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2023

## Introduction to Gender Studies (circa 2002-2008) (Whitman College)

Robert D. Tobin

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## Gender Studies 100: Introduction to Gender Studies

**Professor Tobin**

**Memorial 310A**

**Phone: 5061/5397**

**E-mail: [tobin@whitman.edu](mailto:tobin@whitman.edu)**

**Office hours: M: 2-3; Tu: 11-12; W: 2-3; Th: 11-12, or by appointment.**

“Introduction to Gender Studies” provides students with the intellectual framework to understand and analyze gender. Using a variety of sources from theory, literature, and other media, we will study femininity, masculinity, and some of the steps in between.

### Assignments:

Papers: 60%

*A personal* paper discussing the significance of gender to your own life. Five pages. (15%)

*A political* paper addressing some situation in current events, preferably using insights gained from course readings. Five pages. (15%)

*An analytical* research paper focusing on course readings. Ten pages. (30%)

Team discussion leading: 10%

Groups of students will lead discussions on the literary works.

Participation: 20%

Everyone needs to contribute to the class discussion.

Final: 10%

This is your chance to demonstrate that you have read all the required texts and know what they are about.

Attendance: is crucial to the liberal arts experience. After three unexcused absences, I will lower your overall grade by a letter. Excused absences are only those that the Dean of Students issues, for certain approved curricular and extracurricular activities and for sickness or family emergencies. In all cases, a note from the Dean of Students is necessary for an absence to count as excused.

Lateness: Papers are due on Fridays before the office in Mem closes, which is generally between 4 and 5. If you hand a paper in on Monday, it will be marked down by a half a grade; an additional half grade will come off the paper for each subsequent day of lateness.

Required Books:

- Simone de Beauvoir. The Second Sex. Trans. by H.M. Parshley. New York: Knopf, 1952.
- Audre Lorde. Zami: A New Spelling of My Name. A Biomythography. Freedom: Crossing Press, 1982.
- Judith Butler. Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Gender Identity. New York: Routledge, 1999.
- Elfriede Jelinek. The Piano Teacher. Trans. by Joachim Neugroschel. New York: Serpent's Tail, 1989.
- James Baldwin. Giovanni's Room. New York: Delta, 2000.
- The Masculinity Studies Reader. Ed. by Rachel Adams and David Savran. Malden, Massachusetts: Blackwell, 2002.
- Plus: Oz. Available on DVD on reserve in the library.

**Syllabus**

Sept. 3	Intro
Sept. 5	<u>The Second Sex</u> : "Author's Introduction," Chapter XII, Chapter XIII
Sept. 10	<u>The Second Sex</u> : Chapter XIV, Chapter XV
Sept. 12	<u>The Second Sex</u> : Chapter XVI, Chapter XVII
Sept. 17	<u>The Second Sex</u> : Chapter XVIII, Chapter XIX
Sept. 19	<u>The Second Sex</u> : Chapter XX, Chapter XXI
Sept. 24	<u>Zami</u> , pp. 3-71
Sept. 26	<u>Zami</u> , pp. 71-142
Oct. 1	<u>Zami</u> , pp. 143-199
Oct. 3	<u>Zami</u> , pp. 199-256
Oct. 4	<i>Personal paper due</i>
Oct. 8	<u>Gender Trouble</u> , pp. 3-22
Oct. 10	<u>Gender Trouble</u> , pp. 22-44
Oct. 15	[Break]
Oct. 17	<u>Gender Trouble</u> , pp. 181-190
Oct. 22	<u>The Piano Teacher</u> , pp. 3-56
Oct. 24	<u>The Piano Teacher</u> , pp. 56-109
Oct. 29	<u>The Piano Teacher</u> , pp. 113-212
Oct. 31	<u>The Piano Teacher</u> , pp. 212-280
Nov. 1	<i>Political paper due</i>

- Nov. 5            Psychoanalysis and Masculinity:  
 Freud, "Some Psychological Consequences of the Anatomical Distinction  
 between the Sexes," The Masculinity Studies Reader  
 Kaja Silverman, "Masochism and Male Subjectivity," The Masculinity  
 Studies Reader
- Nov. 7            [Tobin out of town]
- Nov. 12           Blackness and Gender:  
 Fritz Fanzon, "The Fact of Blackness," The Masculinity Studies Reader  
 Kobena Mercer, "Skin Head Sex Thing: Racial Difference and the  
 Homoerotic Imaginary," The Masculinity Studies Reader
- Nov. 14           Race and Gender:  
 Richard Dyer, "The White Man's Muscles," The Masculinity Studies  
 Reader  
 Daniel Boyarin, "What Does a Jew Want? Or, The Political Meaning of  
 the Phallus," The Masculinity Studies Reader
- Nov. 15           OZ-ATHON:  
 Afternoon and evening (and optional overnight) at the Johnston  
 Wilderness Campus. Watch and discuss the HBO series "Oz."
- Nov. 19           [Cancelled because of Oz-Athon]  
 Nov. 21           [Cancelled because of Oz-Athon]
- [Thanksgiving Break]
- Dec. 3            Giovanni's Room, pp. 3-71  
 Dec. 5            Giovanni's Room, pp. 75-118
- Dec. 10           Giovanni's Room, pp. 119-169  
 Dec. 12           Halberstam, "An Introduction to Female Masculinity," in The Masculinity  
 Studies Reader  
 Dec. 13           *Analytic paper due*
- Dec. 18           Final, 2-4