

Gender, Health, and Medicine

Spring 2010

Women's Studies 3394 #26487

History 3390 #26653

Sociology 3341 #26807

Classroom: LART 210
Class time: MW 1:30-2:50
Instructor: Ann Gabbert, PhD
Office: UGLC 206
Office Hours: M 3:00-4:15, T 10:30-12:00 and by appointment
Phone: 747-5329 You may leave messages on my voice mail but it is better to contact me by email.
Email: agabbert@utep.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines health issues from the eighteenth to twentieth century, not only from the perspective of patients but also of healers. The first unit will concentrate primarily on women's health issues, while the second unit explores women and men as health care providers. The final unit considers public health policy and the role gender plays in the cultural construction of diseases and their treatment. All of these topics will be explored from the perspective of race, class, and ethnic diversity.

The course will be primarily readings and discussion with short lectures.

Objectives and Goals: Students will be introduced to the concepts of social construction of illness and of difference. Students will explore the relationships between culture and medical knowledge, and learn how value-laden categories can become embedded in medical thought and practice. Students will develop skills of critical thinking about those categories through the study of historical examples that shape our perceptions of gender, health, and medicine.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

Judith Walzer Leavitt, ed., *Women and Health in America*, 2nd edition.

Susan Sontag, *Illness as Metaphor and AIDS and its Metaphors*.

Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*. (recommended)

The books are available at the University Bookstore. There will also be a required document reader. Purchase books during the first week of classes; otherwise the bookstore may have returned the books to the publisher.

Students with Disabilities: Please be aware that the Disabled Student Services (Union East, room 106, 747-5148) provides a program of support and advocacy services to students with disabilities. If you have or suspect a disability and need an accommodation you should contact Disabled Student Services Office (DSSO) at 747-5148 or at dss@utep.edu or go to Room 106 Union East Building. I am happy to work with you and the office of Disabled Student Services.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING:

Undergraduates:

Participation, quizzes, group work, homework, and Blackboard:	325 points
Advertisement Assignment (writing assg. #1):	100 points
SAR #1	100 points
SAR #2	100 points
Self-Assessment (3@25 points)	75 points
Final exam	300 points
Point total	1000 points

A=900-1000; B=800-899; C=700-799; D=600-699; F= below 600

Graduate Students: please see me for information on course requirements.

1. Students are expected to attend every class and to be fully prepared each day to discuss the reading assignments. Because the discussion of the readings is a major component of this course, you will be graded on your preparation for and involvement in class. I will evaluate your participation by how well you talk about your ideas, listen and respond to others' ideas, remain sensitive to the feelings of other class members, and take responsibility for moving the class discussion forward.
2. **Blackboard Discussions:** This will be a technologically enhanced course using Blackboard. **All students** should be on the Blackboard for **WS 3394 #26487**. Please confirm that and if you don't have access, contact me. If you need assistance with Blackboard, please contact the Help Desk. There will be approximately 15 Blackboard discussion questions/**tickets to class (TC)** throughout the semester. These questions will require an initial posting with a minimum of 100 words (10 points each) and a minimum of 50 word response to one of your fellow student's postings (5 points each). Responses must be posted by 3:00 pm on the due date for full credit. Partial credit for late postings is at the discretion of the instructor. Students **MUST** get a UTEP e-mail account and check it before class meetings.
3. **Participation points including Tickets to Class, "expert witness," homework, and in class discussions:** Student's preparation for classes will be tested in various ways during the course. These will all count as part of your participation grade. Evaluation of participation may include RATs (Readiness Assessment Tests), quizzes, writing a one-paragraph paper on the common theme in a group of readings, writing discussion questions for a set of readings, "tickets to class," etc. These brief assignments including writing discussion questions and analyzing readings will be announced either on Blackboard or in class and will be due in class for discussion. Blackboard TC postings are due before class begins. At each class meeting, approximately 4 students will be chosen at random to be "expert witnesses." These students will be called upon first to answer questions. If you are not present on the day you are an "expert witness" you will lose participation points.
4. **Writing assignment #1 (100 points). Due Feb. 15. Magazine/Television advertisements Assignment.** Students are required to prepare a 2-3 page analysis of gender depictions in a popular magazine or television advertisements on a health subject. Suggestions: prescription medicines, over the counter medicines, feminine hygiene, diets. These are not the only possibilities. Ask me if you are unsure whether your idea fits the topic.

5. **Summary, Analysis, Response (2 @ 100 points each).** The SAR should include, in more or less equal parts, a concise and accurate summary of one of the topics covered which includes what you read in the texts and what you learned in class, an analysis of the reading material, and personal response to that material (what stood out, what was difficult or confusing). **Due March 8, April 14.**

6. **Final worth 300 points. May 12, 4-6:45. The final exam** gives you the opportunity to demonstrate your understanding of the readings and the concepts of social/cultural construction of gender, health, and medicine. Further information will be given in class.
Attendance on the day of the final is mandatory. The only exception for attendance shall be in the case of a student who has a conflict (three finals in one day, or two finals at the exact same time) in his or her final exam schedule. I must be notified three weeks before the final if you have this conflict. No adjustments will be made to the finals schedule for individual convenience, so check your finals schedule early in the semester and adjust other plans (work, travel, etc.) accordingly.

7. **ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS ON THE DUE DATE. WORK HANDED IN AFTER CLASS ON THE DUE DATE WILL BE PENALIZED ½ LETTER GRADE (5 PTS). LATE WORK WILL HAVE AN ADDITIONAL FULL LETTER GRADE DEDUCTED FOR CLASS MEETING LATE THEREAFTER (10 PTS).** Late homework will not be accepted. Do not put late work under the door to my office. Any assignment may be handed in early.

GENERAL FORMAT OF ASSIGNMENTS

Format of Written Work: All written assignments done outside of class must be typed using black ink, 12 pt. font, 1 inch margins, double-spaced, on white paper, and stapled in the upper left-hand corner. Write as clearly as possible. Your work will be evaluated for both content and composition so be sure to use a spell checker and watch for errors in grammar and form. Keep hard copies of all your assignments. Notes and in-class work must be legible.

IMPORTANT DUE DATES

Writing Assignment #1	Feb. 15
SRA #1	March 8
SRA #2	April 14
Final exam	May 12 (4:00 pm – 6:45 pm)

CLASS POLICIES

It is ***your responsibility*** to be aware of all the policies and information in this syllabus. If there is anything you do not understand, ask me.

1. **Attendance and participation** in class are required. Students are expected to attend every class and to be fully prepared each day to discuss the reading assignments. Students are responsible for all material presented during classes and in the readings. Students who must miss a class need to make special efforts to learn what occurred during their absence. Unavoidable absences that are properly documented may be excused at the discretion of the instructor. There are no makeups for in-class assignments or homework. Unsatisfactory attendance consists of absences, tardiness, leaving the classroom early, or coming to class unprepared to participate (without texts or assignments). If you have compiled a total of six instances of unsatisfactory attendance, you may be dropped from the course with a ‘W’ before the drop deadline or fail the course after the drop deadline at the discretion

of the instructor. If you are having medical problems or other documented problems with attendance, please see the instructor.

2. **Classroom conduct:** Students must conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to a university classroom. Each student is responsible for notice of and compliance with the provisions of the Regents [Rules and Regulations](#), which are available for inspection electronically at <http://www.utsystem.edu/bor/rules/homepage.htm>. Any behavior that is distracting to other students or to the instructor is strictly out of order. This includes arriving late to class and leaving early except in extreme emergencies. I will evaluate your participation by how well you talk about your ideas, listen and respond to others' ideas, remain sensitive to the feelings of other class members, and take responsibility for moving the class discussion forward.
3. **Technology in classroom including Cell Phones, Other Wireless Devices (PDAs, MP3 players, SmartPhones etc. and Laptops):** Set your phone to mute or silent mode before coming to class. Do not answer incoming calls or make outgoing calls. Do not use text messaging or web browser features while in class. The necessity of classroom interaction in this course negates the usefulness of laptops as a note-taking device. The use of your laptop during class can also prove distracting to your classmates, so please refrain from using your laptop during class.
4. **April 2, 2010** is the last day to withdraw from any course with an automatic "W". If you drop the class after this deadline and have an F average, you will receive an "F".
5. A student can earn a maximum of 60 extra credit points. These options will be announced in class or on Blackboard.
6. **Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism:** Academic dishonesty is a very serious matter. The UTEP Undergraduate Catalog includes this warning: "Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or any attempt to commit such acts." In the process of research and writing, you may mistakenly use other people's words and sentences as if they were your own. **DO NOT DO THIS.** Even if this is an honest mistake, it is plagiarism. Students suspected of violations will be referred to the Dean of Students for adjudication. **Scholastic Dishonesty:** [From the Handbook of Operating Procedures: Student Affairs] It is the official policy of the University that all suspected cases or acts of alleged scholastic dishonesty must be referred to the Dean of Students for investigation and appropriate disposition. It is contrary to University policy for a faculty member to assign a disciplinary grade such as an "F" or zero to an assignment, test, examination, or other course work as a sanction for admitted or suspected scholastic dishonesty in lieu of normally charging the student through the Dean of Students. Similarly, students are prohibited from proposing and/or entering into an arrangement with a faculty member to receive a grade of "F" or any reduced grade in lieu of being charged with scholastic dishonesty. Any student who commits an act of scholastic dishonesty is subject to discipline. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts. **Plagiarism:** [From the Handbook of Operating Procedures: Student Affairs] "Plagiarism" means the appropriation, buying, receiving as a gift, or obtaining by any means another's work and the unacknowledged submission or incorporation of it in one's own academic work offered for credit, or using work in a paper or assignment for which the student had received credit in another course without direct permission of all involved instructors.

COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Part one: Women's Health Issues

Week 1	Jan. 20	Introduction to Gender, Health, and Medicine
Week 2	Jan. 25	Readings on Gender, Health, and Medicine
	Jan. 27	Readings on Gender, Health, and Medicine cont.
Week 3	Feb. 1	Gender Roles, Sex, and Marketing
	Feb. 3	Life cycles: Menstruation and fertility
Week 4	Feb. 8	Life Cycles: Infertility and Menopause
	Feb. 10	Body images
Week 5	Feb. 15	Body images cont.
		Writing assignment #1 due
	Feb. 17	Body images cont.
Week 6	Feb. 22	Birth Control – 17 th , 18 th , and 19 th century
	Feb. 24	Birth Control – 20 th century
Week 7	March 1	Childbirth in 17 th – 19 th centuries
	March 3	Childbirth in 20 th century

Part two: Healers and the question of gender stereotypes in the medical profession

Week 8	March 8	Midwives
		SRA #1 due on Women's Health Issues
	March 10	Nurses and the question of gender/bias
March 15-19 Spring Break		
Week 9	March 22	Physicians
	March 24	Physicians

Part three: Public health and Role of gender/race in the cultural construction of diseases

Week 10	March 29	Women, Health Reform, and Public Health
	March 31	No Class – Caesar Chavez Day
	April 2	Drop Day
Week 11	April 5	Public Health and cultural construction of diseases
	April 7	Public Health cont.
Week 12	April 12	Public Health cont.
	April 14	Public Health cont.
		SRA #2 due on Healers, health care providers, public health
Week 13	April 19	Public Health cont.
	April 21	Venereal diseases and STDs
Week 14	April 26	Venereal diseases and STDs cont.
	April 28	Tuskegee Syphilis Study
Week 15	May 3	AIDS
	May 5	Windup and Review
Week 16	May 12	Final exam 4:00 pm – 6:45 pm