

ENGL 212-26: Topics in Critical Writing
Writing about Gender Issues
Winter 2013 – Tu/Th 1:00-2:20pm – B 126

Professor: Dr. Kim Lacey

In-person office hours: M/W 12-2 pm
and by appointment

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Course questions: What is gender? Is there harm in defining gender? Does a definition limit personal understanding? What does it mean to identify with one or more genders? How can we talk about gender? What vocabulary can we use?

Required Texts to Purchase:

(These texts have been ordered at the bookstore, but feel free to shop around online for the cheapest price.)

Gender Outlaws: The Next Generation by Kate Bornstein and S. Bear Bergman (978-1580053082)

Gaga Feminism: Sex, Gender, and the End of Normal by J. Jack Halberstam (978-0807010983)

Middlesex by Jeffrey Eugenides (978-0312427733)

Cloud 9 by Caryl Churchill (978-1559360999)

Additional handouts, readings, and other materials distributed in-class or on VSpace (These are free, but if you want to print them out make sure to factor in printing costs into your book budget.)

Films watched in class:

Juno

Orchids: My Intersex Adventure

Play in the Gray

Course Requirements:

Mid-term exam (20%): These exams will evaluate your ability to demonstrate your understanding of important information from class lectures, our discussions, reading, and viewing, as well as your capacity to make connections between the texts that we have read and watched. These exams will be primarily in essay format.

Group Presentation and Paper: 3-5 pages (20%): Detailed on handout

Interpretive Analysis Paper: 5-6 pages (20%): Detailed on handout

Reading/Viewing Journal (25%): You will be keeping a reading journal for this class. For each reading, you will make an entry in your blog on VSpace (we'll set these up in class).

These entries must be a minimum of a half-page, single-spaced. Your entry should note thoughts or questions about the assigned text, connections with other texts we've read, ideas that might be useful for future papers, etc. Your journal entries must be completed outside of class and by the start of every class period because these will be useful points for class discussions. Your journal will be assessed for its detailed understanding of the texts, connections to other texts and conversations, and style.

Professionalism (15%): As a member of this course, you are responsible for participating responsibly. This means coming to each class with the reading completed and with interesting ideas to contribute to our conversation. Confusion is welcomed! Don't feel that you have to understand everything—being a professional member of a group includes understanding that learning is a process. In addition, you should show up on time and respect others' opinions while in class. Opinions of all kinds are welcome, but disrespect will not be tolerated.

Grading Scale

↑95%: A

↑90%: A-

↑87%: B+

↑83%: B

↑80%: B-

↑77%: C+

↑73%: C

↑60%: D

0%: F

Course Policies

The decision to take this course is yours, but once you make that decision, you have responsibilities to everyone else in this community of learners. It is your responsibility to abide by the following course policies in order to contribute to our classroom's productivity.

Attendance: It is in your best interest to attend class regularly. Attendance means much more than simply showing up to class. Attendance in ENGL 212 means being present in class through active participation, sharing insightful ideas, completing homework, and willingness to ask questions. Attendance will be taken during each class meeting. **You are allowed two free absences. On your third absence, 2% will be deducted from your final grade. On your fourth absence, and additional 4% will be deducted from your final grade. If you miss more than four classes, you will be asked to drop and/or fail this course.** Please find a classmate and exchange e-mail addresses.

In case you miss class, it is your responsibility to contact a classmate to find out what you missed. My office hours will not be used as a “make-up” class period.

Situations that Count as Absences:

- Arriving more than 10 minutes late or leaving more than 10 minutes early
- Coming to class unprepared to participate

E-mail: Check your e-mail daily. It’s the university’s official mode of communication, and there is no excuse why you shouldn’t check it often. You need to have internet access for this course. Our campus is wireless and many other locations off campus also have free Wi-Fi, so be sure to take advantage. If you are having difficulty connecting, make sure you call my office (989-964-2016). Not having access is not an excuse.

Grade postings: All grades will be posted on VSpace.

Prerequisite: All reading and writing Basic Skills requirements must be completed before enrolling in this course.

Technology Policy: I encourage you to use whatever note taking system you prefer. If, however, you choose to use a personal computing device, you are asked that it be used for class work only. Phones must be turned to silent during class time. If you are expecting an important phone call during class, please sit near the door so you can leave the room without disrupting others. I understand the need to feel connected, so cell phones are not banned in our class. However, you are required to be an active member of our learning community. If you feel that you can multi-task effectively and participate in class discussions, then feel free to do so. Just be aware that I will call on people at random if the discussion is dead. If you are not prepared to participate because you are distracted, this may affect your final professionalism grade.

Late Work: Late work is unacceptable. Please ensure that your work is submitted on time. The deadlines are clearly marked on all assignments and on the syllabus. If you know a due date conflicts with something outside of class, plan ahead and submit your assignment early. I will send a confirmation e-mail by 8 am the next morning. If you do not receive a confirmation e-mail, I did not receive your paper.

Disability and Non-Discrimination Clause: Students with disabilities which may restrict their full participation in course activities are encouraged to meet with the instructor or contact the SVSU Office of Disability Services, Curtis Hall, Room C-112, Phone: 989-964-4168. SVSU does not discriminate based on race, religion, color, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, age, physical impairment, disability, or veteran status in the provision of education, employment, and other services.

Academic Integrity Policy: According to the *SVSU Student Handbook*, “Academic integrity is undermined whenever one is dishonest in the pursuit of knowledge.

Dishonesty takes many forms, including cheating, plagiarism, and other activities for undermining the educational process.

“**Cheating** occurs whenever one attempts to gain an advantage through a violation of rules regarding the relevant behavior. It should be assumed that collaboration is cheating unless explicitly authorized” (16).

“**Plagiarism** involves intentionally or unintentionally presenting another person’s expressions – ideas, opinions, illustrations, data, style – as one’s own expression” (16).

Forms of plagiarism include directly transcribing (copying) without quotation and attribution, summarizing without attribution, paraphrasing or patchwork paraphrasing without attribution, patching electronic materials (including pictures, graphs, and/or charts) without attribution.

In ENGL 212 deliberate plagiarism or cheating in any form will result in the grade of zero (0) for the entire assignment and will be reported to the Academic Conduct Board for further sanctions.

In ENGL 212, any student who engages in any of these behaviors that undermine the educational process will be asked to leave the class immediately, and lose any possible credit for that class period. To return to the class, the student will be required to schedule a meeting with the instructor to discuss his or her plans for modifying their behavior in question.

Writing Center Information: One of the many advantages of this University is the Writing Center. You are strongly encouraged to meet with a tutor to discuss your writing. Sessions at the Writing Center are available on a first come, first serve basis. Please stop by the Writing Center anytime you need additional help.

Writing Center Hours: M-R 9am-7pm; F 10am-2pm

Location: Zahnow 308 (3rd floor of the library)

Phone: 989-964-6061

Website: www.svsu.edu/writingcenter

Reading/Viewing Schedule and Major Deadlines

Reading: All reading must be completed before class

Viewing: All viewing will take place in class

Deadlines: Papers due by midnight going into the next day (Example: midnight Tu → Wed)

Important note: This schedule is subject to changes. If changes are made, you will be notified in class and in writing via e-mail.

Date	Reading/Viewing/Deadline
Tu 1/14	Intro to course
Th 1/16	Details; introductions
Tu 1/22	<i>Gaga Feminism (GF)</i> : Preface-Ch. 2
Th 1/24	<i>GF</i> : Ch. 3
Tu 1/29	<i>GF</i> : Ch. 4-end
Th 1/31	Group work day
Tu 2/5	Start <i>Juno</i>
Th 2/7	Finish <i>Juno</i>
Tu 2/12	<i>Gender Outlaws (GO)</i> : Parts 1 & 2 Presentations: Group 1, Group 2
Th 2/14	<i>GO</i> : Part 3 Presentation: Group 3
Tu 2/19	<i>GO</i> : Parts 4 & 5 Presentations: Group 4, Group 5
Th 2/21	Gender Studies in the Media—showcase Group Paper: Due
Tu 2/26	Discussion Groups: Study Day
Th 2/28	Mid-Term Exam
Tu 3/5	Spring Break
Th 3/7	Spring Break
Tu 3/12	<i>Middlesex</i> : Book 1
Th 3/14	<i>Middlesex</i> : Henry Ford-Marriage on Ice
Tu 3/19	<i>Middlesex</i> : Tricknology-Opa!
Th 3/21	<i>Middlesex</i> : Middlesex-Gun on the Wall
Tu 3/26	<i>Middlesex</i> : Book 4 (end)
Th 3/28	Watch <i>Orchids: My Intersex Adventure</i>
Tu 4/2	<i>Cloud 9</i> : Act I
Th 4/4	<i>Cloud 9</i> : Act II
Tu 4/9	Scheduled Conferences
Th 4/11	Scheduled Conferences
Tu 4/16	Start watching <i>Play in the Gray</i>
Th 4/18	Finish watching <i>Play in the Gray</i>
Tu 4/23	TBD
Th 4/25	Discussion Groups: Study Day
Th 5/2	Interpretive Analysis Paper Due