Introduction to Gender Studies
Spring 2021, Last 8 Weeks

GST 2301, online (Blackboard)
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Office hours: by appointment
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Required Textbook:
You may purchase the print book or the e-book:
https://www.vitalsource.com/products/introduction-to-women-39-s-and-gender-studies-melissa-j-gillis-andrew-t-v9780190064297?duration=180&gclid=Cj0KCQjw3duCBhCAARIsAJeFyPV6weafNKCCR3HSJZcYIpFlSw-WIln1ubhneXJ194heo7ln_B91cm0aAv_CEALw_wcB

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 norms related to gender often work to prevent people from recognizing 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, shared projects, and written assignments, students will investigate theories about the social construction of gender and the interrelations of human culture and biology from a variety of perspectives within gender studies research.

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, and compulsory heterosexuality/heteronormativity.
- Students will learn to integrate their understanding of these terms and concepts with observations of practical contexts. They will apply these concepts to critique gendered and assumptions.
- Students will learn to employ these concepts to understand a variety of cultural texts.

Assignments:
Pop Culture Project---------------------------------25%
Paper (four pages)-----------------------------25%
Midterm Examination--------------------------20%
Final Examination--------------------------30%

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 the *Code of Student Conduct*.

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, and I am therefore 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. 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 Help line at 325-486-6345. For more information about Title IX in general you may visit 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.

Schedule:

Week 1, March 22-26: Introduction to course material and syllabus
Chapter 1: “Sex, Gender, and Social Construction.”
Pop Culture Project assigned.

Week 2, Mar. 29-Apr. 2
Chapter 2: “Language and Communication.”

Week 3, April 5-9
Chapter 3: “Gender and In/Equality.”
Pop Culture Project Due: Wednesday, April 7

Week 4, April 12-16
Chapter 4: “LGBTQ+ Identities” and
Chapter 5: “Constructions of Homosexualities: Past and Present.”
Midterm Exam Due: Friday 4/16

Week 5, April 19-23
Chapter 7: “Embodiment, Beauty, and the Viewer.”
Paper assigned.

Week 6, April /26-30
Chapter 11: “History of Women’s Activism in the United States: Struggles and Solidarities.”

Week 7, May 3-7
Paper Due: Friday, May 7

Thursday, May 13
Final Examination due by 11:59 p.m.