

**GS 100\*01: Introduction to Gender Studies**  
**Fall 2014 – 2:30-3:50 – SE 123**

**Professor:** Dr. Kim Lacey (please, call me Kim!)

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

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**Course hashtag:** #GSF14

**Course questions:** Is gender a performance? 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?

**Course Style:** This course will be conducted as a seminar, meaning you are expected to come to class ready to participate. There will be very few lectures—your inquiry, confusion, and interests will drive our in-class conversations. Be ready to talk each day we meet.

**Course Description:** Core course for gender studies minor. An analysis of the significance of gender in our culture, from the perspectives of communication, English, history, philosophy, political science, psychology, sociology. GS 100 is a Category 10 course, meaning part of our goals will be to write effective, researched academic texts in English.

**Prerequisite:** ENGL 111

**Credits:** 3 cr

**General Education:** Category 10

**A note about the content of our course:** We will be dealing with very complex and mature subject matters this semester. A lot of the content we read and watch will be *profane, graphic, violent, and sexually explicit*. If such topics bother or deeply offend you, this is probably not a course that best fits your needs. Please know that I do not expect you to agree with everything we discuss, but I do ask that you have an open mind and engage with the texts in an appropriately professional and academic manner.

**Required Texts to Purchase (listed in order of use):** These texts have been ordered at the bookstore, but feel free to shop around online for the cheapest price.)

Killerman, *The Social Justice Advocate's Handbook: A Guide to Gender* (ISBN: 978-0989760201)

Foss, Dominico, and Foss, *Gender Stories* (ISBN: 978-1577667919)

Colapinto, *As Nature Made Him* (ISBN: 978-0061120565)

Ames, *Sexual Metamorphosis: An Anthology of Transsexual Memoirs* (ISBN: 978-1400030149)

Additional handouts, readings, and other materials distributed in-class or on Canvas

**Films, episodes, etc. watched in class:**

*Paris is Burning*

*Milk* (excerpts)

*The Laramie Project*

*The Rocky Horror Picture Show*

**One of the following texts for the Sexual Metamorphosis paper (all on hold at Zahnnow Library):**

Richard von Krafft-Ebing, *Psychopathia Sexualis*

Lili Elbe, *The Danish Girl; Man into Woman* (ed. Niels Hoyer)

Christine Jorgensen, *A Personal Autobiography*

Jan Morris, *Conundrum*

Mario Martino, *Emergence*

Renee Richards, *Second Serve; No Way Renee*

Caroline Cossey, *My Story*

Loren Cameron, *Body Alchemy*

Mark Rees, *Dear Sir or Madam*

Deirdre McCloskey, *Crossing*

Aleshia Brevard, *The Woman I Was Not Born to Be; The Woman I Was Born to Be*

Calpernia Sarah Addams, *Mark 947*

Donna Rose, *Wrapped in Blue*

Jennifer Finney Boylan, *She's Not There*

**Course Requirements:**

3 Artifact Analyses: 12% each (36% total)

1 8-10 Minute Artifact Analysis Presentation: 10%

Sexual Metamorphosis Paper: 12%

Quizzes (including pop quizzes): 15%

Discussion Questions (see below): 16%

Professional in-class work ethic (see below): 11%

*Discussion Questions:* For 10 of our class meetings (a little less than once per week), prepare at least two questions (20 total for the semester) you have about the material. Questions will be used as the basis for our discussion of the readings. These questions must be submitted to the appropriate discussion board on Canvas by the beginning of class. I will accept no more than two questions per week (one of each kind), thus you must be proactive and not wait until the end of the semester to submit all 20 questions.

One question should focus on fact or understanding. I refer to these as “content questions.” Post your questions to the "Content Questions" discussion board.

Questions of this type might be:

- “I don’t understand \_\_\_\_\_”
- “What is meant by \_\_\_\_\_”?
- “Can someone explain the background of \_\_\_\_\_ to me”?

The second question should focus on the application or extension of a concept or theory. I refer to these as “philosophical or deeper meaning questions.” Post your questions to the "Philosophical/Deeper Meaning" discussion board.

Questions of this type might be:

- “Who is included or excluded from this perspective on \_\_\_\_ and what difference does that make”?
- “How does the concept of \_\_\_\_\_ alter our understanding of social construction”?
- “What examples of this concept do we see in the world around us”?

*Professional In-Class Work Ethic:* 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 GS 100 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 SVSU 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 Canvas.

**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. You are highly encouraged to Tweet during class with our course hashtag: #GSF14. 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 GS 100 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 GS 100, 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 (3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the library)  
Phone: 989-964-6061

Website: [www.svsu.edu/writingcenter](http://www.svsu.edu/writingcenter)

## Course Schedule

All readings must be done before class

This schedule might change. If it does, I will notify you in class and in writing.

Date	Reading	In-class discussion topic
Part I: Understanding Gender		
M, 8/25	Intro to course In-class: "Understanding the Complexities of Gender"	Gender: much more than male and female
W, 8/27	Introductions  <i>Social Justice Advocate's Handbook (SJAH):</i> 1-11	Social justice
M, 9/1 (no class)		
W, 9/3	SJAH: 12-44	Cycle of oppression Privilege
M, 9/8	Gender Stories (GS): 1-30	Story Identity Binary Agency
W, 9/10	GS: 53-80 Sign up for Artifact Analysis Presentation	Breaking through the binary
M, 9/15	GS: 106-136 From <i>He's a Stud, She's a Slut</i> (distributed in-class)	Gender stories in pop culture Stereotypes
W, 9/17	"Men and Masculinity" (article on Canvas)	Men and masculinity
M, 9/22	SJAH: 49-59; 72-79	Genderbread person

**Artifact Analysis #1: Due on Canvas by  
11:59 pm**

W, 9/24	SJAH: 81-105 Begin Artifact Presentations	Gender expression Gender identity Biological sex Attraction
M, 9/29	SJAH: 107-140	Gender identities Trans*
W, 10/1	SJAH: 200-211	Inclusive language
Part II: Histories of LGBT Communities, Movements, and Influence		
M, 10/6	In-class: Begin watching <i>The Laramie Project</i>	Gender and violence
W, 10/8	In-class: Finish watching <i>The Laramie Project</i> "What You Need to Know about HCPA" (article on Canvas) "Hate Crimes Bill to be Signed" (link on Canvas) "Jason Collins to Wear 98" (link on Canvas)	Hate Crimes
M, 10/13	In-Class: Begin watching <i>Paris is Burning</i>	NY Balls Vogue
W, 10/15	In-Class: Finish Watching <i>Paris is Burning</i> "Reality Realness" (link on Canvas) "The Music and Meaning of <i>Paris is Burning</i> " (link on Canvas) "Revisiting <i>Paris is Burning</i> " (link on Canvas)	The influence of the balls

**Artifact Analysis #2: Due on Canvas by  
11:59 pm**

M, 10/20	In-Class: Watch selections from <i>Milk</i> "The Hope Speech" (article on Canvas) "That's What America Is" (article on Canvas)	Harvey Milk LGBT Politicians
W, 10/22	From <i>Stonewall</i> (excerpt on Canvas)	Stonewall Uprising

## Intermission

M, 10/27 In-class: Start watching *Rocky Horror Picture Show*

W, 10/29 “Postmodern Gay Dionysus: Dr. Frank N. Furter” (article on Canvas)

In-class: Finish watching *Rocky Horror*

## Part III: Health, Sexual Assault, Prevention

M, 11/3 Guest Speaker: Jenna Briggs Title IX  
“Rape: The Crisis in Higher Education”  
(article on Canvas)

W, 11/5 Guest Speaker: Sara Martinez Peer Health

M, 11/10 “Sexual Harassment Comic” (link on Canvas) Discrimination and Harassment

W, 11/12 From *And the Band Played On* (excerpt on Canvas) AIDS

**Artifact Analysis #3: Due on Canvas by 11:59 pm**

## Part IV: Case Studies

M, 11/17 Discuss Sexual Metamorphosis paper “A Game of Science Fiction”  
*As Nature Made Him* (ANMH): Part I (3-107)

W, 11/19 ANMH: 111-141 “To Know My Birth”

M, 11/24 In-class discussion of texts for Sexual Metamorphosis paper Personal stories  
**\*\*If you have one of the books checked out from the library, please bring it with you today**

W, 11/26  
(no class)

M, 12/1 ANMH: 142-231 “To Know My Birth” (con’t)



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W, 12/3      ANMH: 231-289 (end)      “As Nature Made Him”  
(last day  
of class)

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M, 12/8      Sexual Metamorphosis Paper: Due on  
Canvas by 11:59 pm