

**WGSS 1110 (Online)**  
**Gender, Sex and Power**  
**May 2013**

**Instructor:** Varsha Chitnis

**Email:** chitnis.3@osu.edu (in your emails you may address me as Varsha or Dr. Chitnis)

**Office Hours:** by appointment only on Skype (id: varsha16chitnis)

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:**

Students who have verification from Disability Services please contact me as soon as possible to make necessary arrangements. The Office for Disability Services (150 Pomerene Hall; 292-3307; 292-0901) verifies the need for accommodations and assists in the development of accommodation strategies. If you have not previously contacted the Office for Disability Services, I encourage you to do so. The Office for Disability Services is located in room 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue (614-292-3307; 614-292-0901). Their website is:  
<http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu>

**Course Description:**

WS110 is a prerequisite for the major and minor in Women's Studies. The course fulfills three GEC requirements: Culture and Ideas; Social Diversity in the US; Individuals and Groups. This course introduces the interdisciplinary field of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies and analyzes various social institutions through a focus on gender. We will explore the study of women and the emergence and growth of feminism in the US by examining the intersections of gender with race, class, sexuality, and dis/ability. The topics covered by this course relate to feminisms and the women's movements, gender socialization, inequality and difference, labor and politics, the body, violence and sexualities. The overall objective of this course is to introduce and examine critical issues of gender, sex, and power.

**Course Objectives:**

- To understand the ways in which women in all their diversity are affected by the society, culture and its institutions.
- To identify the ways in which the feminist movements have challenged systems of domination and oppression.
- To examine some core feminist ideas, including privilege, oppression, intersectionality, and the social construction of gender.
- To develop critical reading, writing and thinking skills.

**Class Policies:****1. Contacting the Instructor**

The best way to reach me is by email. My email is listed at the top of the syllabus. I will respond to each email within 24 hours. There are no mandatory meetings with me for this course but I encourage you to set up a meeting on Skype (id: varsha16chitnis) if you need to discuss anything with me. You can either choose to chat with me on Skype or do a voice or video call according to your preference. Meetings with me will be by appointment so email me if you wish to schedule one.

Please check your email at least once a day. Since we are not meeting in person for this class, I will be communicating about the class by email. I will also post the relevant information in the NEWS section on Carmen.

**2. False Identity**

All the assignments must be completed by students who are officially enrolled in this class. I will have to report all suspected false identity cases to the Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies at OSU, which will then be directed to the Committee on Academic Misconduct.

**3. Plagiarism**

As defined by University Rule 3335-31-02, plagiarism is "the representation of another's works or ideas as one's own: it includes the unacknowledged word for word use and/or paraphrasing of another person's work, and/or inappropriate unacknowledged use of another person's ideas." Plagiarism is one of the most serious offenses that can be committed in an academic community; and it is the obligation of this department and its instructors to report all cases of suspected plagiarism to the Committee on Academic

Misconduct. After the report is filed, a hearing takes place and if the student is found guilty, the possible punishment ranges from failing the class to suspension or expulsion from the university. Although the existence of the Internet makes it relatively easy to plagiarize, it also makes it even easier for instructors to find evidence of plagiarism. It is obvious to most teachers when a student turns in work that is not her or his own; search engines make documenting the offense very simple.

These are some ways you can avoid plagiarism:

- Using ideas word-for-word from your classmates' Camen posts without proper acknowledgement would count as plagiarism.
- Always cite your sources (your instructor can help with this)
- Always ask questions before you turn in an assignment if you are uncertain about what constitutes plagiarism
- Consult your instructor if you are having difficulty with an assignment.

To preserve the integrity of OSU as an institution of higher learning, to maintain your own integrity, and to avoid jeopardizing your future, **DO NOT PLAGIARIZE!**

#### **4. Important guidelines for Discussions\***

It is important for us, as a class, to recognize that we come from different backgrounds with different experiences and have different opinions. This course seeks to encourage the sharing of our experiences and opinions as they relate to the material discussed in this class. But it is also important to keep in sight the differences in our experiences as we share them with the class. As such please be respectful of others even when you disagree with them on a point. There will always be space in this class for intellectual disagreement, however please express your disagreement in a way that does not cause an insult or injury to the other person. Love and compassion are also some of the key values that feminism extends. So please refrain from devaluing the opinion of others when you put forth your counterpoint.

In addition, this class touches upon issues of oppression, privilege, systemic racism and non-normative sexualities which might seem controversial to some and you might feel angry, resistant and uneasy at some point in this course. However instead of asking to deny or hide your emotions, this class encourages you to inquire and understand where they come from and how they can help us learn and transform.

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\* Some ideas borrowed from the syllabus of Brena Tai.

**Carmen:**

Carmen (OSU's online learning system) will be used in this course. To access Carmen, log on at <http://carmen.osu.edu> and select this class from the May 2014 Classes. All the readings will be available on Carmen. Carmen will also be used for discussions, quizzes and submission of papers.

**Films and Documentaries:**

There are the two required films and three recommended films in this course. These films are available at OSU's media library at <https://drm.osu.edu>. Go to this website, log in with your OSU id and click on "Assigned Playlists." Select the movie you want to watch and click on it. Please note that you will need to download RealPlayer to view these films. One film is available directly through OSU libraries website. To watch it, search for the title of the film "Women, Work and Having it all" and go to the link provided in the result.

**Grading Scale:**

93-100% A	80-82% B-	67-69% D+
90-92% A-	77-79% C+	63-66% D
87-89% B+	73-76% C	60-62% D
83-86% B	70-72% C-	

**Grading:**

Participation (and Attendance)	35%
Response papers	10%
Syllabus Quiz	5%
Course Quizzes	15%
Final Examination	<u>35%</u>
	100%

**Class Participation and Attendance**

Since this is an online course, your attendance will be based on your participation in discussions on the discussion forums. Each week you will be required to post your discussion requirements by 11.59 pm (US Eastern Time) on the Sunday of every week. Further information about discussion is elaborated in the lecture for each class. You will be allowed one (1) excused absence, i.e. you may choose not to do the assignment for one lecture. There are 10 lectures in all in this (May) semester. If you miss more than half of the lecture sections (that is you do not post on the discussion forums for 5 or more classes) you will fail the class irrespective of your other assignments and grades. Your attendance, based on your participation will be recorded in the **Attendance** tab in Carmen.

### Grading Your Participation and Discussions:

The participation and attendance for each class/lecture will be worth 7 points. Much of your participation points will depend on the quality and effectiveness of your contributions on the discussion forum. Effectiveness of discussion will be judged on the following criteria:

- a. You have attempted all the required assignments for the lecture.
- b. Your responses incorporate the readings for the week and the issues and themes emerging therein.
- c. You ask relevant analytical/critical questions on the discussion board.
- d. In your responses you are able to relate issues from the class to broader social context by referring to instances in the news, pop culture or lived experience.

### **About Lecture Assignments on Carmen:**

In order to begin conversations I have provided a few questions for each lecture and suggested you answer one or two of them per assignment. However, since the aim of this assignment is both to ensure that you have understood the readings as well as to encourage discussion among the students, please feel free to go beyond the scope of the question as long as your response is pertinent to the issues being discussed in this course. You can also reply to others' responses by suggesting your own views and analyses of the issues/readings.

### **Writing Assignment: Response Papers**

You will turn in 2 (two) one-page (minimum one but no more than two pages) response papers on the reading/s of your choice throughout the semester. The purpose of this assignment is to develop reading, understanding, integrating and expressing in your own words different readings and ideas. Each paper will be worth 5% of your total grade. You can turn in the response papers as early as you want to. However, the deadline for each response papers is mentioned in the syllabus. The papers are due at the latest by 11.59 pm (US Eastern Time) on the day mentioned in the syllabus.

Format for papers: The response papers must be typed in double-space using a 12 point font (if you intend to use larger fonts like Verdana, please adjust your font accordingly. I would use an 11-point font for Verdana).

### **Syllabus Quiz**

By the end of Week 1 you are required to complete the syllabus quiz on Carmen. The syllabus quiz is to make sure that you have carefully read the syllabus and have made yourselves familiar with the structure of the Carmen site for this course. You may take this quiz as many times as you want in order to get the full points (5%) before it is due.

### **Course Quizzes**

There will be three quizzes throughout the semester based on the readings for that week. These quizzes cannot be retaken so make sure you have the right answer before you submit the quiz. These will count towards 15% (5% each) of your total grade.

**Note:** All quizzes and drop box folders will be accessible from 5 May until the due date as mentioned in the syllabus. After the due date you will not be able to take the quizzes or submit the response papers unless authorized by me. If you have a valid reason for missing a deadline, for instance a medical or family emergency, please contact me as soon as possible. **Late submissions will be accepted only in cases of emergency.**

### **Final Exam**

This course has a Final Exam which will be based on reading assignments, films, and videos viewed in the class, and class discussions. Since there is no mid-term exam, the final exam will cover the entire course for the session. The format will be mix of objective type (fill in the blanks, multiple-choice, true or false etc.) and short, descriptive answers. Since one of the GEC goals of this course is to cultivate writing skills, pay special attention to descriptive-style answers. Please write in full, correct sentences. Avoid bulleted points, and incomplete sentences. **Makeup exams will be given only in case of documented emergencies or by prior permission.** The final exam will be available on Carmen during the last week from 26 May until the due date.

### **Course Material:**

There is no textbook used for this course. All readings used in this course will be available on Carmen. The readings are uploaded under the **Contents** tab in Carmen and are organized by lectures.

**Ipad Compatibility:** Please note that not all features of Carmen and the readings might be compatible on an Ipad. Therefore please make sure that you have access to a computer for this course.

Please note that the instructor reserves the right to make changes to this schedule. However, you will be notified of all changes well ahead of time. Recommended and Optional films and readings mentioned in the syllabus are not mandatory. These are suggested as additional resources. They will not be on exams and quizzes. However if you have read or watched them, you are encouraged to use it in your discussions, responses to assignments and response papers.

## **Class Schedule**

<b>Week 1 (5/5 – 5/11)</b>	
Lecture 1	Introduction to Women's Studies and Feminism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hartmann, "Feminism and the Women's Movement"</li> <li>• Penny Weiss, "I'm not a Feminist, But..."</li> <li>• Susan Douglas, "Fantasies of Power"</li> <li>• Fudge, "Everything you wanted to know about Feminism..."</li> </ul>
Lecture 2	Early Women's Movements in the US <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DuBois, "The First Women's Rights Movement"</li> <li>• The Seneca Falls Convention Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions</li> <li>• Sojourner Truth, "Ain't I a Woman?"</li> <li>• Combahee River Collective, "A Black Feminist Statement"</li> </ul> <u>Recommended Film:</u> <i>Iron Jawed Angels</i>
Lecture 3	Difference, Inequality, Intersectionality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• McIntosh, "White Privilege"</li> <li>• Lorde, "Age, Race, Class and Sex"</li> <li>• Smith, "Heteropatriarchy and the Three Pillars of White Supremacy"</li> </ul> <u>Recommended Reading:</u> "Intersectionality"
<b>Assignments due by 5/11 (Sun) 11:59 pm:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lecture 1, Lecture 2 and Lecture 3 assignments in respective Carmen discussion forums.</li> <li>2. Syllabus quiz in Carmen quiz (You can repeat the quiz as many times as you want to get full points).</li> </ol>	
<b>Week 2 (5/12 – 5/18)</b>	
Lecture 4	Difference, Inequality, Intersectionality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anonymous, "Asian is Not Oriental"</li> <li>• Narayan, "Undoing the 'Package Picture' of Cultures"</li> <li>• Moraga, "La Guera"</li> <li>• Garland-Thomson, "Re-shaping, Re-thinking, Re-defining"</li> </ul>
Lecture 5	Sex and Gender <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Burack, "Gender Socialization"</li> <li>• Fausto-Sterling, "The Five Sexes Revisited"</li> <li>• Pollitt, "The Smurfette Principle"</li> <li>• Pelka, "Raped"</li> </ul> <u>Recommended Film:</u> <i>Tough Guise 2</i> <u>Optional Reading:</u> Patel, "Home, Homo, Hybrid: Translating Gender"

Lecture 6	The Body and Sexualities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lee, "The Body: Power and Politics"</li> <li>• Wilson, "Sexualities"</li> <li>• Heldman, "Out-of-Body Image"</li> <li>• Chalker, "Updating the Model of Female Sexuality"</li> <li>• <u>In-Class Film</u>: Dreamworlds 3</li> </ul>
<p>Assignments due by 5/18 (Sun) 11:59 pm:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lecture 4, Lecture 5 and Lecture 6 assignments in respective Carmen discussion forums.</li> <li>2. Complete Quiz 1</li> <li>3. Response Paper 1</li> </ol>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Week 3 (5/19-5/25)</b></p>	
Lecture 7	Gender in/and Politics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Campbell, "Politics, Government and Public Policy"</li> <li>• Kornblut, "Madam President"</li> <li>• Caiazza, "Women Friendly Policy?"</li> </ul>
Lecture 8	Gender in/and Labor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fonow, "Work, Poverty and Economic Policy"</li> <li>• hooks, "Rethinking the Nature of Work"</li> <li>• Enole, "The Globetrotting Sneaker"</li> </ul> <p><u>In-Class Film</u>: Women, Work, and Having it All [12 min PBS film available online through OSU library]</p> <p><u>Recommended Film</u>: A Century of Women: Work</p>
Lecture 9	Motherhood, Reproduction and the Family <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kitch, "Motherhood and Reproduction"</li> <li>• Benhold, "In Sweden, Men can Have It All"</li> <li>• Douglas and Michaels, "The Mommy Wars"</li> <li>• Rosenberg, "The Scarlet I"</li> </ul>
<p>Assignments due by 5/25 (Sun) 11:59 pm:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lecture 7, Lecture 8 and Lecture 9 assignments in respective Carmen discussion forums.</li> <li>2. Quiz 2</li> <li>3. Response Paper 2</li> </ol>	



<b>Week 4 (5/26- 5/30)*</b>	
Lecture 10	Violence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Willa Young, "Violence"</li> <li>• "The 'Rape' of Mr. Smith"</li> <li>• D.G. "Domestic Violence"</li> <li>• Peterson, "The Not-Rape Epidemic"</li> <li>• Jervis and Zeisler, "Hot and Bothered"</li> </ul>
Final Exam	Due by 5/30 (Fri) 11.59pm
Assignments due by 5/29 (Thur) 11:59 pm: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Lecture 10 assignments in respective Carmen discussion forums.</li> <li>2. Quiz 3</li> </ol> Final Exam due by 5/30 (Fri) by 11.59 pm	

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\* There will be no classes on Monday, 26 May 2014 on account of Memorial Day.