

## **XIDS 2100: Introduction to Gender & Sexuality Studies**

Sect. 07, CRN 13117

MW 9:30-10:45, Paff 106

Professor: Dr. Rebecca Harrison

Office: TLC 2225

Office Hours: M/W 12:30-1:30  
& by appt.

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**Class Description:** The Humanities and Fine Arts have a unique and crucial perspective to offer to the study of gender and sexuality in preparing students to think critically, to cultivate their imaginations, to understand divergent and contingent viewpoints, and to respect and understand cultural differences. This course introduces students to the critical study of gender and sexuality in the Humanities and Fine Arts through the close examination of primary texts in multiple genres and media in conjunction with theoretical texts that have developed out of the core disciplines of the Humanities and Fine Arts. Both historical and contemporary texts will be discussed, and students will be encouraged to apply their insights to the environments in which they currently live. Students will also be asked to make comparisons between cultures and to develop an understanding for the multiple factors influencing ideas and practices related to gender and sexuality, including class, race, ethnicity, time, and place.

### **Required Texts & Materials:**

- ✚ All criticism, poetry, short fiction, and non-fiction essays will be provided electronically via CourseDen. Students are expected to print the material and bring hardcopies to class.
- ✚ *Beasts of the Southern Wild* (Directed by Benh Zeitlin). Available on several streaming services.
- ✚ *The Piano* (Directed by Jane Campion). Available on Amazon prime and via UWG Course Reserves.
- ✚ McCullers, Carson. *The Member of the Wedding*, Mariner (ISBN 978-0618492398).
- ✚ A bound notebook (spiral or journal style) for your reading journal if you are handwriting, and a folder or plastic sleeve if you are typing it.
- ✚ An organized system for taking class notes.
- ✚ A two-pocket folder for turning in and keeping up with graded work.

### **Course Learning Outcomes:** Students will learn to

- ✚ identify and describe how gendered and sexual codes are utilized in cultural texts.
- ✚ demonstrate the ability to use critical thinking skills to interrogate cultural assumptions regarding gender and sexuality.
- ✚ describe and evaluate, orally and in writing, the role of cultural differences on portrayals of gender in textual and visual media.
- ✚ describe and evaluate, orally and in writing, contemporary attitudes and representations of gender and sexuality in a broader historical context.
- ✚ demonstrate an awareness of prevailing theories used to analyze gender and sexuality in the Humanities.

- ✚ analyze and evaluate, orally and in writing, gendered and sexual codes through a diverse set of lenses, including race, class, sexual orientation, and ethnicity.

**Assignments & Grade Distribution:** In-class presentations, group work, and other activities will complement class discussions on a regular basis. As the semester progresses, I will discuss and/or distribute specific guidelines for each written assignment. Please Note: You must complete *all* assignment to pass this course.

- ✚ (15%) Participation. (Learning Outcomes 1, 2 & 3.)
- ✚ (15%) Reading journal & other homework as assigned. (Learning Outcomes 1, 2, & 3.)
- ✚ (15%) Book Club VLOG.
- ✚ (30%) Response Essay I and II: 15% each. (Learning Outcomes 1, 4, & 5.)
- ✚ (25%) (Re)Presenting Gender & Sexuality: A Multimodal Festival. A scaffolded, creative research project. (Learning Outcomes 3, 4, & 5.)
- ✚ Final Course Reflection.

**Grading Scale:**

A+ = 98	B+ = 88	C+ = 78	D+ = 68	F = 50
A = 95	B = 85	C = 75	D = 65	
A- = 92	B- = 82	C- = 72	D- = 62	

*FYI—The English program mission statement and outcomes are available at <https://www.westga.edu/academics/coah/english/english-program-assessment.php>.*



## Reading Schedule

This schedule provides a tentative layout of in-class and out-of-class activities and assignments. As it is based on the estimated progress of our class, some modification (including additions, postponements, or deletions) will be necessary as we move through the semester. In the event West Georgia closes due to inclement weather, you should continue your out-of-class assignments according to this schedule and check your email regularly for class updates.

Remember that all readings—except *Member of the Wedding*, *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, and *The Piano*—are available on CourseDen.

Class Date	Assignments	Due Dates & Notes.
M 1/6	<b>Class Overview:</b> Thinking through and ahead to our work as an inquiry class.	
W 1/8	<b>Establishing a Critical Framework:</b> Kang “Critical Introduction to the Field” (18-25) & Chopin “The Story of an Hour.”	
M 1/13	Kang “Identity Terms,” “Conceptualizing Structures of Power,” “Social Constructionism,” & “Intersectionality” (26-40).	<b>Due:</b> Your reading journal checks start today. Bring them to class daily.
W 1/15	William Apess “An Indian’s Looking-Glass for the White Man.”	
M 1/20	<b>MLK Day. No Class.</b>	
W 1/22	Poetry selections by Natasha Trethewey and Audre Lorde.	
M 1/27	Kate Chopin “Désirée’s Baby.”	
W 1/29	<b>How Culture Shapes Gender Roles:</b> Judith Ortiz Cofer “The Myth of the Latin Woman” (Hirschberg e-copy).	
M 2/3	Julia Alvarez “A White Woman of Color.”	
W 2/5	Zora Neale Hurston’s “Sweat” and “How it Feels to Be Colored Me.”	
M 2/10	Tepilit Ole Saitoti “The Initiation of a Maasai Warrior” & Waris Dirie “The Tragedy of Female Circumcision” (Hirschberg e-copies).	
W 2/12	Andrew Sullivan “My Big Fat Straight Wedding” & Serena Nanda “Arranging a Marriage in India” (Hirschberg e-copies).	<b>Due:</b> Essay One & Journal Check One.

M 2/17	Benjamin Carlton “#BlackMenLove: I’m Black, I’m a Minister and I’m Gay.”	
W 2/19	Mary Dorcey “The Husband” and Ted talk on “Liquid Lead” by Trevor Copp and Jeff Fox.	
M 2/24	<b>Moving Beyond Binaries</b> Kang “Challenging Binary Systems and Constructions of Difference” (48-64) and “Institutions, Culture, and Structures” (68-86).	
W 2/26	Emily Martin “The Egg and The Sperm: How Science Has Constructed a Romance Based on Stereotypical Male-Female Roles.”	FYI—Friday, 2/28 is the last day to withdraw with a grade of W from Full Term (non-eCore) 16 week courses.
M 3/2	Screening of <i>Intersexion</i> in class.	
W 3/4	<i>Intersexion</i> (continued).	
M 3/9	Transgender and Gender Fluid Perspectives: Prescreen the Ted Talks by Jackson Bird and Susie Green, along with the two videos on language before class.	
W 3/11	Ryka Aoki Poetry and Performance Selections.	
M 3/16	<b>Spring Break. No Class.</b>	
W 3/18	<b>Spring Break. No Class.</b>	
M 3/23	<b>The Queer South: A Case Study on McCullers</b> <i>The Member of the Wedding</i> (1-46).	<b>Due:</b> Essay II.
W 3/25	<i>Member of the Wedding</i> continued (49 to 100).	
M 3/30	<i>Member of the Wedding</i> continued (101 to End).	<b>Due:</b> Journal Check Two.
W 4/1	<b>SSSL Conference; No Class.</b> Groups should use this class period to meet and organize your plans for working on the final multimodal project.	
M 4/6	<b>On-line Film Unit on (En)Gendering the Environment:</b> <i>Beasts of the Southern Wild</i> . Prescreen before today, and check CourseDen for Assignment.  FYI—This online unit is designed to free up class time so that each group can make significant progress on the multimodal festival project. In other	

	words, I am giving you three set time periods when you know each member can meet.	
W 4/8	On-line Film Unit on <i>Beasts of the Southern Wild</i> . (continued).	
M 4/13	The Problematic Nature of Consent: Jane Campion's <i>The Piano</i> . Prescreen before class.	<b>Due:</b> VLOG Book Review on McCullers.
W 4/15	<i>The Piano</i> (continued).	
M 4/20	In-class project workshop with me; bring your materials to class. I will also distribute the required take home assessment.  FYI—Your final project is due the day of your scheduled presentation	
W 4/22	Catch Up Day (assignments TBD) & Evaluations.	<b>Due:</b> Your take home final reflection is due today.
M 4/27	(Re)Presenting Gender & Sexuality: A Multimodal Festival (session I).	
W 4/29	(Re)Presenting Gender & Sexuality: A Multimodal Festival (session II).  FYI—We will meet during the full final exam block 8:00 to 10:00. Attendance is required.	<b>Due:</b> Optional Revisions. See specific requirements.
	<i>Reading schedule updated on 1/6/2020.</i>	

### Course Policies

**Attendance:** Attendance and punctuality are mandatory and key to your success in this course. Arrive to class on time having completed any reading/writing assignments and be prepared to participate in class discussions and group work. As this class meets twice per week, a student is allowed **three (3) absences** over the course of the semester. Upon the fourth absence, the student **will no longer be able to pass the class**. Be aware that no distinction exists between excused and unexcused absences. In addition, should a student choose to withdraw, she/he will receive a “W,” if the withdrawal date falls before the midpoint. If the withdrawal date falls after the midpoint, the student will receive a “WF.” Please note that tardiness counts against your two allotted absences at a rate of 0.25 per day late. In other words, if you are late to class four times, it will count as one missed class period. Tardiness may also negatively affect your class participation grade and may result in missed in-class work that cannot be made up. FYI—Official decisions about campus closings and/or examination cancellations due to severe weather or emergency will be made by the university President and posted on the UWG homepage.

**Breaks:** There are none. Our class meets for only seventy-five minutes. As such, I expect that you go to the restroom, get tissues, and grab coffee *before* class starts. If you have emergency situations that may require you to leave and return during my class, you must make prior arrangement with me.

**Paper Format:** All final work for this class must be typed, use Times New Roman 12 point font, be double-spaced, use standard 1 inch margins, and conform to standard MLA guidelines as outlined in the *MLA Handbook* (8<sup>th</sup> edition). Papers must be submitted in a clearly labeled two pocket folder.

**Make-Up Work, Late Work, & Recycled Papers:**

- In-class work cannot be made up and may count as zeros in the daily grade component.
- If you miss a class, it is up to you to check with a classmate in a timely fashion concerning missed notes and any homework assignments due the next period.
- All formal assignments are due at the start of class on the date specified in the course schedule. If you must miss a class on a date when an assignment is due, you need to make prior arrangements with me to submit your work on time.
- Late assignments are subject to a *five point deduction* for *each day* submitted after the due date, including weekend days.
- Recycled work (i.e. turning in material written for other professors) is not permissible in this class and will result in a non-passing grade on the assignment.

**Plagiarism:** The Department of English and Philosophy defines plagiarism as taking personal credit for the words and ideas of others as they are presented in electronic, print, and verbal sources. The use of another individual's words, phrases, or ideas without proper citation will result in the following at my discretion (no questions):

- a zero on the assignment.
- possible failure of this course.
- an official academic dishonesty report filed with UWG, which could lead to suspension from the university.

In short, as members of the UWG community, I expect you to fully abide by the university honor code, which can be found at <http://www.westga.edu/handbook/59.php>

**Optional Revision Policy:** You may revise either of the first two essays for resubmission. If the revised assignment receives a higher grade, it will be used in your final grade calculation in place of the original. The revision *must be meaningful* and submitted *along with the original, graded assignment* in order to be considered. Revised papers are due no later than the start of the final exam period; however, you may turn them in at any point before that date as well.

**Conferences:** Each student is required to attend at least one conference with me during the course of the semester about the multimodal festival project. Having that said, my office door is always open to you. Please come by during the hours noted on this syllabus whenever you have questions concerning class discussions, need advice or help with reading/writing assignments, etc. If you cannot attend my scheduled office hours, email me for an appointment.

**Controversial Content:** As the title of this course suggests, we will examine texts containing content for a mature audience. This means that some of our texts contain offensive language, violence, a host of adult themes, and even nudity. It is my expectation that you approach and discuss the content of each piece in class with intellectual maturity and professionalism.

**Class Decorum:** Everyone in this class has both the right and the responsibility to express his or her critical reads of the texts in class discussions and to treat one another's ideas respectfully and seriously, even if – or especially if – you disagree. Consequently, ill-spirited discussions, unmerited comments, and intolerance are not permitted in the classroom. Also, please raise your hand when you would like to have the floor. This format facilitates structured discussion and equal participation.

**Disruptive Behavior:** Students may be dismissed from any class meeting at which they exhibit behavior that disrupts the learning environment of others. Such behavior includes—but is not limited to—arriving late for class, sleeping (or the appearance of it) in class, allowing cell phones to ring, text-messaging, frequently leaving class, and speaking disrespectfully to the instructor and/or to other students. Each dismissal of this kind will count as an absence and will be applied toward the attendance requirements policy above.

**Email:** In accordance with university policy, all email correspondence must take place through the UWG email system. Please keep in mind that email is professional correspondence; thus, remember to properly address your audience, use the same standards of writing that you would in any paper you write, and sign your email. FYI—For the fastest response, please email me through my westga.edu account listed on this syllabus (and not through CourseDen). While I normally respond to student emails within 48 hours during the work week, please note that I do not regularly answer emails sent after noon on Friday until Monday morning.

**CourseDen:** In addition to keeping all our class materials housed in one location, I use the CourseDen announcement function regularly to keep the class abreast of any course updates, notes about assignments, etc.; thus, check our page regularly.

**Writing Center:** The Writing Center (TLC 1201) is a valuable student resource and, while, consultants will not proofread, they will question, respond to, offer choices, and encourage revision in student essays. This is a free university service for you to take advantage of as often as you need. To schedule an appointment call the center at 678-839-6513. See <http://www.westga.edu/~writing/> for more information.

**Student Support:** The UWG community cares deeply about student welfare and is committed to providing a variety of support mechanisms for those who need additional academic support or who are experiencing distressing situations. The following resources may be helpful if you have specific needs that arise:

- Center for Academic Success—<http://www.westga.edu/cas/>
- Counseling Center—<https://www.westga.edu/student-services/counseling/index.php>
- UWG Cares—<http://www.westga.edu/UWGCares/>

If I identify a service that may be helpful to your success, I may ask that office to contact you to discuss it.

**Special Accommodations:** Students in the UWG community have a right to equal access to classes and materials, regardless of special needs, whether temporary or permanent. Students with needs on file with Accessibility Services will be accommodated in this class per West Georgia regulations. Please send me your packet and meet with me immediately for arrangements. Accessibility services may be reached at (770) 839-6428 or see <https://www.westga.edu/accessibility/>

*Students should review the full common syllabus policies for UWG at*  
<https://www.westga.edu/UWGSyllabusPolicies/>

*Information about the regulations governing campus carry at UWG can be found at*  
<https://www.westga.edu/police/campus-carry.php>