

**Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies
Spring 2022
Brooklyn College (In-Class)**



Image: Marhsa P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera

Room: James Hall 2101

Time: Fridays 11:00-1:45

Professor: B Lee Aultman, Ph.D.

Email: baultman@gradcenter.cuny.edu

Office Hours: After Class

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Women's and Gender Studies is a growing and vibrant interdisciplinary field, spanning multiple areas of scholarly investigation. The founding intersections of these literatures assemble a series of critical insights that challenge many prevailing and inherited knowledges about our shared worlds. Our aim will be to examine the wider investments as well as the practices, communities, and ordinary lives as these lives are "gendered," and among other acts of power, "racialized." To grapple these issues, we begin and end with very similar questions. What is power and how has its effects produced the very identities that humans claim to possess, enact, or disavow? What does it mean to live at the margins of intersectional identities and what analyses are required to understand those lives? In our time it is essential that we understand what amounts to a politics of life.

COURSE GRADES RELATED MATERIALS

Short-Answer Quizzes (30%): Students will have weekly or bi-weekly, paragraph-length short-answer questions to answer. These questions will be presented via Blackboard. Please do not print out a copy to submit. I will not take printed copies unless there is an absolute necessity. Deadlines for these short quizzes are in the syllabus under "Course Reading and Assignment Schedule."

Final Exam (50%): The Final exam will consist of five essay questions from which students are expected to select two to answer. That means one essay-length response for each question. The questions cannot be answered in a single, long-essay.

Attendance/Participation (20%): Attendance and participation will be taken every session. The participation portion of this percentage will be evaluated as additional emphasis if students are sufficiently prepared for discussion (e.g., extra credit).



COURSE EXPECTATIONS (ACADEMIC HONESTY, IN-CLASS BEHAVIOR, ACCOMMODATIONS)

Academic Honesty: If a student is found in violation of academic integrity standards while an undergraduate at Brooklyn College, the following sanctions shall be imposed.

First Offense: The student shall receive an F on the assignment/examination. The student may in addition receive an F in the course at the discretion of the instructor. In the event that the student receives an F in the course and subsequently elects to withdraw from the course prior to the withdrawal deadline, the student shall receive the grade of WF, a grade that is equivalent to an earned F in the cumulative quality point index. The case shall be documented in the student's file, where it will remain until the time of the student's graduation from the college, at which time the material will be removed from their file. Any records kept for the purpose of analysis and program evaluation by the AIC and not destroyed will have all personal identifying information removed.

Second Offense: The student shall receive an F for the course and shall be subject to suspension or expulsion from the college, at the discretion of the dean. In the event that the student receives an F in the course and subsequently elects to withdraw from the course prior to the withdrawal deadline, the student shall receive the grade of WF, a grade that is equivalent to an earned F in the cumulative quality point index. If the student is expelled, the notation—Withdrawn by the University—will appear on their transcript. The case shall be documented in the student's file, where it will remain until the time of the student's graduation from the college, at which time the material will be removed from their file. Any records kept for the purpose of analysis and program evaluation by the AIC and not destroyed will have all personal identifying information removed.

Third Offense: If a student is found guilty of a third violation of academic integrity, the student will receive an F for the course and will be expelled from the University, at the discretion of the dean. In the event that the student receives an F in the course and subsequently elects to withdraw from the course prior to the withdrawal deadline, the student shall receive the grade of WF, a grade that is equivalent to an earned F in the cumulative quality point index. If the student is expelled, the notation—Withdrawn by the University—will appear on their transcript.

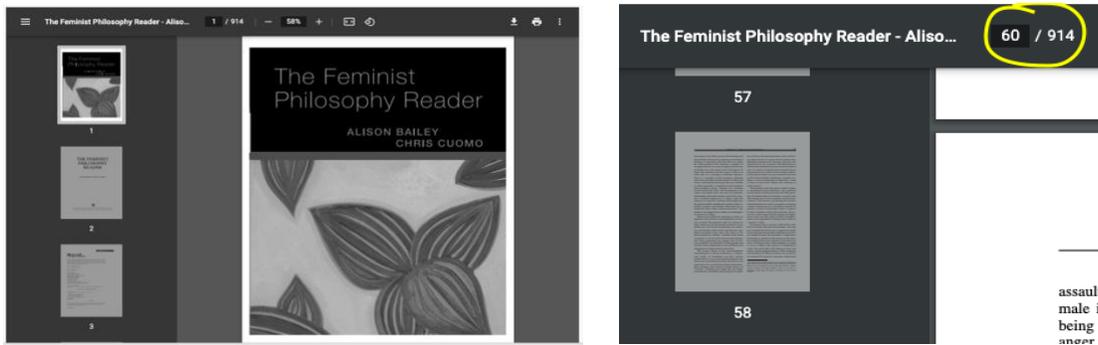
Accommodations: In order to receive disability-related academic accommodations students must first be registered with the Center for Student Disability Services. Students who have a documented visible or nonvisible disability or suspect they may have a disability are invited to set up an appointment with the Director of the Center for Student Disability Services, Ms. Valerie Stewart-Lovell at (718) 951-5538. If you have already registered with the Center for Student Disability Services, please provide me with the course accommodation form. In any case, please consult with me.



Pronouns and Gender Identity: My name is B. I am nonbinary, transfeminine. I use gender-neutral pronouns (they/them). I adhere to a strict policy of respect for the gender identities and correct pronoun usage for all of my students, including names that are not yet a part of “official” documentation. *Intentional speech-acts with the aim of dehumanizing another student or slandering their personal integrity based on race, ability, ethnicity, religion, sexuality, gender, gender identity, and/or sex will result in the dismissal from that session of class.* I will consult with the dismissed student afterward. Continued abuses will result in disciplinary action in accordance with the appropriate College administrators including, but not limited to, the Title IX Office.

CLASS TEXTS

All readings are posted online as PDFs. I have indicated PDF numbers for each reading, as some publications have different page numbers. Please note that most of readings can be found in the expansive anthology entitled *The Feminist Philosophy Reader (FPR)* that I have uploaded to Blackboard. Pages numbers are not the same as the PDF page numbers. I have used the PDF page numbers to indicate where to locate the readings. For instance, Audre Lorde’s article would appear, according to the PDF reader, on page 60 and end on page 62. See images below.



COURSE READING AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: INTRODUCTIONS



Jan. 28: Overview of the syllabus and the general field of WGST.



LECTURE SERIES: ON DISCIPLINARY POWER

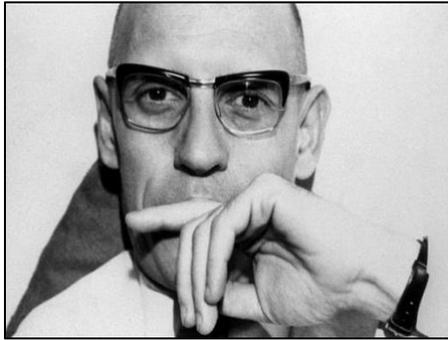


Image: Michel Foucault

Feb. 4: Michel Foucault, *History of Sexuality, Vol. 1*, “Part Four: The Deployment of Sexuality,” Chapters 1-2, PDF pp. 75-100

Feb. 8: Michel Foucault, *History of Sexuality, Vol. 1*, “Part Four: The Deployment of Sexuality,” Chapters 3-4, PDF pp. 101-129.

QUIZ: FEB. 8

Describe what Foucault means by sexuality in terms of disciplinary, or social, power?

CLOSED: FEB 11

No Class. College Closed.

LECTURE SERIES: THE SOCIAL CONSTRUCTION OF IDENTITY AND ITS POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS



Image: Audre Lorde

Feb. 18: Audre Lorde: “The Master’s Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master’s House.” In *FPR* pp. 60-62.

Feb. 25: Simone de Beauvoir, “Introduction” to *The Second Sex* in *FPR* pp. 98-108.



Quiz: Feb. 25

In Audre Lorde's metaphor, what/who is the house and what/who are the tools?

LECTURE SERIES: RACIAL ARTICULATIONS OF GENDER, SEX, AND SEXUALITY



Image: Hortense Spillers

Mar. 4: Hortense Spillers, “Mama’s Baby, Papa’s Maybe,” in *Diacritics* pp. 65-81

Mar. 11: Saidiya Hartman, “A Minor Figure” from URL <https://longreads.com/2019/07/19/a-minor-figure/>

Quiz: Mar. 11

Why (how) does Spillers argue that the Middle Passage erased and imposed a sexed identity on African captives?



Image: Saidiya Hartman

Mar. 18: Kimberlé Crenshaw, “Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color” in *FPR* pp. 290 - 311)

Mar. 25: Patricia J. Williams, “On the Object of Being Property,” in *Signs*, 5-24.



Quiz: Mar. 25

In a few sentences, describe what Crenshaw meant by intersectionality.

Closed:
April 15-22

No Class. College Closed.

LECTURE SERIES: QUEER THEORIES AND TRANS RADICALS



Image: Judith Butler

April 29: Judith Butler, “Performative Acts and Gender Constitution: Phenomenology an Feminist Theory” in *FPR* pp. 108 – 118.

May 5: A. Finn Enke, “The Education of Little Cis,” in *The Trans Studies Reader 2*.

Final Exam: TBD

