Gender, Sex, and Power is designed to introduce students from diverse disciplines and intellectual backgrounds to the interdisciplinary field of Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies. This course draws on a variety of films and literatures to analyze gender, race, sexuality, and other dimensions of identity; explores critical issues of gender, sex and power; and places the study of U.S. women and gender roles in broader transnational context. WGSS 1110 satisfies three General Education requirements: Cultures and Ideas; Social Science: Individuals and Groups; and Social Diversity in the United States.

Required Texts

- Reading Women’s Lives, available at the Student Book Exchange [SBX] (Purchase the volume for WGSST 1110, Autumn 2013 compiled by Dr. Burack)

- Other readings are available online as indicated

Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs)

Eight Graduate Teaching Assistants from the Department of Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies will assist the professor in instructing this course. GTAs lead recitation sections on assigned readings, grade written work, hold office hours, and consult with students. GTAs for this class are:

Alexandra (Alex) Anastasia  
Jonathan (Jon) Branfman  
Mary (MacRorie) Dean  
Ellen (Ellie) Flohn

Shanique (Tay) Glover  
Nithya Rajan  
Sara Rodriguez-Arguelles  
Melissa Stidams

Requirements

The most basic requirements of the course are 1) attendance at all class meetings and 2) timely completion of all readings and assignments in accordance with this syllabus. Class sessions will consist of lectures, group discussions, and occasional films, and you will be expected to take part
in all activities. To enhance possibilities for learning and reflection, the following behaviors will not be tolerated in the lecture: private conversations, late arrivals, early departures, and excessive noise of any kind. **If you miss class you are responsible for the material you missed; you should never ask a professor for class notes.** If you have a particular problem you believe should be accommodated, see the professor or your GTA.

If films are screened in class or assigned to be screened outside of class, you may get access to films through the OSU Secured Media Library streaming site at <drm.osu.edu>. For every film that is incorporated into the course there is a corresponding study guide that will be available on Carmen. You may be responsible for any questions on these study guides on the Midterm and Final exams.

**A Note on Lectures**

You will have many classes in which professors use PowerPoint or some other presentation technology to provide information and visual images that complement lectures. You should always be aware that not all important information will appear on the slides you see in class. In WGSS 1110, you will be responsible for information provided in lectures, whether or not that information appears visually on slides. Remember that slides are there to assist you in note-taking, but lectures also build listening skills that will serve you throughout your college career.

**Disability Services**

The Office for Disability Services (ODS) offers a variety of services and auxiliary aids for students with documented disabilities. To access services, students must provide ODS with documentation of the disability. ODS is located in 150 Pomerene Hall; you can contact them at 292-3307.

**Academic Dishonesty Policy**

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the [Code of Student Conduct](#).

**Examinations**

There will be two major examinations in this course: a Midterm and a Final exam. Questions on these two exams will be in multiple-choice and short answer formats.
These exams will be administered on lecture meeting days (see schedule below for dates). If you miss the *Midterm exam* for any reason you will take a make-up during the second half of the *Final exam* period immediately following the one-hour Final exam. Each of the major exams will constitute 1/3 of your final course grade. Approximately two weeks prior to each exam you will receive a study guide that will identify key terms, concepts, and questions for exam study.

**Recitation Assignments**

GTAs will conduct recitation sections, in which you will discuss readings and related topics as directed by the instructor. You will receive specific instructions regarding the course writing assignment in your recitation group. Please note: there will be no make-up grades for the writing assignment except in the most extraordinary circumstances (for example, serious documented illness). Students are expected to attend every class and to complete all assigned reading and writing in a timely fashion.

In all writing assignments completed outside of class, be accurate, concise, and grammatical. **Type** papers using Times New Roman 12 pt. typeface, **double spacing**, and **one-inch margins** (do not use an extra half space between paragraphs. You can change the setting in Word to turn off this default spacing feature).

**Grading**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>1/3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>1/3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing Assignment</td>
<td>1/3</td>
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<td><strong>Your Grade</strong></td>
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**Grading Criteria for Papers/Writing Assignments**

- **A**  →  Demonstrates informed mastery of content  [and]
  Follows all instructions for the assignment  [and]
  Writes polished prose that contains few (if any) grammatical errors, misspelled words, or infelicities of expression

- **B**  →  Demonstrates good understanding of content
  Follows most instructions for the assignment
  Generally writes well, with few grammatical errors, misspelled words, or other infelicities of expression

- **C**  →  Demonstrates an average understanding of content
  Does not follow instructions adequately
Writing displays multiple errors, misspelled words, or other infelicities of expression
D → Demonstrates poor understanding of content
Does not follow instructions
Writing displays multiple errors, misspelled words, or other infelicities of expression

Course Schedule

All readings for the week must be completed by the meeting day and time of your recitation section. I reserve the right to change this schedule. If changes become necessary, I will announce them in class and on Carmen, at which time they automatically will be considered part of the course syllabus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1: Women’s Movements</th>
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<tr>
<td>W Aug 21</td>
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<td>F Aug 23</td>
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<tr>
<th>Week 2: Women’s Movements</th>
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## Week 3: Reproductive Rights

**W Sep 4**  

**F Sep 6**  
**Reading:** 1) Jack Hitt, “Who Will Do Abortions Here?”  

## Week 4: Gender, Culture and Socialization

**W Sep 11**  

**Fri Sep 13**  

## Week 5: Gender and Socialization, Part 2

**W Sep 18**  
**Reading:** 1) Nellie Wong, “When I Was Growing Up”; 2) Katrin Bennhold, “In Sweden, Men Can Have it All”

**F Sep 20**  
**Reading:** 1) Barbara Kerr, “When Dreams Differ: Gender Relations on the College Campus”; 2) Karen W. Tice, “Queens of Academe: Campus Pageantry and Student Life”  
**Screen in class:** Portlandia, *Vagina Pillows* [online]
### Week 6: Women, Gender, and Popular Culture

**W Sep 25**  
**Reading:** 1) Judith Mayne, “Thematic Introduction to Women, Representation and Culture”; 2) Angela Davis, “I Used to be Your Sweet Mama: Ideology, Sexuality and Domesticity in the Blues of Gertrude ‘Ma’ Rainey and Bessie Smith”

**F Sep 27**  
**Reading:** 1) Susan Douglas, “We Are What We Watch”; 2) Lauren Bans, “Same Shit, Different World”

### Week 7: Midterm Exam

**W Oct 2**  
**Screen in class:** Dream Worlds 3 [60 minutes] and complete Dream Worlds 3 Study Guide

**F Oct 4**  
Midterm Exam

### Week 8: Women and Politics

**W Oct 9**  
**Reading:** 1) Teresa Riordan and Sue Kirchhoff, “Women on the Hill: Can They Make a Difference?”; 2) Denise Kiernan, “Title IX: The Little Law That Could”

**F Oct 11**  
**Reading:** 1) Amy Caiazza, “Does Women’s Representation in Elected Office Lead to Women Friendly Policy?”

### Week 9: Women and Work

**W Oct 16**  
**Reading:** 1) Mary Margaret Fonow, “Thematic Introduction to Work, Poverty, and Economic Policy”; 2) Mimi Abramovitz, “Wall Street Takes Welfare it Begrudges to Women”

**F Oct 18**  
**Reading:** 1) Arlie Hochschild, “Men Who do and Men Who Don’t”; 2) Judy Syfers, “I Want a Wife”  
**Screen in class:** A Call to Act: Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company [online, 23 minutes] and complete A Call to Act Study Guide
### Week 10: The Body and Sexuality

**W Oct 23**
**Reading:**

**F Oct 25**
**Reading:**

### Week 11: Recap of Themes

**W Oct 30**
**Stream on your own from the Secured Media Library:** *14 Women* [70 minutes] and complete *14 Women* Study Guide

**F Nov 1**
**Stream on your own from the Secured Media Library:** *Miss Representation* [88 minutes] and complete *Miss Representation* Study Guide

### Week 12: Motherhood and Reproduction

**W Nov 6**
**Reading:**
1) Sally L. Kitch, “Thematic Introduction to Motherhood and Reproduction”; 2) Patricia J. Williams, “The Unbearable Autonomy of Being”

**F Nov 8**
**Reading:**
1) Ayelet Waldman, “Bad Mother”; 2) Holly Cohen Cooper and Joan C. Williams, “The Public Policy of Motherhood”

### Week 13: Violence Against Women

**W Nov 13**
**Reading:**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tr>
<td>W Nov 20</td>
<td><strong>Reading:</strong> 1) Ara Wilson and Adriane Livingston, “Thematic Introduction to International Perspectives”; 2) Frances P. Bernat and Tatyana Zhilina, “Human Trafficking: The Local Becomes Global”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W Dec 11</td>
<td><strong>Final Exam:</strong> 8:00—9:45 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>T Dec 2</td>
<td><strong>Last Recitation Meetings</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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**Week 14: International Perspectives**

**Week 15: Prepare for Final Exams**

- **W Nov 27**  
  No Class: Thanksgiving

- **F Nov 29**  
  No Class: Columbus Day Observed

- **T Dec 2**  
  Last Recitation Meetings

- **W Dec 11**  
  Final Exam: 8:00—9:45 am