

Cultural and Ethnic Studies 109

Introduction to Women's Studies

Instructor: Seema Bahl

Fall 2019

Online Course

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Office hours: Via Canvas chat, video chat (Skype) or phone.

**REQUIRED READING:**     **Introduction to Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies** by L. Ayu Saraswati, Barbara Shaw, and Heather Rellihan

Various readings and video clips, available on our **CES 109 Canvas course site** (in the Modules section)

### **What is CES 109?**

This course presents a feminist analysis of the construction and enforcement of gender differences and gender inequalities in various contexts. In this class, we will emphasize the intersections of race, class, disability, sexuality and nationality in the lives of women. The topics that you will engage in include feminist theory and history, motherhood and family, gender violence, reproductive health, popular culture, science, technology and activism in the United States and internationally.

### **Outcomes:**

After completing this class, students should be able to:

- Identify their own previously-held perspectives on women and gender, and explain how those perspectives may have changed.
- Compare, summarize, and evaluate historical and contemporary trends in American and global theory and practice regarding women and gender.
- Discuss, primarily in writing, women and gender, showing the interrelation of historical events, literary works and social changes.
- Apply social science and social justice 'methodologies' for analysis and discuss humanitarian views of the subject matter through the examination of course materials.
- Recognize the extent to which gender role expectations are shaped by culture.
- Analyze culture with an emphasis on the intersection of race, class, sexuality and nationality in the lives of women.
- Understand and be able to craft a feminist analysis of gender difference and gender inequality.
- Recognize how marginalization, oppression and privilege play out in society and reinforce systems of violence.

**Online learning:** Online classes demand independence, discipline, self-motivation, good writing and reading skills (I will be grading your reading comprehension, analysis, and proper citations where relevant. However, this is not a reading or writing class, so I won't be able to spend loads of time with each student correcting basic mistakes in grammar, spelling, citation, etc!). It is CRUCIAL that you have basic computer technology competence. You will be primarily interacting with your peers and myself online, through discussion posts, forums, papers, and emails.

You must be competent in CANVAS operation and navigation. In addition, you must be able to commit to:

1. Checking the course website almost every day,
2. Referring to this syllabus and your course calendar OFTEN to keep up with due dates,
3. Keeping up independently with the readings, multimedia clips, and assignments, and
4. You absolutely must be confident enough to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. We may or may not meet face to face, and that should be okay with you.

Can you meet these requirements? Then you are ready to take this course!

### **Disability**

If you need course adaptations or special accommodations because of a disability, and/or if you have emergency medical information, please contact me. Please let me know as soon as possible so that appropriate accommodations can be made. The Disability Resource Center may be contacted at: (425) 564-2498 (phone), (425) 440-2025 (video phone) or TTY: (425) 564-4110.

### **Diversity**

While this course is conducted on the Internet, we are still committed to establishing a community of learners, readers and writers. Respect for the diversity of perspectives, histories, experiences and identities that exist in any community is crucial for the productive functioning of the course.

**Cheating:** Do not plagiarize!! Do not use other people's ideas, interpretations and language without proper citation. Scholastic dishonesty includes having others do work for you, doing work for others, and plagiarism, and can lead to failure of the assignment or course. Please obtain help from the Writing Center or the Tutoring and Help Center. Please contact me with any questions.

**Communication:** I will hold office hours over Skype or phone via appointment, so you must have a Skype account to speak with me. Send me an email as soon as possible if you are not able to access Skype, and we will set it up together. You can send me an email to set up an appointment. We can also communicate over email. You must include a proper greeting (Dear Ms. Bahl) and put your topic in the subject line. Do not leave the subject line blank! I will make every effort to respond within 24 hours.

**LATE WORK:** Late work will be penalized 5 points per day and no assignments will be accepted **1 week or more after the due date**. NO EXCEPTIONS! This policy accounts for any potential computer glitches, family emergencies, etc. (this is quite a lenient policy), so I will not deviate from instituting these penalties under any circumstances.

Note: I will not accept any work after the last official day of the course.

### **CLASS REQUIREMENTS:**

Assignments and Grading:

6 Forum discussions @ 60 points [due Sundays, response due Mondays]	360 points
Exams (2 @ 60 points)	120 points
1 Essay Paper	100 points
Learning Outcomes, Respect, and Cordiality	50 points
Class Introductions	20 points
Final Reflections	30 points
Total	680 points

You will turn in your assignments each week. Look under the 'Modules' tab in Canvas to find the appropriate assignment for that 'Module' of the week we are in and turn in your Forum Answer Sheet or your paper to the discussion or assignment drop box for that module. Refer to your class calendar to confirm due dates!

**Grading:** Again, all late assignments and postings will be penalized 5 points per day (including weekends)! No exceptions! No late assignments will be accepted 1 week or more after the due date. After this, assignments will automatically receive 0 points.

**Readings:** Each week has assigned readings, found in your course textbook with occasional supplementary readings found as single files located in the appropriate module for that week (open the 'Modules' tab on the left side of this courses page on Canvas). Again, refer to your course calendar if you are confused about which module you are responsible for at the current time. Give yourself enough time to do the readings (at least once, if not twice) so that you can answer the forum questions carefully. Do

NOT wait until the last day or two to complete the readings and address the forum questions, which are lengthy!

**Forums: PLEASE DOWNLOAD THE FORUM ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES, FOUND ON THE HOME PAGE OF THIS CANVAS COURSE SITE.**

You are required to respond to forum questions most weeks. Forums are generally due on Sundays of each week, and peer responses are due the next day on Monday. Please keep in mind that this is a very large part of your grade, and it is imperative that you complete the readings/video clips (found in the textbook or in Canvas under the appropriate module) on time and respond to the questions in a timely manner. Late answer sheets will be penalized 5 points per day and no answer sheet will be accepted 1 week or more after the due date. In terms of length, you will have to provide thoughtful, substantial responses that are based upon your familiarity with the readings and your own critical reflection. This would mean at least a few sentences, if not a whole paragraph, per question. In general, I require a minimum of 100 words per forum response and 75 words per peer reply. You must answer each part of the question for full credit! Do not 'blow off' these responses! I will be carefully reading everyone's submissions. You will also respond to one of your peer's forum posts, focusing on his or her opinion-based answers.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: IF YOU WERE TAKING THIS CLASS 'ON THE GROUND' AS OPPOSED TO FULLY ONLINE, YOU WOULD HAVE 5 CONTACT HOURS PER WEEK. THINK OF THE FORUMS AS THESE CONTACT HOURS. TRY TO ENGAGE WITH AT LEAST ONE FORUM QUESTION ON EVERY DAY DURING THE WEEK SO THAT YOU DO NOT GET 'OVERWHELMED' AT THE LAST MINUTE TRYING TO ANSWER ALL OF THE QUESTIONS!!**

**Exams:** There will be **two (2)** exams, each worth 60 points. They will all be open book exams, each with 20 multiple choice questions (worth 5 points each), and you will have 60 minutes to complete each exam. On the exam dates, I will open the exam for 24 hours, and you must click on the quiz, complete the exam (within 60 minutes), and submit the completed exam to me.

**Summary and Reflection Paper:** You are required to complete one essay paper. This paper will be submitted online. Take the paper very seriously! Instructions can be found under the module for the appropriate week. This paper is worth 100 points.

Course Schedule:

**Week 1:**

**Section One, part 1**

**Mapping the Field**

Ayu Saraswati, Barbara Shaw, and Heather Rellihan, Pages 1-42

Additional material in Canvas

**Thursday: Class Intro**

**Sunday: Module 1 Forum**

**Monday: Peer Response**

**Week 2:**

**Section One, part  
2**

**Mapping the Field**

Saraswati et al., Pages 67 through 95  
Additional material in Canvas

**Sunday: Module 2  
Forum**

**Monday: Peer  
Response**

**Week 3**

**Section Two, part  
1**

**Historical  
Perspectives**

Saraswati et al, Pages 97 through 129  
and 140 through 146.  
Additional material in Canvas

**Sunday: Module 3  
Forum**

**Monday: Peer  
Response**

**Week 4:**

**Section Two, part  
2**

**Historical  
Perspectives**

Saraswati et al, Pages 147 through 182  
and 190 through 200.  
Additional material in Canvas

**Sunday: Module 4  
Forum**

**Monday: Peer  
Response**

**Week 5:**

**Section Three,  
part 1**

**Cultural Debates**

Saraswati et al, Pages 201 through 278  
Additional material in Canvas

**Quiz on Tuesday!**

**Covers Section Three,  
part 1 only**

**Week 6: Section  
Three, part 2  
Cultural Debates**

Saraswati et al , Pages 279 through 344.  
All Materials in Canvas

**Sunday: Module 6  
Forum and  
Research Activity**

**Monday: Peer  
Response**

**Week 7:**

**Section Four: part 1  
Epistemologies of  
Bodies**

Saraswati et al , 345 through 390.  
Additional material in Canvas

**Sunday: Module 7  
Summary and  
Reflection Paper**

**Week 8:  
Section Four: part 1  
2  
Epistemologies of  
Bodies**

Saraswati et al, Pages 391 through  
430  
Additional material in Canvas

**Monday: Quiz 2  
  
Covers all of Section  
Four (Weeks 7 and 8)**

**Week 9:**

**Section 5**

Saraswati et al , pp 432-524

**Thursday: Module 9  
Forum**

**Science,  
Technology and  
the Digital World**

**Final Review and  
Reflections**