

PROVISIONAL: may be subject to small changes prior to first day of classes

GSWS 2220E: FEMINIST THEORY & PRACTICE ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES (2022-23)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

How have feminists working across the disciplines changed the ways we see, read, and think? Against what traditions have they resisted, and in what new directions do their works lead us? What are the relationships between feminist analyses, artistic/imaginative production, research methodologies and tabulations, the politics (even *violence*?) of representation, and ... *our gendered material realities*? How does theory inform practice, and vice versa? What are the ethical implications – and responsibilities – of feminist writing, innovation, and research?

Studying feminist articulations on the (de)construction of historically raced, classed, and gendered/sexed subjectivities (and working with a diverse range of theoretical approaches in the various disciplines of the arts and social sciences with briefer attention on sciences, media, medicine/health studies, and law), this course explores how the practices of producing knowledge have real-life effects. Attentive to the ways feminist in(ter)ventions at once resist, expand, and explode conventional approaches and ways of knowing, we will examine the implications of feminist analyses and methods, with a focus on ever-creative feminist resistance and recuperation.

INSTRUCTORS:

1st TERM

Instructor: Dr. K.J. (Kim) Verwaayen kjverwaa@uwo.ca Office hours: Thurs. 1:30-2:40 pm, or by appt. |

2nd TERM

Instructor: Dr. Lauren Auger lauger3@uwo.ca Office hours: TBA

BOTH TERMS

Course TA: TBA

*Zoom links for office hours will be posted on OWL if/as needed

LECTURE:

Thursdays 10:30am-1:30pm, Location TBA

COVID STATEMENT:

It is possible that the format of the course could change in whole or in part due to safety concerns related to the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic and as allowed or required by the University or governing health unit(s). Students will be notified as soon as possible of any changes to the delivery of the course. *Please social distance as much as possible in the classroom. If you feel ill, do not attend in-person classes.*"

ASSIGNMENTS:**TERM 1**

Participation		5%	
Application Essay	6-7 pages	20%	Due by Nov. 10
Mid-Term Exam	2 hours; short answer & essay	25%	TBA; Dec. exam period

TERM 2

Participation		5%	
Application Essay	6-7 pages	20%	Due by March 16
Final Exam	2 hours; short answer & essay	25%	TBA; April exam period

REQUIRED TEXTS:

All course readings will be posted on OWL.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Work in GSWS 2220E should enable students to:

- ❖ recognize and critically engage some of the major feminist approaches and debates (across research, theory, and practice) in various academic disciplines;
- ❖ understand how theory and its practices across disciplines are shaped by the intersecting axes of race, class, sexuality, gender, and (dis)ability;
- ❖ develop nuanced awareness of how socio-political and historical factors (in addition to the above) impact canonical and other understandings of cultural, theoretical, and aesthetic “value”;
- ❖ reflect, both personally and analytically, on the implications of feminist theory and its applications in relation to our gendered material and everyday realities;
- ❖ improve oral and written communication;
- ❖ augment proficiency in critical thinking, research, and analytical skills.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

“The Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies recognizes the First Nations territory on which the University stands. As the University acknowledges, UWO is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lenape and Attawandaron peoples “who have longstanding relationships to the region of southwestern Ontario and the City of London. In close proximity to Western, there are 3 local First Nations communities: the Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee Delaware Nation. In the region of southwestern Ontario, there are 9 First Nations and a growing Indigenous urban population. Western recognizes the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original peoples of Turtle Island (North America) to the

development of Canada” (<http://indigenous.uwo.ca/universitywide/Indigenous%20Strat%20Plan%20-%20Draft%20V9.pdf>)

COURSE POLICIES:

Learning Environments and Email Policies

Participants enrolled in this class are expected to complete the required course readings, attend all class sessions, respectfully contribute to classroom activities and discussions, and complete course assignments on time. Electronics such as computers and smartphones are permitted. However, please be respectful and refrain from using your electronics for outside activity during class. Using technology in distracting ways (to yourself and/or others) can impact your participation grade. Please have your telephones set to silent. You will not be permitted to use electronics during the final examination. Our learning environments (including online) will be respectful spaces. We will try to reply to emails within twenty-four hours. Please do not expect an immediate response. Put the course code in the subject line of the email. Be as specific as possible with your questions. Specific questions receive specific answers. We may not be able to respond to emails on weekends or during the evenings. However, your term instructor will check email every twenty-four hours during the work week. If your question is more appropriately handled in-person (covid conditions permitting), please feel free to make an appointment during office hours or see your term instructor after class.

Attendance Policy

Please notify your professor and copy the course TA if you are unable to attend lecture. Persistent absenteeism could be grounds for failure in the course. The term instructor will contact you indicating your absence if you are absent from three classes.

OWL

Use of Owl/Sakai is necessary for successful completion of this course. This includes accessing readings as stipulated in the course outline, downloading instructions and guidelines for assignments, and submitting assignments to Turnitin.com. All course information, including assignments, will be posted on the course website: <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>

Late Assignment Policy

Late assignments will be deducted 2% per day. The application essay each term must be submitted electronically to the Turnitin site via Owl and the deadline for receipt is registered by the system – so be sure to verify your assignment has been successfully uploaded. A hard copy of your assignment may be required (more specific details will be given in the assignment instructions) and, if so, you can drop off a late paper copy to the Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Dropbox outside Rm. 3260 in Lawson Hall. Assignments **will not be accepted by email.**

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

“Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. **All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Religious Accommodation

“Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).”

Plagiarism

Plagiarism constitutes a serious academic offense.

“Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offense Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). Plagiarism checking: The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Students may be required to submit their work in electronic form for plagiarism checking” (U.W.O. Senate statement on plagiarism)

If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, please contact your TA and/or instructor. You cannot submit assignments in GSWS 2220E completed for other courses.

Turnitin

“All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be

included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licencing agreement currently between the University and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>)” (<https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/TurnItIn.html>)

Academic Offences

“Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/courseoutlines.pdf>”

Note for Students with Disabilities

It is important to us (and, indeed, a matter of social justice) that academic spaces work better to support learning differences. Students with disabilities are encouraged to access available supports. Please contact gwsugchair@uwo.ca if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space more accessible to you. It can be very helpful to connect with Accessible Education here: http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html; you can also contact aew@uwo.ca to find out the full range of services available to you.

Missed Assignments and Academic Accommodation

Academic Accommodation must be requested within 28 days of the missed assignment

Electronic Devices During Tests and Exams

Please turn-off or put your mobile phones to the silent setting during the exam. Do not use electronic devices unless you have an academic accommodation to do so.

Assignments/Assignment Format

All essays are to be typed, double-spaced, using Times New Roman 12-point font. You are expected to use either MLA or APA standards for documentation. All assignments must have your name, the course name, the professor's name, the TA's name, and the due date on the first page, preferably in the upper left-hand corner.

Do not use cover pages.

Lesson Design

Lectures are NOT the whole lesson. A lesson encompasses readings, media, films, assignments, and group work in addition to a lecture. This means that readings should *not* be regarded as supplementary. We will not be providing summaries of the readings. The exams each term will be based on that term's lessons – readings and lecture/discussion content. You are expected to read the assigned readings *before* lecture and bring any questions you may have to class.

Grade concerns:

Please review the Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies grading criteria posted on OWL to assess your grade *before* requesting to meet with your term instructor or TA. If you still have questions about your grade after that, and would like to discuss your mark further, please wait **24-hours** before emailing the person who graded your assignment (Professor or TA) to schedule a meeting.

Best Wishes for a Wonderful Year Together
***DOING* Feminist Theory!**