

**San Jose State University**  
**Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Science Department**

**WGSS 101: Sex, Power, and Politics**

**SPRING 2023**

**Course and Contact Information**

Instructor:	Bianca Hernandez, M.A.
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Drop in office hours for: - Checking in - Questions about assignments, grades etc. - Advising chats - Safe space	Tuesday 12-1pm Other day/time that works for you Over Zoom
Class Days/Time and Classroom:	Tuesday and Thursday 1:30PM-2:45PM Dudley Moorhead Hall 358
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	S

Course Description:

WGSS 101 is a course designed to study the various ways social, economic and political factors shaped the politics of women's bodies and sexuality. This course focuses on the history of this but also contemporary problems American women face today. Following a feminist pedagogy that takes into account inequalities of gender, race, class, sexuality, nationality, and disability, WGSS 101 will dive into how these factors affect women and in turn their families. This general education course will have various writing assignments, in class discussions and a final research paper.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs)

GE Area S: Self, Society, and Equality in the U.S.

SJSU Studies courses -- Areas R, S, and V -- help students integrate knowledge between and among disciplines. In Area S courses, students study the interrelationships of individuals, racial

groups, and cultural groups to understand and appreciate issues of diversity, inclusion, inequalities, and justice in the United States.

### GE Area S Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of an Area S course, students should be able to:

1. describe how identities are shaped by cultural and societal influences within contexts of equality and inequality. Examples include, but are not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, religion, disability status, age, generation, regional origin, national identity, language, and intersectionalities;
2. analyze historical, economic, political, or social processes that shape diversity, equality, and structured inequalities in the U.S. and reflect on one's own identities and positions within these structures;
3. evaluate social actions which have or have not led to greater equality and social justice in the U.S.; and
4. engage in constructive interactions about social issues in the U.S. within the framework of equality and inequalities.

Writing Practice: Students will write a minimum of 3000 words in a language and style appropriate to the discipline

### WGSS PLO's:

Upon graduation, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies students are expected to be able to:

1. Identify and analyze the intersections of gender, sexuality, race, class, and nation social and institutional contexts.
2. Identify and describe major theories and political movements central to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, placing contemporary developments in cultural, historical, environmental, and embodied contexts.
3. Describe the global span of feminist movements and the connection amongst gender and sexual minorities around the world.
4. Demonstrate critical thinking and research skills through written, oral and creative means.

### Required Texts/Readings Textbook:

- Fischer, N. and Seidman, S. (2016) *Introducing the New Sexuality Studies*. 3rd ed., Oxon: Routledge.
- Janebaum, L. (2000) *Slut! Growing Up Female with a Bad Reputation*. New York: Seven Stories Press.
- Other material will be linked on Canva

### Library Liaison:

The library liaison for Women's Studies is Michael Aguilar. They can be reached at [michael.aguilar@sjsu.edu](mailto:michael.aguilar@sjsu.edu) and are available by appointment to support with materials.

### SJSU Writing Center:

The SJSU Writing Center is located in Clark Hall, Room 126. All Writing Specialists have gone through a rigorous hiring process, and they are well trained to assist all students at all levels within all disciplines to become better writers. In addition to one-on-one tutoring services, the Writing Center also offers workshops every semester on a variety of writing topics. To make an appointment or to refer to the numerous online resources offered through the Writing Center, visit the [Writing Center website](http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/writingcenter>.

### Course Assignments and Grading Policy:

I grade using a point system. Your final grade is an accumulation of points you have earned throughout the semester. The following assignments, essay exams, facilitation and weekly assignments contribute to the CLO's and GELO's. It is your responsibility to complete assignments on time, due dates can be seen on the schedule and more will be on Canvas. Below is the breakdown of assignments for this semester and a rubric.

### **Weekly in class assignment:**

Throughout the course you will be asked to do an in class writing response or group activity based on either the readings for that week, a film shown in class, or guest speaker. These activities are a way to assess that students are understanding the material provided in class. NOTE: These activities cannot be made up.

### **Facilitation Presentation:**

One time during the course of the semester you will present by yourself or in a group and will be asked to facilitate a class session. This presentation will demonstrate your knowledge on the reading, create discussion questions for the class and present your research of outside or current events relating to the material. More details will come as the course begins. These presentations will begin around Week 4 and run until Week 16.

### **SJSU Campus Services Assignment**

Please Visit one of the following SJSU centers: Student Wellness Center, Gender Equity Center, Chicana/Latina Student Success Center, PRIDE Center, Asian Pacific Islander Desi American Student Success Center (APIDA), Black Leadership and Opportunity Center (BLOC) (or another center not listed here) and learn more about what they do. Create a pamphlet (digital form is accepted as well) with the center's information, what they do, recent events/celebrations they have had or will have, why you chose them and how they can help SJSU students.

### **Essays:**

Two **OR** three times in the semester I will give you a prompt to respond to regarding readings assigned for the class. The response will be due about 1 week after I give out the prompt. You will be assessed on your ability to answer the prompt fully, provide your own stance in relation to the reading response prompt, and draw connections to the assigned reading. Each short essay should be 3-4 pages **OR** 6 pages (this all depends on what the class decided as a whole), typed, double spaced, proof read and include a bibliography.

**Final**

Details, guidance and support on this assignment will be given when we begin the course and will have input from the class as a whole.

**Extra Credit**

Collaboratively we will bring up extra credit opportunities that are free and accessible but will be on a TBA basis.

Grading Information with GELOs/CELOs with student grade info:

<i>Assessment Criteria</i>	<i>Points</i>	<i>CLO and GLO Assessment</i>
<i>Weekly in class assignment</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>GELO 1-3 CLO 1-4</i>
<i>Facilitation</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>GELO 1-3 CLO 1-4</i>
<i>Film(s)</i>	<i>150</i>	<i>GELO 1-3 CLO 1-4</i>
<i>SJSU Assignment</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>GELO 1-3 CLO 1-4</i>
<i>Essays (3)</i>	<i>300</i>	<i>GELO 1-3 CLO 1-4</i>
<i>Final</i>	<i>250</i>	<i>GELO 1-3 CLO 1-4</i>

**Total: 1,000 Points**GE Course prerequisite:

Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or ENGL/LLD 100A with a C or better (C- not accepted), and completion of Core General Education are prerequisite to all SJSU Studies courses. Completion of, or co-registration in, 100W is strongly recommended. A minimum aggregate GPA of 2.0 in GE Areas R, S, & V shall be required of all students.

Classroom Protocol:

You should attend class regularly and participate in class discussions. Class will be a combination of lecture, discussion, guest speakers, and films. *All activities during class time, including guest speakers, films, and discussions, are part of the class and may be part of your exams or assignments.*

You are also expected to do all of the assigned reading for the week before class. You are expected to bring that day's reading to class, arrive on time, and participate in class discussion by asking and answering questions.

Furthermore, students are responsible for all assignments and announcements presented in class. If you are late or absent, it is your responsibility to contact another student.

*Plagiarism will not be tolerated and is a serious offense.* All references must be cited. Penalties for plagiarism range from an F in the course to expulsion from the university. Students suspected of plagiarism will be reported to the Office of Judicial Affairs for disciplinary action. For more information please see <http://tutorials.sjlibrary.org/plagiarism/>

*Late work policy:* Please connect with me as soon as possible regarding late work, this will work on a case by case basis.

*Please be aware of your conduct in class. Racist, sexist, homophobic, crude, or inappropriate remarks of any kind will not be tolerated.* Practice active listening and be fully present. Always respect your classmates and instructor while using civil discourse in class.

#### University Policies:

Per [University Policy S16-9](#), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page](#) (<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>). Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

#### Dropping and Adding:

Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, grade forgiveness, etc. Refer to the current semester's Catalog Policies section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html>. Add/drop deadlines can be found on the current academic year calendars document on the Academic Calendars webpage at [http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic\\_calendars/](http://www.sjsu.edu/provost/services/academic_calendars/). The Late Drop Policy is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

Information about the latest changes and news is available at the Advising Hub at <http://www.sjsu.edu/advising/>

#### Consent for Recording of Class and Public Sharing of Instructor Material:

University Policy S12-7, <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S12-7.pdf>, requires students to obtain instructor's permission to record the course.

- "Common courtesy and professional behavior dictate that you notify someone when you are recording him/her. You must obtain the instructor's permission to make audio or video recordings in this class. Such permission allows the recordings to be used for your

private, study purposes only. The recordings are the intellectual property of the instructor; you have not been given any rights to reproduce or distribute the material.”

- “Course material developed by the instructor is the intellectual property of the instructor and cannot be shared publicly without his/her approval. You may not publicly share or upload instructor generated material for this course such as exam questions, lecture notes, or homework solutions without instructor consent.”

#### Academic Integrity:

Your commitment as a student to learning is evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University. [Http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S07-2.pdf) requires you to be honest in all your academic coursework. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The Student Conduct and Ethical Development website is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/studentconduct/>.

#### Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act:

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 at [http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD\\_1997-03.pdf](http://www.sjsu.edu/president/docs/directives/PD_1997-03.pdf) requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the Accessible Education Center (AEC) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aec> to establish a record of their disability.

#### SJSU Counseling Services:

The SJSU Counseling Services is located on the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Street and San Fernando Street, in Room 201, Administration Building. Professional psychologists, social workers, and counselors are available to provide consultations on issues of student mental health, campus climate or psychological and academic issues on an individual, couple, or group basis. To schedule an appointment or learn more information, visit [Counseling Services website](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/counseling>.

#### A Note about WGSS 101:

**This class will be a challenge because:** The Workload- Officially, a three-unit course entails six hours of work outside the classroom. Each week you will be expected to read between 30-60 pages and class assignments will require a substantial amount of work outside of class.

**Topic Matter:** There will be frequent instances throughout the semester in which sensitive and difficult issues will be discussed. Many of these issues will require an open mind. Feminist readings of topics may go against moral or religious teachings with which you have grown up. Frequently, students in this course find that they begin to see almost everything in a new light. This experience can be both exciting and disturbing.

**Trigger Warning:** Using a trauma informed approach, trigger warnings will be given to each class to create a safe space for all. In this class we will be discussing topics such as violence-sexual violence, racially, politically and religiously charged topics. These topics may cause psychological trauma for some students. Please take some time for self care after a class.

**R-rating:** As you will come to find, we may be using several texts that involve “profane” language. Some of the films that we will use in class also contain nudity and/or violence. Please be forewarned and take time for self care.

**Self Care:** Navigating higher education can be hard, juggling many classes can be hard, juggling school and work and more can be hard and attending a class like this one with a heavy topic matter can also be hard. Please be sure to take care of yourself and make time for self care. We will make time for this in class and learn how to do this but this is also important to do outside of this space.

# Course Schedule

*This is a tentative schedule and is subject to change with fair notice.*

*\*Readings are for group facilitation assignment, sign up sheet will be shared soon*

*\*Readings should be done by the beginning of the week!*

*Guest speakers this semester are TBD*

Week	Dates	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1	THU 01/26	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Introduction of Professor/Student</li> <li>● Trigger Warning and Self Care</li> <li>● Syllabus</li> <li>● Discuss assignments</li> </ul> <p>In class daily assignment (10 pt)</p>
2	TUE 01/31 THU 02/02	<p><b><u>Intro to: Sex Power and Politics of Reproductive Rights and Bodies</u></b></p> <p>In class daily assignment (10 pt)</p> <p><b>Readings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- One Month Post-Roe: At Least 43 Abortion Clinics Across 11 States Have Stopped Offering Abortion Care</li> </ul>
3	TUE 02/07 THU 02/09	<p>In class daily assignment (10 pt)</p> <p><b>*Reading:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers (TRAP) Laws</li> <li>- Birth Control Has Expanded Opportunity for Women — In Economic Advancement, Educational Attainment, and Health Outcomes</li> </ul>
4	TUE 02/14 THU 02/16	<p>In class daily assignment (10 pt)</p> <p>PPMM- General Services on 02/14</p> <p><b>*Readings:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Scotland Becomes 1st Country to offer tampons and pads for free <a href="#">here</a></i></li> <li>- <i>Misconceptions about unintended pregnancy</i></li> </ul>



5	<b>TUE 02/21</b> THU 02/23	<b>In class daily assignment (10 pt)</b> <b>*Reading:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deomampo- <i>Transnational Surrogacy in India</i></li> <li>- <i>Amnesty International- Deadly Delivery Executive Summary</i></li> </ul>
6	TUE 02/28 THU 03/02	<b>In class Daily assignment (10 pt)</b> <i>Film: "Abortion: Stories women tell"</i>
7	TUE 03/07 THU 03/09	<b>In class Daily assignment (10 pt)</b> <b>*Readings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Slut, Chapter One</i></li> <li>- <i>Slut Chapter Two</i></li> <li>- <i>Slut Chapter Three</i></li> </ul>
8	TUE 03/14 THU 03/16	<b>In class daily assignment (10 pt)</b> <b>*Reading:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Introducing the New Sexuality</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Chapter 9:</i></li> <li>- <i>Chapter 10:</i></li> <li>- <i>Chapter 11: The body, disability and sexuality</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>- <i>Chapter 56: The marriage contract</i></li> <li>- <i>Chapter 59: Christianity and the regulation of sexuality in the US</i></li> </ul>
9	TUE 03/21 THU 03/23	<b><u>Intro to: Sex Power and Politics of Sexual Violence</u></b> <b>In class daily assignment (10 pt)</b> <b>*Readings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Slut Chapter Four</i></li> <li>- <i>Slut Chapter Five</i></li> </ul>
10	TUE 03/28 THU 03/30	<b>*Spring Break*</b>

11	SAAM TUE 04/04 THU 04/06	In class daily assignment (10 pt) <i>Film: "The Hunting Grounds"</i>
12	TUE 04/11 THU 04/13	In class daily assignment (10 pt) Campus Advocate Presentation on 04/11 <b>*Reading:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Slut Chapter Six</i></li> <li>- <i>Introducing the New Sexuality</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Chapter 36: Sexual politics in intimate relationships: sexual coercion and harassment</i></li> <li>- <i>Chapter 61: Sex and Power</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
13	TUE 04/18 THU 04/20	In class daily assignment (10 pt) <i>Film: "Leave No Trace"</i>
14	TUE 04/25 THU 04/27	<b><u>Intro to: Sex Power and Politics of LGBTQIA Folks</u></b> In class daily assignment (10 pt) <b>*Reading:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>What Roe v. Wade's end could mean for LGBTQ rights</i></li> <li>- <i>Introducing the New Sexuality</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Chapter 14: Unruly bodies: intersex variation of sex development</i></li> <li>- <i>Chapter 15: From transgender to trans*: the ongoing struggle for inclusion, acceptance and celebration of identities beyond the binary</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
15	TUE 05/02 THU 05/04	In class daily assignment (10 pt) <b>*Readings:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Introducing the New Sexuality</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Chapter 22: Sexual fluidity</i></li> <li>- <i>Chapter 23: Learning to be queer: college women's sexual fluidity</i></li> <li>- <i>Chapter 32: Identities, inequalities and the partners of trans folks</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
16	TUE 05/09 THU 05/11	In class daily assignment (10 pt) <b>*Readings:</b>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Introducing the New Sexuality</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Chapter 62: The evolution of same-sex marriage politics in the US</i></li> <li>- <i>Chapter 64: Queering the sexual and racial politics of urban revitalization</i></li> <li>- <i>Chapter 65: Transgender biopolitics in the US.: regulating gender through a heteronormative lens</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Last Day of Instruction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Prep time/questions/extra support for final</li> <li>● Workshop final papers</li> <li>● Questions about grades</li> </ul>
	May 17-May 23	<b>Note: Final venue and time TBA</b>