

Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Section 80

WGSS 10

Spring 2025 Fully Online 3 Unit(s) 01/23/2025 to 05/12/2025 Modified 01/17/2025

Contact Information

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Office: DMH 238A & Zoom

- **Office Hours:** Monday & Wednesday from 12 - 1pm, and by appointment
- **Class Days/Time:** Asynchronous
- **Classroom:** Online via Canvas
- **GE/SJSU Studies Category:** D1

Course Description and Requisites

Interdisciplinary introduction to core concepts and analytical tools addressing the diversity of human experience cross cut by gender, sexuality, embodiment, and class location. Students will become familiar with key contemporary and historical debates in both global and local contexts.

GE Area: D (formerly GE Area D1)

Letter Graded

Classroom Protocols

1. Understand that a web-based course such as this requires a fair amount of self-direction and independence. You are responsible for accessing and understanding the course materials and completing the assignments.
2. Discussion assignments may be informally worded, similar to how you would speak in class. While I will not grade you on spelling and grammar, your posts must be intelligible. Discussions are not the same things as texting; you must use complete spelling of words. Proofread what you write prior to clicking the 'submit' button.

3. You are expected to turn in assignments on time. Having computer problems is NOT a valid excuse for not completing your work. Make sure that you do not wait until the last minute to access materials, complete online assignments, etc. in case you encounter any technical issues. You can enter and work on the class Canvas page anytime during the day or night that you would like but please know that the discussions, essays, and assignments have certain due dates and times. It is your responsibility to keep track of assignment due dates.
4. If you are facing personal difficulties that may affect your ability to 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.

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](#).

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.

Program Information

Welcome to this General Education course.

SJSU's General Education Program establishes a strong foundation of versatile skills, fosters curiosity about the world, promotes ethical judgment, and prepares students to engage and contribute responsibly and cooperatively in a multicultural, information-rich society. General education classes integrate areas of study and encourage progressively more complex and creative analysis, expression, and problem solving.

The General Education Program has three goals:

Goal 1: To develop students' core competencies for academic, personal, creative, and professional pursuits.

Goal 2: To enact the university's commitment to diversity, inclusion, and justice by ensuring that students have the knowledge and skills to serve and contribute to the well-being of local and global communities and the environment.

Goal 3: To offer students integrated, multidisciplinary, and innovative study in which they pose challenging questions, address complex issues, and develop cooperative and creative responses.

More information about the General Education Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs) can be found on the [GE website \(https://sjsu.edu/general-education/ge-requirements/overview/learning-outcomes.php\)](https://sjsu.edu/general-education/ge-requirements/overview/learning-outcomes.php).

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

GE Area D: Social Sciences

Area D courses increase students' understanding of human behavior and social interaction in the context of value systems, economic structures, political institutions, social groups, and natural environments.

Students develop an understanding of problems and issues from different disciplinary perspectives and examine issues in their contemporary as well as historical settings and in a variety of cultural contexts.

The CSU requires students to complete General Education courses in the Social Sciences in at least two different disciplines. Students may meet this requirement by either 1) taking two lower-division Area D courses in different disciplines, or 2) taking two lower-division Area D courses in the same discipline and an Area S upper-division GE course in a different discipline.

GE Area D Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of an Area D course, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate understanding of the ways in which social institutions, culture, and environment shape and are shaped by the behavior of individuals, both past and present;
2. Compare and contrast the dynamics of two or more social groups or social systems in a variety of historical and/or cultural contexts;
3. Place contemporary social developments in cultural, environmental, geographical, and/or historical contexts;
4. Draw on social/behavioral science information from various perspectives to formulate applications appropriate to historical and/or contemporary social issues.

Writing Practice: Students will write a minimum of 1500 words in a language and style appropriate to the discipline.

Course Materials

Gendered Voices, Feminist Visions: Classic and Contemporary Readings

Author: Shaw, Susan M., and Janet Lee

Publisher: Oxford

Edition: 8th

ISBN: 978019762262

There is also an eTextbook available online.

Course Requirements and Assignments

1. **Discussion questions: (7 x 20 = 140 points)**

Seven times throughout the course you will be asked to post a response to a discussion question based on either the readings for that week, a short film, or a current event. You must post an original

response and respond to a classmate's comment. Each response should be about 50 words in length. Guidelines for online discussion as well as the rubric that will be used for grading are posted on Canvas. These online discussions are my way of assessing that you are completing the reading as well as participating in the class.

2. **Learning Activities (7 x 10 = 70)**

Some course modules will contain brief activities (e.g., surveys, research, interviews, interactive activities, etc.) for you to complete. Module activities will be graded based on completeness.

3. **Quizzes (13 x 30pts each = 390 points)**

At the end of each week/module, you will complete a quiz 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 Exam (400 points)**

The final for this class will contain short answer questions and a short essay question. More details on the final exam will be given later in the semester.

✓ 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

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9 \(PDF\)](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), 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 the [Syllabus Information](https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>) web page. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Course Schedule

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

This schedule is subject to change with fair notice.

When	Topic	Notes
Introduction Module Week 1	Things You Need to Know about the Course	
Module 1 Week 2	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>
Module 2 Week 3	Systems of Privilege and Inequality	Read: Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 75-99 <i>Submit: Quiz #2 by Friday at 11:59pm</i>
Module 3 Week 4	Learning Gender	Read: Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 120-155 <i>Submit: Quiz #3 by Friday at 11:59pm</i>
Module 4 Week 5	Inscribing Gender on the Body	Read: Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 176-216 <i>Submit: Quiz #4 by Friday at 11:59pm</i>
Module 5 Week 6	Sex, Power, and Intimacy	Read: Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 238-262 <i>Submit: Quiz #5 by Friday at 11:59pm</i>
Module 6 Week 7	Media and Culture	Read: Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 298-318 <i>Submit: Quiz #6 by Friday at 11:59pm</i>
Module 7 Week 8	Health and Reproductive Justice	Read: Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 349-373 <i>Submit: Quiz #7 by Friday at 11:59pm</i>
Module 8 Week 9	Family Systems, Family Lives	Read: Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 400-420 <i>Submit: Quiz #8 by Friday at 11:59pm</i>
Module 9 Week 10	Paid Employment	Read: Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 445-478 <i>Submit: Quiz #9 by Friday at 11:59pm</i>

When	Topic	Notes
Module 10 Week 11	Resisting Gender Violence	Read: Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 510-537 <hr/> <i>Submit: Quiz #10 by Friday at 11:59pm</i>
Module 11 Week 12	State, Law, and Social Policy	Read: Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 568-581 <hr/> <hr/> Submit: Quiz #11 by Friday at 11:59pm
Module 12 Week 13	Religion and Spirituality	Read: Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 602-637 <hr/> Submit: Quiz #12 by Friday at 11:59pm
Module 13 Week 14	Activism, Change, and Feminist Futures	Read: Shaw and Lee: Pgs. 661-690 <hr/> Submit: Quiz #13 by Friday at 11:59pm
Module 14 Weeks 15-17		Final Exam