

~ PROVISIONAL ~

May be subject to change prior to the start of classes

GSWS 3316G ART(S) MATTER: FEMINISM, ARTS, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Professor:	Dr. K.J. Verwaayen	Email: kjverwaa@uwo.ca	Office: LH 3236
Office hrs:	Tuesdays 4:30-5:30 pm	& Thursdays 2:00-3:00 pm	or by appointment
Class Meets:	Tuesdays 1:30-4:30 pm	Class Location: TBA	(as covid permits)

Please note that format (in person or online) may be impacted by covid conditions.

How do creative practices respond to, and attempt to intervene within, historical and ongoing forms of injustice, including in our contemporary moment? How can the arts *move* us to be, and do, otherwise? This course looks to examples of feminist activism (across visual art, media, spoken word performances, poetry, film, and theatre, as potential examples) in relation to some major and lesser known local and global social justice movements and issues. Together we will work to understand and assess various relations between art and aesthetics, feminism, politics, action – *and cultural change*.

Assignments:

Participation	(you must be present to participate)	20%
Sparker with Write-Up	(indiv or in pairs; presentation with questions & handout)	10%
Arts and Justice Reflection & Analysis	(3-4 pages: due at start of class – must be submitted prior to discussion of texts; last date to submit is Feb.14; sorry - you can't write on any texts we have <i>already</i> discussed in class)	20%
Annotated Bibliography	(with final project overview & 2 sources: due Feb.28 - Mar.7)	10%
Final Essay OR Creative Project with Statement	(with research; 7-8 pages; OR art work in arts mode of your choosing + 3-4 pages reflection & analysis, including a maker's statement; either option due Mar. 28)	40%

Texts:

All online articles will be available through links posted in Owl.

Land Acknowledgment:

"Western University is situated on the traditional land 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" (from *GSWS Handbook for Instructors*; please see also *Western's Indigenous Strategic Plan* and recommendations from *Indigenous Services*)

COURSE POLICIES

Support Services: We often deal with difficult topics in GSWS, and material can be triggering. If you're struggling, please see that "Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help." <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/courseoutlines.pdf>.

Please also consider the Post-Secondary Student Helpline as a resource: 1-866-925-5454, or, if in immediate crisis, 911 or Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000 for support.

There will also be a health supports tab with further resources on our Owl home page. It is really, really important for you to reach out if you're struggling. Remember that there is a lot of help/support here at Western, and I can assist in directing you to (further) resources if you're not sure from the above.

Accessible Education: Please know that the GSWS Department is "committed to accessible education as a matter of policy and as a social justice issue" (*Handbook for GSWS Instructors*) – and it's equally important to me that you feel both individually and structurally supported. Please feel welcome to let me know if my teaching style or other conditions related to the course are posing challenges I have (with my apologies) not anticipated. You can contact gswsugchair@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 accessible to you. You may wish to connect with Accessible Education at 519-661-2147 or aeu@uwo.ca and/or visit http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/academic_accomodation.html to find out the full range of services available.

Owl: Use of Owl is necessary for successful completion of this course. This includes accessing readings as required in the course outline, downloading instructions and guidelines for assignments, and submitting assignments to Turnitin.com via the assignments link. All course information, including for assignments, will be posted on the course website. Go to <https://owl.uwo.ca/portal>. (If you're having difficulties with Owl, please contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk online or via 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.)

Prerequisites: "You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis of appeal. If you are not eligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time, and you will receive no fee adjustment. These decisions cannot be appealed. (See also Western's Academic Calendar)" --- U.W.O. Senate statement on prerequisites.

Prerequisites for GSWS 3316G: GSWS 2220E or 2273E, or permission of the Department.

Submitting Assignments: Please submit all written assignments to Turnitin.com through the course OWL links. (You may also be required to hand in hard copies of written assignments in GSWS 3316G; if so, I will make this clear in the assignment instructions.) Here's the statement on use of Turnitin from the University:

"All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under licence 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>)."

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

Deadlines are registered as the date/time these assignments are due to Turnitin, and late penalties are assessed based on the submission time to the Turnitin site – so please don't forget to load your paper to Turnitin on time! Avoid the 2%/day late penalty by seeking academic consideration as appropriate (see below).

Essays not submitted to Turnitin will receive grades converted to 0.

You cannot submit assignments in GSWS 3316G prepared for other courses.

Academic Consideration: You can request academic consideration at Western via three types/forms: *Self-Reported Absence*; *Medical Absence*; *Non-Medical Absence*. Please review the "Request for Academic Accommodation" section in the Academic Calendar to see which applies to you and how to proceed: https://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_321. See also [accommodation_medical.pdf](#) (uwo.ca).

Attendance in Classes: It's important that you "attend" class (in person or online as relevant to the course delivery format under covid conditions) in order to succeed in the course. However, if you are ill (see "self-reported absences" section below) it is of course also *very* important that you rest and support your health – and protect others.

Note that the attendance policy of the Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies and The University of Western Ontario is as follows: "In classes without final examinations, persistent absenteeism (defined by the Department as three [3] weeks in half courses, and six [6] weeks in full courses) may be rendered grounds for failure in the course (after due warning is given)." So it is very important that you message me as soon as you are able if you need to miss class; if you are experiencing *ongoing* challenges please link in to the Academic Counseling office in your faculty of registration (and consider which other services on campus may be helpful to you. Let me know if/how I also can assist.)

Self-Reported Absences: As per the section above on academic consideration, Western has a fairly new policy: students are no longer required to seek a medical note for "short-term and unexpected" absences (only). Where applicable, students can use the Illness Reporting Tool in the Self-Reported Absence System. Please see details at https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academic_considerations/self_reported_absences_faqs.html, including for circumstances where absence impacts assignment completion. Please contact me as soon as possible to let me know.

Participation: You will be required to read for each class. Plan to read critically rather than just for content. I expect you to have read the assigned materials prior to each class and to be prepared to participate in discussions. Participation includes demonstrating familiarity with the course readings, asking engaged questions, contributing to discussion in a thoughtful way (this *always* allows for respectful dissent), and being a respectful listener. Please note that the Department reserves the right for instructors to give reading quizzes as part of the participation grade if it seems necessary (i.e., if class members do not seem to be keeping up with the reading). Hopefully we won't need this :) No single component (attendance, discussion, questions, etc.) determines your overall participation grade.

Scholastic 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 website: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf>" (<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/exam/courseoutlines.pdf>)

And re: Plagiarism, especially: "Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage 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 the '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 written work in electronic form for plagiarism checking."
(*U.W.O. Senate statement on plagiarism*)

Electronic Devices: Of course I allow the use of laptops in the physical classroom – but use of devices during class must be oriented toward your learning in the course. Any activity, including laptop use (and especially cell phone use), which distracts from your engagement/attention in class, and especially if distracting to others, can affect your participation mark. Should you, for any reason, need to receive a phone call during class time, please keep your phone on vibrate and step out of the classroom or away from zoom to receive the call.

Contact Info: My office hours are posted on page 1 of this syllabus. Written messages can be left for me at the GSWS Department main office LWH 3260 as covid conditions permit. You are welcome to email, but should always **put the course number into the subject line: GSWS 3316G, and use your UWO email addresses**; emails not so identified may be accidentally auto-screened as spam. I will answer your messages as promptly as I can – but please note that *sometimes* it may take up to 48 hours or more for me to respond. If for some reason you are unable to email, you can leave a message for me at 519-661-2111 ext. 84684.

ENJOY THE TERM!

