Gender Studies  
Room #307  
Chloe Root  
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www.edmodo.com: _____________

Course Description:

This course provides students the opportunity to examine the construct of gender and how it determines the terms of life for individuals in society. Analysis of primary source materials, response papers and an independent research project are included in the course requirements. Our units of study will include Waves of Feminism, Gay History/LGBTQ Studies, and the Social Construction of Gender. We will analyze work on gender from various disciplines, including psychological, historical, anthropological, scientific, postmodernist, and feminist perspectives (if you don’t know what those words mean or have never read them before, don’t worry! We’ll talk about all of them).

Coursework:

Like many things, what you get out of our class will be proportional to what you put into it. You will be required to work hard in order to do well, but your efforts will pay off significantly, not only in the form of grades, but in your understanding of and insight about the way gendered thinking has structured our society and the relationships we have with others within it. Critical thinking and thoughtful questioning are particularly valuable when it comes to these topics, so these skills will be developed along with analytical, writing and discussion skills.

In this class we will be using all kinds of activities to study gender, ranging from readings and discussions to documentaries and movies, and exercises for exploring and articulating our own relationship to gender. There will be regular assigned readings and homework that I expect you to complete before class so that we can spend our time together delving into the material (and so that you don’t have to lug books to class every day). Homework will be assigned on a regular basis (usually 10-20 points per assignment) and will be outlined in weekly assignment sheets. In the second half of the semester each student will undertake and present a final research project on a topic of their choice.

Expectations:

You should always come to class on time with a pencil and your notebook or binder. Even more importantly, I expect you to come prepared to listen attentively to me and to your classmates, to think deeply about the issues we tackle and to contribute in a way that is both thoughtful and constructive. Of course, we all have days where we don’t necessarily feel like sharing brilliant insights with everyone, so on those days I expect you at the very least to listen well and be kind. This becomes especially important as we deal with many difficult, disturbing and controversial issues related to gender, many of which affect some or all of us personally.

Please express your thoughts and questions openly in class, and in a way that is respectful (raise your hand when we are talking in a group, do not interrupt or insult others, etc.). To make this possible, I expect all phones to be stored on silent or off. If you are expecting an urgent text or call, please let me know in advance so no one will be surprised if you step out to deal with it. Otherwise you should not make yourself available to those outside of class except at break time. Of course, any emergency contacts can be made through the Main Office at 994-2025.

I do expect you to sign up for text updates for Google Classroom* so you can receive regular notifications about our class. Please communicate with me if you are having trouble with any aspect of my class. I am more than happy to meet with you outside of class to help you with work or answer any questions you might have.

*see me if you do not have a phone or if you get charged for texts and we’ll work out an alternative.
Materials:

- Queer Theory, Gender Theory
- Binder OR folder to store all of your work (graded, too)
- 3-hole punched paper OR notebook
- Pencils and pens

Late Work:

I expect you to turn in your assignments on time. If an assignment is turned in the day after it is due, it is eligible for up to 75% of the original credit, from two days until the end of the unit it will be eligible for up to 50%. I will not accept late work past the day of the unit test or project. Late work goes at the bottom of my grading pile, so please don’t expect an assignment you have turned in late to be graded immediately. Please speak to me before the day an assignment is due if you need an extension; the only assignment that is not eligible for an extension is your research presentation because it will determine the schedule of the entire class, but you will choose and sign up for the date you present well in advance during second quarter.

Help, I missed a day! What do I do?

If you have to miss a day of class, it is your (important!) responsibility to get any make up class work from your classmates, Edmodo & the extra handouts bin. You will have two days for every excused absence to make up homework assigned during your absence. Please make sure to write “sick” or “excused absent” on the top of any papers that are late because of an excused absence so that you do not receive late credit.

Rewrites & Extra Credit:

I consider retakes and rewrites on a case by case basis with an explanation of what happened on the original assignment. Rewrites of papers must be turned in within a week of when they are returned, attached to the original. Occasionally I will offer extra points for a write up of a relevant event. I also allow one movie write-up per quarter worth up to 15 extra credit points if it exceeds my requirements. See the assignment on Google Classroom if you are interested in this option. Also, if you hear about an opportunity that is related to our coursework, please tell me or post it on Google Classroom! I do not give extra credit for movie write-ups when there are still outstanding assignments.

Grading Policy:

My grade system is a standard US letter scale and is pretty straightforward: your grade is based on your total points received divided by the number of possible points assigned. This means no weighting.

Academic Dishonesty:

I expect each of you to do work that is both high quality and that is your own. Cheating, plagiarism (using words written by someone else without giving them credit), or other forms of dishonesty undermine the important work we are here to do. Even though Wikipedia is written by a lot of people, you still have to cite it; the same goes for all web pages. If there is some question as to whether a source is valid or whether you need to cite what you are using, please ask! In these cases, it is always better to be safe than sorry. I cannot emphasize this enough; at many colleges, plagiarism is an offense punishable with expulsion, and in the academic world can be grounds for a lawsuit. Any work you turn in that is not your own will receive an E.

Sappy (but True!) Final Word:

Gender studies was my first, true, academic love. The bad news (or good news, depending on how you look at it) is that you will probably have more questions than answers about gender by the end of this class. However, my hope is that at the same time your understanding of the weird construct of gender will be much greater by the time we are done. You will have a set of analytical tools that will inform the way you approach life and interact in personal and academic situations, and hopefully a greater appreciation for how complex the social landscapes we all navigate are. I can’t wait to learn more with you all!