct*. If there are questions of interpretation of academic integrity policies or about what might constitute an academic integrity violation, students are responsible for seeking guidance from the faculty member teaching the course in question.

**Title IX:** Official ASU statement: “The University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination including: sexual assault, sex-based discrimination, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence and/or dating violence), and stalking. As a faculty member, I am a Responsible Employee meaning that I am obligated by law and ASU policy to report any allegations I am notified of to the Office of Title IX Compliance. Students are encouraged to report any incidents of sexual misconduct directly to ASU’s Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator: Michelle Boone, J.D., Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Mayer Administration Building, Room 210, 325-942-2022, michelle.boone@angelo.edu. You may also file a report online 24/7 at [www.angelo.edu/incident-form](http://www.angelo.edu/incident-form). If you wish to speak to someone about an incident in confidence you may contact the University Health Clinic and Counseling Center at 325-942-2173 or the ASU Crisis Helpline at 325-486-6345. For more information about Title IX in general you may visit [www.angelo.edu/title-ix](http://www.angelo.edu/title-ix).”

**Students with Disabilities:** Official ASU statement: “Angelo State University is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs, or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation. All students at Angelo State University must have the capacity and ambition to undertake, with reasonable accommodation from the faculty and administration, the academic challenges necessary to fulfill the academic requirements for the degree or certification programs which they are pursuing.” Students with disabilities that may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Office of Student Affairs (UC 112) to request them as early in the semester as possible: [https://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/apply-for-disability-accommodations.php](https://www.angelo.edu/services/disability-services/apply-for-disability-accommodations.php).

**Schedule:**

- **M 1/13** Introduction to course material and syllabus
- **W 1/15** Chapter 1: “Sex, Gender, and Social Construction.”
- **F 1/17** Continue discussing Chapter 1 (no blog due today).
MLK Holiday: no classes today.

Chapter 2: “Language and Communication.”

Blog activity #1: Prior to class today, please log on to the class blog website (https://asugst2301spring2020.blogspot.com/) to publish a comment and a reply.

Chapter 3: “Gender and In/Equality.”

Continue discussing Chapter 3.

Blog activity #2: Prior to class today, please log on to the class blog website (https://asugst2301spring2020.blogspot.com/) to publish a comment and a reply.

Chapter 4: “LGBTQ+ Identities.”

Continue discussing Chapter 4.

Blog activity #3: Prior to class today, please log on to the class blog website (https://asugst2301spring2020.blogspot.com/) to publish a comment and a reply.

Chapter 5: “Constructions of Homosexualities: Past and Present.”

Continue discussing Chapter 5.

Pop Culture Project Due.

Blog activity #4: Prior to class today, please log on to the class blog website (https://asugst2301spring2020.blogspot.com/) to publish a comment and a reply.

Chapter 6: “Beyond the Mythical Norm: Considering Race, Class, and Gender.”

Continue discussing Chapter 6.

Blog activity #5: Prior to class today, please log on to the class blog website (https://asugst2301spring2020.blogspot.com/) to publish a comment and a reply.

Chapter 7: “Embodiment, Beauty, and the Viewer.”

Review for Midterm Examination

Midterm Examination (no blog today)

Chapter 8: “Work, Inequality, and Neoliberalism.”

Continue discussing Chapter 8.

Blog activity #6: Prior to class today, please log on to the class blog website (https://asugst2301spring2020.blogspot.com/) to publish a comment and a reply.

Spring Break
Chapter 9: “Gender-Based Violence.”

Continue discussing Chapter 9.

Blog activity #7: Prior to class today, please log on to the class blog website (https://asugst2301spring2020.blogspot.com/) to publish a comment and a reply.

Chapter 10: “Human Rights and Global Activism”

Continue discussing Chapter 10.

Blog activity #8: Prior to class today, please log on to the class blog website (https://asugst2301spring2020.blogspot.com/) to publish a comment and a reply.

Chapter 11: “History of Women’s Activism in the United States: Struggles and Solidarities.”

Continue discussing Chapter 11.

Blog activity #9: Prior to class today, please log on to the class blog website (https://asugst2301spring2020.blogspot.com/) to publish a comment and a reply.


Continue discussing Chapter 12.

Blog activity #10: Prior to class today, please log on to the class blog website (https://asugst2301spring2020.blogspot.com/) to publish a comment and a reply.

Paper Due.

Extra Credit work on gender and voting.

Bonus blog activity: Prior to class today, please log on to the class blog website (https://asugst2301spring2020.blogspot.com/) to publish a comment and a reply.

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Extra Credit work on gender and voting.

Discuss format of final examination.

Course wrap-up: no blog today.

Final Examination: 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.