

## COM300: COMMUNICATING GENDER THROUGH DOCUMENTARY FILM

**Instructor:**

**Email:**

**Office Hours:**

### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is about the communication of gender and sexuality through documentary film. In other words, documentary film will serve as the communication vehicle through which will come to address issues related to the body and, specifically, the sexed, gendered, and sexualized body. Over the course of the semester our documentary films explore the contours of representation, specifically that of women, men, intersex, and transsexuals. Institutions such as law, politics, religion, and culture organize these representations. We will view these films in class and discuss the institutional issues surrounding their content.

### COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Our goals are:

1. To understand the constructed nature of documentary film and performance more generally
2. To better understand issues related to sex, gender, and sexuality
3. To come to a more fully-developed awareness of difference and power
4. To better our communicative abilities with regard to issues associated with gender
5. To develop our critical viewing, thinking, and writing abilities

### REQUIRED READING:

bell hooks: *Feminism is for Everybody*

### ASSIGNMENTS:

There are six written essay exams in this course, each worth 50 points. On exam day you will be given a question on Blackboard in the morning—I will email you when the question has been released. You will then be asked to answer that question in a word document (in 3 pages) and upload it to the corresponding assignment slot on BB by 2:45 the day the exam is due. Please make sure you are fully answering the question provided and giving several examples of your answer in your essay. You do not have to attend class the day of an exam. If your exam is late, I will take off 5 points for every minute that it is late. There are **NO** excuses for late work! "My computer clock and the BB clock do not line up," is not an excuse! Turn your work in early if possible! There are **NO** "make-up" exams unless you have an excused absence, such as hospitalization.

At the end of the semester I will assign you a participation grade based on your ability to follow assignment directions and the effort you put into class discussions and group work. The total for participation is 50 points.

The course will be out of 350 points and a plus-minus grading system will be used.

### POLICIES:

*Participation and Accountability:* Participation is expected! The content of this course is complicated and sensitive and your presence in group discussions is your best avenue to understanding this material. Missing the deadline for completion of an exam is never acceptable.

*Academic Integrity:* Academic honesty is expected of all students in all examinations, papers, laboratory work, academic transactions and records. The possible sanctions include, but are not limited to, appropriate grade penalties, course failure (indicated on the transcript as a grade of E), course failure due to academic dishonesty (indicated on the transcript as a grade of XE), loss of registration privileges, disqualification and dismissal. For more information, see <http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity>.

*Disability Accommodations:* Qualified students with disabilities who will require disability accommodations in this class are encouraged to make their requests to me at the beginning of the semester either during office hours or by appointment. Note: Prior to receiving disability accommodations, verification of eligibility from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) is required. Disability information is confidential. Establishing Eligibility for Disability Accommodations: Students who feel they will need disability accommodations in this class but have not registered with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) should contact DRC immediately. Their office is located on the first floor of the Matthews Center Building. DRC staff can also be reached at: 480-965-1234 (V), 480-965-9000 (TTY). For additional information, visit: [www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/ed/drc](http://www.asu.edu/studentaffairs/ed/drc). Their hours are 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

## DAILY SYLLABUS

Exams 1-4 will cover topic areas related to the U.S., while exams 5 and 6 will cover world issues and topics. Some of these films are very difficult to get ahold of, so please make sure you are attending class viewings daily. Also, several of the films deal with complicated issues and are by their very nature "adult" in content. Your continued enrollment in this course means that you are able to handle the subject matter of the course.