

INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN'S STUDIES

CES 109, Winter 2020
11:30-12:20 M-TH, R-101



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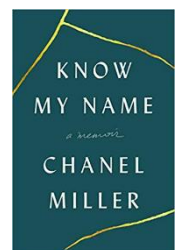
Office Location: A100- E

Course Introduction:

Welcome to Women's Studies! This is an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of Women's Studies. Women's Studies encourages an increased awareness of the social, cultural, and political issues and experiences that shape women's lives. Historically, women's experiences have often been ignored and thus the development of Women's Studies as an academic field is one way that women's voices have been centralized. Of course, there is no single way to understand "women's experiences." We will explore some of the fundamentals central to the formation of feminist activism in the United States and the readings and discussions will be designed to position race, class, sexuality, and other aspects of identity in relation to sex and gender. Hopefully, this course will help you to gain a greater critical awareness of how sex and gender operate in institutional and cultural contexts, provide you with feminist tools of understanding and analyzing how gender operates in your own life, and facilitate opportunities for you to begin imagining social change towards women's empowerment.

Required Texts:

1. Chanel Miller. *Know My Name: A Memoir*. Viking Press, 2019. ISBN: 9780735223707
2. All other articles and readings can be found on Canvas under "Files." Titles are listed alphabetically.



Structure and Learning Atmosphere of this Class:

Students learn best when they are *actively* involved in the teaching and learning process. Thus, this is an active and interactive course where you will often learn by doing. You will be expected to observe the world, read, reflect on how the course material relates to your own life, write, share with others, discuss, and participate. I think of our class as a collaborative learning community where we all teach and learn from each other. Every time you make a comment or ask a question, you teach something to the rest of us. I challenge you to abandon the traditional passive student role and to get involved with teaching and learning – I think you'll enjoy it and learn a lot in the process.

You should know that class time will *NOT* be spent regurgitating the reading material. You will be expected to do readings, watch videos, and complete assignments outside of class time. During class, we will be doing interactive things – having discussions, doing activities, watching short film clips, engaging in small groups,

and applying what we have learned from the readings and videos. In order to make the structure of this class successful, you need to come prepared physically and mentally to class. If you don't, not only will you be lost, but this is a disservice to the class because we do not get to benefit from your insights!

A note about course content: We will sometimes talk about provocative, heated, political, or controversial material in class. These topics can often make us uncomfortable, angry, or offended. Please be advised that when we explore controversial topics they will always be framed in an academic context. What is essential for our class to be successful is that we approach one another with respect, an open mind, and allow for difference, even if it conflicts with our personal values. No one, including myself, is asking you to endorse or adopt a viewpoint; rather, we need to be open to the free-flow and exchange of information and perspectives, so that we can all learn and grow from one another. Keep in mind that when we find ourselves in a space outside of our comfort zone, it's an opportunity for learning. You are free to leave the room at any time, but please know you will be responsible for any course material you may have missed while you were gone.

Additionally, since this course is a survey of the theories and research that have come out of Sociology and CES as academic disciplines, we will use the social categories that have been thoroughly researched. We will often refer to "women" and "men" in our class as well as the research data about "women" and "men." Although these categories are clearly and obviously socially-constructed (and in fact limiting and restrictive), they do have very real and significant social meaning in our culture. Thus, these categories will be referred to often in this course.

A note about instructor availability: I have noticed that, sometimes, students have unreasonable expectations about their Instructor's availability. Please be aware that I am not available 24-hours a day. In general, I am in my office for a couple of hours per day (before and after my classes), and I always check my email a few times a day. As a result, you will rarely be able to reach me by phone or by email in the evenings or on the weekends. I am, obviously, an active member of this course, but I do my coursework during the week, during daytime business hours. *Thus, please do not send me late-night or weekend emails expecting an immediate response.* Thank you in advance for your understanding and consideration.

A note about an inclusive classroom environment and confidentiality: It is important that *all* students feel welcome in this classroom. Please think about how your language (including body language) contributes to a safe/empowering or disempowering/unsafe learning environment. I want this class to be a space where everyone should feel comfortable enough to disagree with each other. Thus, this classroom needs to be safe space. Reflect on the ways you engage others with your own statements and how you react (with words, body language) to their statements. Also note that I cannot witness or hear everything that occurs in this classroom. If you overhear or witness something that would contribute to an unsafe classroom climate for yourself or fellow classmates, please let me know so that it can be dealt with immediately.

Furthermore, it is important that, as a community of learners, we build trust in one another. With that in mind, it is important to respect your classmates. Part of respecting them involves confidentiality. *What is said in this classroom is to remain in this classroom.*

Learning and Course Outcomes:

After participating, discussing, and completing this course, a successful student will demonstrate:

- Critically examine and reflect upon how gender inequality is institutionalized in a global context;
- Apply key concepts and feminist theories to a broad spectrum of historical, political, and social issues facing women;
- Analyze the ways gender functions in one's everyday experiences and how gender is also impacted by race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, and ability;
- Investigate the ways in which women are presented in popular culture and media from a global perspective

Course Expectations:

In order for us to have a successful, respectful, open, engaging, and cooperative learning environment, we all need to be conscious of our own behavior, recognize the impacts that we can have on others, and have a common understanding of what positively contributes to our overall class dynamics and what hinders and hurts it. The following are some of the basic expectations that serve as the foundation of our class culture.

Preparation. In order for this class to be successful, we all need to come prepared to class each day.

Me: My goal is for you to learn and succeed in this class. I will spend time preparing, structuring, organizing, devising activities/assignments, lecturing, and answering questions in the most transparent and engaging way I can.

You: You need to come to class having done the assigned work and you should always bring the proper supplies with you. You should be looking at what is due on a daily basis and planning your workload accordingly. You should be checking Canvas regularly.

Promptness. In order for this class to be successful, we all need to be timely and respectful of each other's time.

Me: I will be to class on time and I commit to returning your work to you in a timely, reasonable fashion (my rule is you will get all work returned in 7 business days, although the vast majority of work is returned sooner than that). I will respond to your questions and emails promptly as well (usually within 24 hours).

You: You need to come to class on time as well. When you arrive late, it hurts not only yourself (you are missing information) but also your classmates (it is disruptive). I certainly understand that sometimes "life happens" but repetitive, habitual lateness or leaving class early is a sign of disrespect to our class and it will affect the participation portion of your course grade (3 late arrivals or leaving early = one absence).

You also need to turn your work in on time. Due dates for all assignments are noted on the Course Calendar (beginning on page 8) in this syllabus as well as on Canvas. Any assignments that I ask you to submit in class are due at the beginning of the class period. In terms of late work, you will receive 2 laminated "passes" that grant you an additional 24-hours to get work in (if the assignment is due on Thursday at 11:30 am, this means it needs to be submitted by Friday at 11:30 am). You still have to do the work – the pass gives you a time extension, not free points. Please note that you cannot use a pass on exams. If you want to use your late pass, hand in your pass at the beginning of class and I will record it. I will need to have received your late pass in order to grade your assignment.

Attendance and Class Engagement. In order for this class to be successful, we all need to consistently come to class and be mentally prepared to engage.

Me: I will be in class every day unless there is an illness or emergency, in which case I will email you prior to class via Canvas to let you know that class will be cancelled and inform you of any adjustments to the schedule or assignments due. In class, when you are speaking, you'll have my full attention. I will also be available to you outside of class should you desire help. I encourage you to come to my office hours whenever you have a question or concern, and I encourage you to advocate for your own needs. If my office hours are not convenient for you, we can schedule an appointment that fits both of our schedules. Just email me and we can set something up.

You: You need to be in class every day (physically present) and actively engaged (mentally present). You need to be participating and involved as much as you possibly can in class as this positively contributes to our overall classroom culture. Because your presence is so important to our class, your attendance and class engagement is part of your final grade in this course. Please see the "Description of Grading Components" (on page 6) to understand what goes into calculation of your attendance and participation grade. You need to get the contact information of a couple of classmates so that if you are absent you can get the information you missed.

If you know you are going to be absent: You are still responsible for getting your work in on time. You can work ahead and turn work in early. You should connect with a classmate to get notes we went over in class and ask them to get any handouts for you. You should also see if this classmate can message you to let you know if there was any additional assignments, videos, or other things not noted on the syllabus that you should complete. If you are absent because of a doctor's appointment, surgery, a scheduled, college-approved event (ex: if you are a student athlete and traveling for a game), or work-related issues, provide me with documentation prior to the absence and I can excuse this absence. Religious observances will be excused – just let me know.

If something comes up/family emergency/illness and you are going to be absent: You should email me before the start of class to let me know that you will not be in class and then contact a classmate to let them know that they need to get notes for you. You can use your late pass to get any work that you did not get done on time in. If you are ill and miss more than three days, provide me with a doctor's note so that I can excuse your absences.

Please note that **in-class activities can only be made up for excused absences**. Vacations, going to a wedding or visiting a friend, transportation issues (car won't start or missed the bus), alarm malfunctions or not hearing your alarm, etc. are not excused!

Furthermore, while you are in class, I would like you to focus on our class. This means that all electronic devices should be put away, unless I prompt you to use them. If you need a laptop to take notes, or if you need technology for any other reason, I would like for you to talk to me about it. Texting, excessive talking, or other disruptive behavior is disrespectful to our class, so your participation grade will be affected by these types of behaviors. Please just use common sense and be respectful of our class.

Quality Work. In order for this class to be successful, we need to have high expectations of each other.

Me: I want you to succeed in this class (as well as in school in general!) I will have high expectations for you and know that will the right support and help (if it is needed) that you can and will succeed. I will do my best to provide you with that support. I also will work very hard to make this class as successful as possible by choosing course materials and assignments that are interesting and engaging and striving to bring my best to class every day.

You: I expect you to bring your best self as well. When reading, completing assignments, or making comments, I want you to do your personal best by showing that you have read, displaying thoughtfulness, asking pertinent questions, and making a strong effort to understand the material. When you throw an assignment together at the last possible minute, simply skim a reading, and generally do not put in your best effort, it hurts not only yourself (often through lower grades) but also hurts the overall class by lowering the standards for each other.

Honesty and Integrity. In order for this class to be successful, we need to be credible, honest, integrous.

Me: I will present information that is grounded in social-science research and will do my best to answer questions based on my understanding of that research and information. If there is something that I do not know, I will let you know that I do not know it. If there is something that is my own personal opinion about something, I will let you know that this is *my* perspective and what *I* think about the matter.

You: Your work should be your own, except when asked to work with other students. You are required to acknowledge if you have borrowed any ideas, terms, or phrases, even if you have borrowed from a classmate. Please do not copy and paste material from websites - this is a severe form of cheating that will receive a zero grade. ***In this class, your assignments should be grounded in the lectures, activities, and readings (rather than web resources, which are often not based on Cultural and Ethnic Studies research).*** If you have any hesitation, or if you are in doubt about one of these issues, feel free to ask me.

Respect and Inclusion. In order for this class to be successful, we need to be open to listening to difference and learning about and respecting diverse experiences and perspectives.

Me: I believe everyone in our class has the right to feel welcome and safe from personal attack and thus I will listen to you and be constructive and thoughtful in my comments.

You: You need to be constructive in your comments as well. You may certainly disagree and debate, but you can express your viewpoint in an open, respectful manner. Please think of other people's feelings before speaking. I cannot allow students to insult or belittle an entire group of people (such as women, men, people of Color, queer people, poor people, Christians, Jews, Muslims, people with disabilities, veterans, conservatives, liberals, and so on). You are entitled to your beliefs, but you are not entitled to make attacks or victimize others. If you are unable to express your beliefs in a non-insulting manner, please keep them to yourself. I think you'll find, however, that with a little practice, you can express your viewpoint in an open, respectful manner. If you have any doubts, feel free to check with me and I'd be more than happy to help you express yourself responsibly.

Students with Disabilities:

The Disability Resource Center serves students with a wide array of learning challenges and disabilities. If you are a student who has a disability or learning challenge for which you have documentation or have seen someone for treatment and if you feel you may need accommodations in order to be successful in college, please contact the DRC as soon as possible. If you are a person who requires assistance in case of an emergency situation, such as a fire, earthquake, etc., please meet with your individual instructors to develop a safety plan within the first week of the quarter. If you are a student with a documented autism spectrum disorder, there is an additional access program available to you. Contact asn@bellevuecollege.edu or 425.564.2764. ASN is located in the Library Media Center in D125. www.bellevuecollege.edu/autismspectrumnavigators/ The DRC office is located in B132 or you can call our reception desk at 425.564.2498. Deaf students can reach us by video phone at 425-440-2025 or by TTY at 425-564-4110. Please visit our website for application information into our program and other helpful links at www.bellevuecollege.edu/drc

Reasonable Accommodations for Reasons of Faith and Conscience:

Students who will be absent from course activities due to reasons of faith or conscience may seek reasonable accommodations so that grades are not impacted. Such requests must be made within the first two weeks of the course to the office of the Associate Vice President of Student Affairs (see Bellevue College Policy 2950 (<https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/policies/id2950/>)). In the event you feel you are being discriminated against based on faith or conscience, you may refer to the procedures outlined in the college's Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation Policy 1440P (<https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/policies/id-1440p/>).

Other Resources:

CES DROP-IN TUTORING

Do you need help with an assignment? Understanding a concept in class? Brainstorming paper ideas? Would you like someone to review your work before you submit it? Drop-in tutoring is available to help you!

Our tutor is a student who has taken many classes in CES so they have a lot of knowledge and expertise. The days and times that the tutor is available will be announced in class.

Grading:

Final grades are based on **six factors**. (1) Attendance and participation, (2) In-class activities, film questions, group work, or homework assignments distributed in class, (3) Notes on the Readings, (4) Personal reflection papers (5) Exams, and (6) a syllabus quiz. Each of these elements is awarded a specific number of points:

Attendance and participation	50 points
In-class activities (11 at 10 points/each)	110 points
Notes on the readings (18 at 10 points/each)	180 points
Personal Reflection Homework (3 at 30 points/each)	90 points
Exams (2 at 100 points/each)	200 points
Syllabus quiz	20 points
TOTAL	650 points

The following are the letter-grade equivalents to the course points:

Course Grade	Point Total	Course Grade	Point Total
A	= 602 - 650 points	C+	= 504 - 516 points
A-	= 582 - 601 points	C	= 472 - 503 points
B+	= 569 - 581 points	C-	= 452 - 471 points
B	= 537 - 568 points	D+	= 439 - 451 points
B-	= 517 - 536 points	D	= 387 - 438 points
		F	= 0 - 386 points

Description of the Grading Components:

1. Attendance and Participation: (50/650 points – 8% of final grade)

Attendance and participation are essential to the format of this class and will therefore contribute toward your final grade. Your success in this class depends on your active attendance, engagement and participation. Please see the “Attendance and Class Engagement” and “Promptness” sections of syllabus to better understand the rationale for these policies. Do not take this portion of your grade lightly! Here is what goes into this portion of your grade:

- You are expected to be in class every day. At the beginning of each class period, I will put up a unique QR code for you to scan to record your attendance (so you will need to bring your phone and have a QR Code Reader downloaded). It is your responsibility to get to class on time to have your attendance recorded.
- Because we only meet Monday – Thursday, three unexcused absences will be permitted without impact to your overall grade. If you miss more than three classes, your attendance and participation grade will drop by 3 points for each day missed. In order for your absences to be excused, you need to discuss it with me or email me prior to your absence (unless, of course, it is an emergency). For example, if you are sick, you need to email me before class to let me know that you are ill and contact a classmate to make sure you get any information that you missed.
- You are also expected to be get to class on time. If you are repeatedly late or leave class early, your attendance and participation grade will be lowered. If you arrive late or leave early 3 times, this = 1 absence.
- You are also expected to be actively engaged in the class, which includes larger class discussions, small group work, taking notes, asking questions, and any individual tasks that may be asked of you. Excessive talking, texting, or other disrespectful and disruptive behavior will lower your attendance and participation grade.

2. In-class Activities, Group Work, or Homework Assignments: (110/650 points; 10 pts each – 18% of final grade)

Over the course of the quarter, you will be asked a total of 11 times to submit work that you have completed during the class session. These in-class activities most often occur in groups. **They will be randomly delivered and cannot be made up.** Usually, they will consist of a short piece of writing/reflection or response to something we have read or an application of terms/material covered in readings.

3. Notes on the Readings: (180/650 points; 10 points each – 28% of final grade)

For most assigned readings, you will need to submit notes about that reading. Doing notes on the readings are crucial for success in this class (and in college in general). The purpose of these notes is to:

- help you keep up with the readings (reinforcing good study habits/skills)
- help you to learn how to identify key points and themes from readings and put them in your own words
- help you to synthesize and process the information you are taking in to better learn the material
- help us to have a more informed discussion in class

You will submit your notes on Canvas either in a Word document or if you prefer to hand write them, you can take a photo and upload. Due dates for all notes are stated on the Calendar as well as in Canvas. **You can use your notes on your exams**, so it is in your best interest to do an outstanding job defining key terms, identifying major themes, and providing examples for yourself.

These notes are for you, to help you. Writing down the information you are reading helps you retain it. Notes can be as thorough as *you want*. You know how you learn best (better than I do), so if you are a student who needs to write more details, please take the time on these and do so. There is a minimum requirement but there is no maximum. The minimum guidelines are as follows and notes might follow this format:

YOUR NAME	TITLE OF ARTICLE/CHAPTER	DATE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A minimum of 4 main ideas or important points that are discussed in the reading. These must be IN YOUR OWN WORDS (copying and pasting is not acceptable). Show me that you have read the article in its entirety!• List and define any key terms IN YOUR OWN WORDS.		

4. Personal Reflection Homework: (90/650 points; 30 points each – 13% of final grade):

Over the course of the quarter, you will complete homework assignments that require you to reflect on the course material or make observations about the role of gender in society. The goal of these assignments is to personalize course content. You should do your best to address every assignment thoughtfully, clearly, and completely. Homework will be graded not only on completeness (Did you adequately address all the components of the assignment?), but also thoughtfulness (Does your assignment show that you thought hard about the topic, or did you give the topic just a little superficial attention?). Personal reflection homework assignments need to be approximately 2 pages in length (typed and double-spaced) and submitted in Canvas.

5. Exams: (200/650 points; 100 points each – 30% of final grade)

Over the course of the quarter, you will take two exams that integrate the courses' in-class activities (lectures, films, etc.) and readings. Exams are designed to make sure you understand important course concepts and themes. Exams will include multiple choice and written response questions. Please note that you cannot make up missed exams. The second exam will be over material discussed during the latter half of the class, so it will not be comprehensive. I will provide you with a review sheet/study guide for both exams a minimum of one week in advance.

6. Syllabus quiz: (20/650 points – 3% of final grade)

There will be a group quiz over the contents of this syllabus during the first week of classes (see the Calendar). Come prepared!

Course Calendar

You should be looking at your calendar on a daily basis so you know what is expected of you in class. Also, you are expected to have read the readings assigned for the current day by the time you arrive in class!

**Although I will try to remain as faithful as possible to this syllabus, I reserve the right to make changes. These will be announced in advance in class. **

Week 1: Introduction to the Class

Thursday, January 2nd: Introduction to the Course

Week 2: What is Feminism?

Monday, January 6th: Syllabus and Community Building
Syllabus quiz!

Tuesday, January 7th: Watch “We Should All Be Feminists” by Adichie

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hg3umXU_qWc&index=7&list=PLKHkb13CdsGHhioVkm4B9dQi9hAiEFi

Wednesday, January 8th: Notes on “Feminist Politics: Where We Stand” due on Canvas by 11:30 am

Thursday, January 9th: Notes on “Patriarchy, The System” due on Canvas by 11:30 am

Week 3: Historical Considerations

Monday, January 13th: Notes on “Oppression” due on Canvas by 11:30 am

Tuesday, January 14th: Notes on “Men: Comrades in Struggle” due on Canvas by 11:30 am

Wednesday, January 15th: Read “History of Women’s Activism: Part 1”

Thursday, January 16th: *Iron Jawed Angels* (in class film)

Week 4: Historical Considerations

Monday, January 20th: No School

Tuesday, January 21st: Notes on “History of Women’s Activism: Part 2” due on Canvas by 11:30 am

Wednesday, January 22nd: Notes on “History of Women’s Activism: Part 3” due on Canvas by 11:30 am

Thursday, January 23rd: Personal Reflection Paper #1 Due on Canvas by 11:30 am

Week 5: Inscribing Gender on the Body

Monday, January 27th: Read “If Men Could Menstruate”

Tuesday, January 28th: Notes on “Is Fat a Feminist Issue?” due on Canvas by 11:30 am



Wednesday, January 29th: Notes on “Ethnicity and Body Consciousness” due on Canvas by 11:30 am

Thursday, January 30th: Read “Breast Buds and the Training Bra” “If the Clothes Fit”



Week 6: Sex, Power, and Intimacy

Monday, February 3rd: Read “Every Reason Your School’s Dress Code is Probably a Sexist Mess”

Tuesday, February 4th: Read “What We Do for Love”

Wednesday, February 5th: Notes on “Myth of the Vaginal Orgasm” due on Canvas by 11:30 am

Thursday, February 6th: Notes on “The Cult of Virginity” due on Canvas by 11:30 am



Week 7: Reproductive Rights

Monday, February 10th: Notes on “I Was Labeled the High School Slut” and “We Are All Sluts Now” due on Canvas by 11:30 am

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/brett-kavanaugh-yearbook-renate-alumnus_us_5baa8e31e4b0f143d10e2639

<https://www.usnews.com/opinion/articles/2017-10-12/harvey-weinstein-birth-control-abortion-and-slut-shaming-american-women>

Tuesday, February 11th: Optional Review for Exam #1
Exam #1 is due by 11:59 pm

Wednesday, February 12th: Considerations on Birth Control – No Readings

Thursday, February 13th: Notes on “Freedom to Choose?” due on Canvas by 11:30 am



Week 8: Marriage and Families

Monday, February 17th: **No School**

Tuesday, February 18th: Notes on “From Rights to Justice” due on Canvas by 11:30 am

Wednesday, February 19th: Personal Reflection Paper #2 Due on Canvas by 11:30 am

Thursday, February 20th: Notes on “Will Marriage Equality Lead to Equal Sharing of Housework?” due on Canvas by 11:30 am



Week 9: Work Inside and Outside the Home

Monday, February 24th: Notes on “Women are Just Better at this Stuff” due on Canvas by 11:30 am

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/nov/08/women-gender-roles-sexism-emotional-labor-feminism>



Tuesday, February 25th: Read “Sexism in the Workplace is Worse than you Thought”

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2016/09/27/lean-in-study-women-in-the-workplace/91157026/>

Wednesday, February 26th: Notes on “Maid to Order” due on Canvas by 11:30 am

Thursday, February 27th: Watch:

https://www.ted.com/talks/jackson_katz_violence_against_women_it_s_a_men_s_issue

Week 10: Gender-Based Violence

Monday, March 2nd: *Know My Name* – Chapters 1-3 (pp. 1-73)

Tuesday, March 3rd: *Know My Name* – Chapters 4-6 (pp. 75-143)

Wednesday, March 4th: *Know My Name* – Chapters 7-9 (145-243)

Thursday, March 5th: *Know My Name* – Chapters 10-12 (245-291)



Week 11

Monday, March 9th: *Know My Name* – Chapters 13-Victim's Impact Statement (293-357)

Tuesday, March 10th: Personal Reflection Paper #3 Due on Canvas by 11:30 am

Wednesday, March 11th: Notes on “Fear of Feminism” due on Canvas by 11:30 am

Thursday, March 12th: Notes on “Making Coalitions Work,” due on Canvas by 11:30 am

Week 12

Monday, March 16th: Optional Review for Exam # 2

Your final exam will be taken on Canvas. It will open after class on March 12th and must be completed by 11:59 pm on Tuesday, March 17th

Tuesday, March 17th: No Classes - Student Success Day

Final Exam Due on Canvas by 11:59 pm Today

