

WMST 101

Introduction to Women and Gender Studies

3 Credits

Community College of Baltimore County
Common Course Outline

Description

WMST 101 – Introduction to Women and Gender Studies: is an interdisciplinary introduction to the status, achievements, and experiences of individuals on the continuum of gender in society. Past and current theories of gender, power, and equity are analyzed. Societal constructs of gender and how those constructs intersect with institutions such as the arts, education, the labor force, law and politics, marriage and family life, and religion are critically examined. This course encourages students to examine and critique these institutions both personally and politically. A multicultural approach is taken to present the contributions of under-represented groups of women and gender minorities. Students are expected to attend one co-curricular activity or do a minimum of two hours of service-learning.

Co-requisites: ACLT 053 or (ESOL 052 and ESOL 054)

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. define feminism, gender socialization, and other basic concepts central to the study of gender;
2. analyze the nature and effects of gender on various institutions (labor, health, education, legal, media, etc.) in modern American society;
3. analyze how gender intersects with other social hierarchies (such as race, class, sexuality, ability, age, national origin, etc.) in modern American society;
4. discuss the issues related to social, political, and economic forces that shape the sexual division of labor;
5. identify key historical and cultural world events in the struggle for equality by women and gender identity minorities;
6. identify significant contemporary gender identity thinkers in the U.S. and globally;
7. compare and contrast gender roles of global societies;
8. summarize the intellectual contributions that diverse and under-represented populations have made to global societies;
9. discuss social, economic, and political public policy issues that affect gender;
10. explain one's personal assumptions and biases about gender relations and other social hierarchies using a variety of problem-solving approaches;
11. use technological tools to explore ethical issues related to gender equity among diverse populations;
12. evaluate the impact that digital, print, and social-media technology has in the shaping of gender relations;
13. interpret global statistics related to gender inequities; and

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For more information, see your professor's syllabus.

14. find, evaluate, use, and cite appropriate academic resources to analyze and examine gender issues.

Major Topics

- I. Introduction to the discipline of Women and Gender Studies
 - a. History of Women's Rights Movements
 - b. Feminism defined
- II. Privilege and Power
 - a. Gender and institutional power
 - b. Intersectionality
- III. The social construction of gender
 - a. Learning gender and gender socialization
 - b. Gender ranking
- IV. Gender roles and gender identity
 - a. Characteristics of masculinity & femininity
 - b. LGBTQ+ identity /gender non-conformity
- V. Gender and popular culture
 - a. Beauty ideals and body image
 - b. Technology and social media
- VI. Gender and public policy
 - a. Paid and unpaid labor
 - b. Government
- VII. Gender and health care and reproductive rights
 - a. Ethical issues in gender research
 - b. History of the Women's Health Movement
- VIII. Gender violence
- IX. Global feminism

Course Requirements

Grading will be determined by the individual faculty member, but shall include the following, at minimum:

- one exam (mid-term or final) with an essay component
- one five-page research paper (Gender Cultural Product analysis) or oral report / presentation which addresses the General Education Outcomes.
- written assignments including personal reflections, journal prompts, discussion boards, etc.
- attendance at one co-curricular activity or a minimum of two hours service-learning

Written assignments and research projects: Students are required to use appropriate academic resources in their research and cite sources according to the style selected by their professor.

Other Course Information

This course is an approved 3-credit General Education course in the Social and Behavioral Sciences.

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One or more assignments will infuse CCBC General Education Program outcomes and will account for a minimum of 10% of the total course grade. The assignment(s) will allow students to demonstrate at least 5 of the 7 General Education program outcomes. This course is approved for General Education Diversity and Global Education programs. Attendance at one co-curricular activity or two hours (2) of service-learning is a requirement of the course.

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