

ENGL 212: Topics in Critical Writing
Writing about Feminism
Winter 2016 – M/W 2:30-3:50 pm – M: SE 206, W: SE 139

Professor: Dr. Kim Lacey (please, call me Kim!)
In-person office hours: M/W 12-2 pm
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Course hashtag: #212W16

Course Questions: What is feminism? What does it mean to call oneself a “feminist”? Does feminism help or hurt women? Does feminism help or hurt men? Is being a “bad feminist” better than not being one?

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.

Service-learning component: A major part of our coursework this semester will be focused on a service-learning project: organizing and growing a clothing closet at Windover High School in Midland. The purpose of a service-learning project is to invite you to inquire deeply into why things are the way they are and to challenge yourself to imagine ways that things might be different. We will discuss this in detail in class throughout the semester. You will be responsible to travel to Windover at least once throughout the semester.

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. Some of the material we will be discussing is highly sensitive and incredibly personal. Please note that you are never under any circumstance expected to self-disclose any information you do not want to. As a member of this class, you must also respect others who do self-disclose information (this includes but is not limited to sexual orientation, gender identification, social and personal experiences, etc.). Confidentiality is an important aspect of our classroom experience.

Texts:

Gay, *Bad Feminist* (ISBN: 978-0062282712)
Tanenbaum, *I Am Not a Slut* (ISBN: 978-0062282590)
Additional texts are located on Canvas under “Pages” → “Readings”

Assignments (assignment details are on Canvas under the “Assignments” tab):

Interview assignment: 10%
Service-learning proposal: 10%
Service-learning reflection: 12%
Service-learning presentation: 10%

Service-learning project participation: 12%
Clothing survey: 18% (6% each part)
Inspiring moments report: 10%
Inspiring moments presentation: 8%
In-class professional work ethic: 10%

Grading Scale

↑95%: A
↑90%: A-
↑87%: B+
↑83%: B
↑80%: B-
↑77%: C+
↑73%: C
↑60%: D
0%: F

Special note on the grading scale: SVSU does not assign C-, D+, D- grades. Anything below a 73% will result in a D. Anything below a 60% will result in a F.

Special note about professional in-class work ethic: Full credit requires that you show thorough preparation and focused participation in all required activities, arrive to class prepared with your work completed. Although I do not take attendance in this course, you are *required* to arrive on time. If you arrive more than 15 minutes late, you will be asked to leave the class for the day. It is disrespectful to me and to your classmates. If you cannot respect your classmates and me by showing up on time, then you are not welcome to participate in that day's activities. I do notice when you're not in class. If missing class becomes a regular habit, your professional in-class work ethic grade will be effected.

Special note about extra credit and extensions: I do not give extra credit or extensions. Please complete all assignments to the best of your capabilities on time.

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. 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. You will miss something each class you do not attend. Do not email me asking "Did I miss anything?" because the answer

will always be “Yes.” You need to take responsibility for your actions—absences included. My office hours will not be used as a “make-up” class period.

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 Canvas. I will not share grades on social media.

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 and not for homework for your other classes. 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. If Canvas is not working, please email me your paper. I will not accept the excuse that you couldn’t log on to Canvas.

Drafts: I encourage you to submit drafts of your papers to me via email for feedback. I will accept drafts up to 48 hours before the due date. I will provide feedback, but I will not give a “grade” on a draft.

Special note about in-class work: Because a lot of our writing will take place in class, you are expected to participate. I will only allow you to make up work for extenuating circumstances and only if you provide sufficient documentation by the next class meeting.

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 and will be reported to the Academic Conduct Board for further sanctions.

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

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

Course Schedule

All readings must be done before class

All readings not in our textbook are linked on Canvas (“Pages” → “Readings”)

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

Date	Readings, etc.	Assignment due
Part I: Where We’re at and How We Got Here		
M, 1/11	Introduction to course	
W, 1/13	Introductions Review syllabus details Course questions Introduce Interview assignment	
M, 1/18	No class: University Closed	
W, 1/20	Watch in-class: “We Should All be Feminists” Siegel, “The Movement That Has No Name” Introduce service-learning (SL) project	

	Introduce inspiring moments research	
M, 1/25	Introduce clothing survey Select groups for SL Begin planning work for SL project	Interview assignment
W, 1/27	Watch in-class: Schumer, <i>Inside Amy Schumer</i> , "Last F**kable Day"; "Girl You Don't Need Make-up" Ansari <i>Master of None</i> , "Ladies and Gentlemen" <i>Portlandia</i> , "All Male Feminist Support Group"	
M, 2/1	Inspiring moments presentations: Part 1	Inspiring moments presentations
W, 2/3	Inspiring moments presentations: Part 2	Inspiring moments presentations Inspiring moments report
M, 2/8	In-class work day: SL project Clothing Survey: Discussion	Clothing Survey: Questions 1-29
W, 2/10	No Class: Kim's at a conference Use time to work on SL proposals	
Part II: Is being a Bad Feminist better than not being a Feminist?		
M, 2/15	Bad Feminist (BF): [Intro]-[Me] (1-46)	SL proposal
W, 2/17	BF: "How to be Friends with Another Woman"- "Not Here to Make Friends" (47-95)	
M, 2/22	BF: "How We All Lose"- "The Trouble with Prince Charming" (96-206)	
W, 2/24	BF: [Race and Entertainment] (207-256)	
M, 2/29	BF: [Politics, Gender & Race] (257-302) Introduce Pop Culture Syllabus Assignment	
W, 3/2	BF: [Back to Me] (303-318) Clothing Survey discussion	Clothing Survey: Questions 30-59
M, 3/7	No class: Spring Break	
W, 3/9	No class: Spring Break	
Part III: Representations and Reputations		
M, 3/14	Begin watching <i>Mona Lisa Smile</i>	
W, 3/16	Finish watching <i>Mona Lisa Smile</i>	
M, 3/21	Tanenbaum: Chs. 1-3 (1-106)	
W, 3/23	Tanenbaum: Ch. 4 (107-140)	
M, 3/28	No class: SL work day	
W, 3/30	Tanenbaum: Chs. 5-6 (141-238)	
M, 4/4	Begin watching <i>Miss Representation</i>	
W, 4/6	Finish watching <i>Miss Representation</i>	
M, 4/11	Tanenbaum: Chs. 7-8 (239-304)	Clothing Survey: Questions 60-87
W, 4/13	Tanenbaum: Chs. 9-Appendix C (305-352)	

M, 4/18	SL Presentations: Groups 1 & 2	SL Presentations: Groups 1 & 2
W, 4/20	SL Presentations: Group 3	SL Presentations: Group 3
M, 4/25	Exam week: No Class	SL Reflection