

GDRS 300-01: Gender Fundamentals Course Syllabus: Spring 2013 Dr. Tabettha Adkins

Class space: Hall of Languages 325
Class Time: Tuesday & Thursday 2-3:15
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Office phone: 903.886.5269
Office Location: Hall of Languages 229
Office hours: Monday 10-12 and 1:30-3:30; Tuesday 10-12; Thursday 3:30-4:30

Course Information

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

Textbooks Required:

Ryle, Robin. *Questioning Gender: A Sociological Exploration*. Los Angeles, CA: Sage, 2012.

Gilman, Charlotte Perkins. *Herland*. 1915. Dover Thrift Edition Costs \$1-3. Available for free online at sites like this one: <http://etext.virginia.edu/toc/modeng/public/GilHerl.html>

Readings available in eCollege course shell.

Course Description:

This course introduces students to interdisciplinary approaches to gender and provides a foundation for further coursework in the gender studies minor. Topics will vary by professor and the course may be repeated once as topics vary.

Student Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to define and describe gender in a way that reflects and understanding of the complicated cultural, political, and social contexts surrounding the concept.
2. Students will be able to utilize gender as a lens for analyzing a spectrum of texts including literature (*Herland*), popular culture, social situations, political positions, etc.
3. Students will be able to demonstrate their understanding of methods for studying gender.
4. Students will be able to apply terms commonly associated with gender studies.

Course Requirements

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Attendance Policy:

I begin each class with a quiz or short activity. These quizzes/activities make up 20% of your final grade and cannot be made up, so it is important that you are present in every class and on time. Since absences and tardiness cannot always be prevented or foreseen, I will drop the three lowest grades at the end of the semester. What you should take from this policy: you can miss the quiz/activity three times this semester without penalty. Use those three “freebies” wisely.

Assignments:

1. Daily quiz/ activity: These are the quizzes mentioned in the attendance policy (above). In these quizzes, be prepared to answer questions about assigned reading, the discussion/lecture from the previous class period, content we’ve been covering in the class, etc.
2. Midterm exam- this will be a take-home exam that will ask you to apply what you have learned to 3 essay questions. I am not expecting perfect grammar or citation in this essay exam. Rather, I am looking for thoughtful analysis and application of the terminology, concepts, and history you have learned up to this point.
3. Advertisement presentation- you will chose an advertisement (which you will discuss with me in conference) and present this advertisement to your classmates. In this presentation, not only will you talk about what the ad says/does/looks like, but you will also analyze the ad in terms of how social ideas about gender are at work in the ad. I expect thoughtful application of the terminology, concepts, and history you have learned in the class. You should even consider quoting from the textbook or other course materials to make your points.
4. Final project proposal- a rough sketch of what you plan to study for your final project. Bring this proposal to our conference.
5. Final project- using the skills you have acquired this semester, focus on a “gendered” problem. We will work on the specifics of this assignment together this semester.
6. Participation and conferences- We will schedule time for you to meet with me one-on-one before your final project. This conference is cancelled and class is cancelled during this week. Also, your participation in class is required for your grade. Good participation means you are paying attention, engaged in discussion, listening to others’ contributions, taking notes during discussion and lecture, listening to lecture, etc.

Grade weights:

<u>Assignment Name</u>	<u>Percentage of Grade</u>
Daily quizzes/ activity	20%
Midterm exam	20%
Advertisement presentation	15%
Final proposal	10%
Final project	25%
Participation & Conferences	10%

Grading Scale:

90-100	A
89-80	B
79-70	C
69-60	D
59 and below	F

Technology Requirements

You will need access to the Internet and a printer.

All assignments must be typed and printed.

You may need access to library databases to conduct research for some assignments.

Class website can be found on eCollege.

Communication and Support

The very best way to contact me is to send me an e-mail at Tabetha.Adkins@tamuc.edu

I am also available for meeting during my office hour (listed at the beginning of the syllabus) and by appointment. My office is located at HL 229. Appointments scheduled through e-mail are appreciated.

I can be reached via telephone during my office hours, as well. The number is 903.886.5269.

Course Policies and Procedures

Academic dishonesty/ Plagiarism:

Professors do not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and students are expected to do likewise. Penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension, and expulsion. (Texas A&M University- Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b [1,2,3]).

I promise to *never* use turnitin.com or other proprietary tools like it because these programs make money off your work without compensating you. Here's how it works: A university pays turnitin.com for its services (with your tuition dollars). Teachers place student papers in the program's "bank," and the program compares that paper with other papers existing in the bank. At that point, the student's paper becomes part of the bank. Therefore, turnitin.com and other tools are making money from this bank full of papers written by uncompensated students. For

more information on this issue, see this article in the Chronicle of Higher Education: <http://chronicle.com/article/Plagiarism-Detection-Tool/29885>. I also promise, however, that I take academic dishonesty very seriously.

Grievance Procedure:

If you have concerns about the class or about me as an instructor, please speak to me about those concerns. If you are not satisfied with the outcome of our conversation, the next person in the chain of command is the Department Head of Liberal Studies, Dr. Donna Dunbar-Odom.

Other course policies:

1. I do not accept late work.
2. You must turn in all assignments in order to pass the course.
3. Please be courteous to me and to your classmates; come to class on time. See attendance policy for more information.

University Procedures

ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and
Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132

Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamuc.edu
[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct from Student Guide Handbook*).

Course Calendar

This schedule may be adjusted to accommodate for student learning needs.

Class Meeting Date	Be Prepared to Discuss:
W1 January Tuesday 15	Introduction to Gender Studies and class
Thursday 17	Chapter 1 in textbook What are we doing in this class?
W2 Tuesday 22	Pages 15-27
Thursday 24	Bring examples of “feminism” to class to share (computer will be available to you)
W3 Tuesday 29	Pages 28- 41 in textbook (stop at “Doing Gender”)
Thursday 31	41-46
W4 February Tuesday 5	Finish chapter 2 3 articles linked in eCollege
Thursday 7	2 masculinity articles under Document Sharing in eCollege
W5 Tuesday 12	Children and Gender Week The Case of Storm- 3 links on eCollege Chapter 4- pages 119-153
Thursday 14	153-162
W6 Tuesday 19	Barbie Week Prager article in Document Sharing in eCollege 3 articles linked on eCollege
Thursday 21	Barbie (cont)
W7 Tuesday 26	Race and Gender Week Race PDF in Doc Sharing in eCollege Distribute midterm exams
Thursday 28	Race file on eCollege (cont.) “Ain’t I A Woman” linked on eCollege short film on eCollege- A Girl Like Me
W8 March Tuesday 5	Midterm exams due Sexuality and Gender Week 171-202
Thursday 7	202-end of chapter 5
Spring Break	
W9	Gender and Media Week

Tuesday 19	Kilbourne- Two Ways a Woman Can Get Hurt (eCollege Doc Sharing) Richardson- “Gender Stereotyping in the English Language” (eCollege Doc Sharing)
Thursday 21	Chapter 10 Link on eCollege- Does Gender Targeted Advertising Work?
W10 Tuesday 26	Advertisement presentations- day one
Thursday 28	Advertisement presentations- day two
W11 April Tuesday 2	History of the Women’s Movement Week Chapter 11, skim 469-494 PDF timeline in Doc Sharing in eCollege
Thursday 4	Finish skimming chapter 4 Two speeches linked on eCollege: Mott & Anthony
W12 Tuesday 9	Gender and Work week Chapter 9- pgs 367-397
Thursday 11	Pages 397-412
W13 Tuesday 16	Final conferences- day one Bring final project proposal to conference
Thursday 18	Final conferences- day two Bring final project proposal to conference
W14 Tuesday 23	Gender as a lens- <i>Herland</i>
Thursday 25	<i>Herland</i>
W15 Tuesday 30	<i>Herland</i>
May Thursday 2	Final project discussion- bring drafts
Thursday 4	No class
W16 Finals week	Final Project Due- Monday 6 at noon

Some other dates students need to know:

Monday, January 21 is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The university will be closed.

March 29 is the last day to drop a class.

April 26 is the last day to withdraw from the university.