

## Course Information

Course Number: WGST 401  
Course Title: Feminist Theory  
Section: 900  
Time: 9:35-10:50  
Location: 326 LAAH  
Credit Hours: 3

## Instructor Details

Instructor: Marian Eide  
Office: LAAH 527  
Phone: 979-845-8346  
E-Mail: meide@tamu.edu  
Office Hours: 2-4, Wednesdays

## Course Description

Inquiry-based examination of feminist theory from various periods and disciplinary perspectives, with application to societal debates and controversies.

In 1913 Rebecca West wrote, “I myself have never been able to find out precisely what feminism is: I only know that people call me a feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a doormat or a prostitute.” While her intention was to be ironic, her words remain relevant over a century later. Feminism, as she indicates, is difficult to define because it is neither a monolithic organization nor a unified ideology. Rather feminism in a centuries-long series of conversations and debates drawing on objective research in science and culture; feminist theory encourages open inquiry and reasoned expression of ideas. This course invites students to pursue knowledge through open questions and presents a theoretical and methodological study of women’s lives, work, language, and moral investments from a variety of perspectives. Designed to engage students in the intricacies of contemporary feminist theory, the course allows students to construct their own theoretical framework while engaging with existing research methods across disciplines.

## Course Prerequisites

**Prerequisites:** WGST 200 or approval of instructor; junior or senior classification.

## Course Learning Outcomes

Having completed this course successfully, students will be able to

- Develop and demonstrate facility with advanced concepts in feminist theory.
- Consider historical and cultural contexts in relation to gender expression.
- Apply the methods of feminist analysis.
- Compose artifacts that present original arguments and advance knowledge of primary texts.

**Textbook and/or Resource Materials**

*All Reading Assignments are available through CANVAS. No additional texts need be purchased.*

**Grading Policy*****Grading Scale***

A= 90-105 points  
B= 80-89 points  
C= 70-79 points  
D= 60-69 points  
F= below 60 points

***Grade Components***

Preparation (Readings in Perusall)–40  
Multi-Media Report–20  
Presentation–20  
Exercises in Class–20

***Attendance***

Because this class fosters collaborative work and group discussion, you will be missed if you're not here. Therefore, attendance is mandatory. If a student misses class (whether excused or not), that absence must be compensated for *within two weeks*. To compensate for an absence, students will complete

- A) the assignment for the class period on Perusall;
- B) an additional exercise available through the ABSENT link in Canvas.

For more information on university attendance policies see Student Rule 7: <https://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07/>.

**Late Work Policy**

- Each 24-hour period a major assignment is late without a viable excuse will result in the loss of two percentage points (2%) on that assignment.
- Exercises completed in class may be submitted late upon request and with documentation for the excused absence.
- The Presentation may not be fulfilled after the class period on which it was scheduled without prior arrangements with the instructor.

Work submitted by a student as makeup work for an excused absence is not considered late work and is exempted from the late work policy (Student Rule 7).

## Course Schedule

*Week 1: Knowledge (August 25 & 27)*

- Monday: Introductions
- Wednesday: Fricker

*Week 2: Fundamentals (September 1&3)*

- Monday: Labor Day-No Classes
- Wednesday: Fahs

*Week 3: Performance (September 8&10)*

- Monday: Butler
- Wednesday: Lloyd

*Week 4: Gender (September 15&17)*

- Monday: Stryker & Chaudhry
- Wednesday: Bolivar

*Week 5: Identity (September 22&24)*

- Monday: Crenshaw
- Wednesday: Hord

*Week 6: Bodies (September 29 & October 1)*

- Monday: Davies
- Wednesday: Garland-Thomson

*Week 7: Economies (October 6&8)*

- Monday: Showden & Majic
- Wednesday: Folbre

*Week 8: Care (October 13&15)*

- Monday: Fall Break-No Classes
- Wednesday: Datta, McIlwaine, et al

*Week 9: Debt (October 20&22)*

- Monday: Cavallero and Gago
- Wednesday: Cavallero and Gago

*Week 10: Sex (October 27&29)*

- Monday: Seevedra
- Wednesday: Garrido

*Week 11: Faith* (November 3&5)

- Monday: Ahmed
- Wednesday: Peterson-Iyer

*Week 12: Coalition* (November 10&12)

- Monday: Perkins
- Wednesday: Kaskinen

*Week 13: Violence* (November 17 & 19)

- Monday: Feigenbaum
- Wednesday: Bo

*Week 14: Citizens* (November 25 & 27)

- Monday: Smyth
- Wednesday: Reading Day-No Classes

*Week 15: Presentations* (December 1&3)

- Monday: Student Presentations
- Wednesday: Student Presentations

*Week 16: Conclusions* (December 8)

- Monday: Conclusions

*Technology Support*

[Help Desk Central](#) provides excellent resources and should be your first stop for CANVAS challenges.

*Learning Resources*

The [University Writing Center](#) provides support for all writing projects  
Check out [The Study Hub](#) for on-campus learning resources.

## University Policies

### Attendance Policy

The university views class attendance and participation as an individual student responsibility. Students are expected to attend class and to complete all assignments.

Please refer to [Student Rule 7](#) in its entirety for information about excused absences, including definitions, and related documentation and timelines.

### Makeup Work Policy

Students will be excused from attending class on the day of a graded activity or when attendance contributes to a student's grade, for the reasons stated in Student Rule 7, or other reason deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Please refer to [Student Rule 7](#) in its entirety for information about makeup work, including definitions, and related documentation and timelines.

Absences related to Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 may necessitate a period of more than 30 days for make-up work, and the timeframe for make-up work should be agreed upon by the student and instructor" ([Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.1](#)).

"The instructor is under no obligation to provide an opportunity for the student to make up work missed because of an unexcused absence" ([Student Rule 7, Section 7.4.2](#)).

Students who request an excused absence are expected to uphold the Aggie Honor Code and Student Conduct Code. (See [Student Rule 24](#).)

### Academic Integrity Statement and Policy

"An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do."

"Texas A&M University students are responsible for authenticating all work submitted to an instructor. If asked, students must be able to produce proof that the item submitted is indeed the work of that student. Students must keep appropriate records at all times. The inability to authenticate one's work, should the instructor request it, may be sufficient grounds to initiate an academic misconduct case" ([Section 20.1.2.3, Student Rule 20](#)).

#### **Texas A&M at College Station**

*You can learn more about the Aggie Honor System Office Rules and Procedures, academic integrity, and your rights and responsibilities at [aggiehonor.tamu.edu](http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu).*

### Notice of Nondiscrimination

Texas A&M University is committed to providing safe and non-discriminatory learning, living, and work environments for all members of the University community. The University provides equal opportunity to all employees, students, applicants for employment or admission, and the public regardless of race, color, sex (including pregnancy and related conditions), religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status. Texas A&M University will promptly, thoroughly, and fairly investigate and resolve all complaints of discrimination, harassment (including sexual harassment), complicity and related retaliation based on a protected class in accordance with System Regulation 08.01.01, University Rule 08.01.01.M1, Standard Administrative Procedure (SAP) 08.01.01.M1.01, and applicable federal and state laws. In accordance with Title IX and its implementing regulations, Texas A&M does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any educational program or activity, including admissions and employment. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries and complaints regarding the non-discrimination policies: Jennifer M. Smith, TAMU Associate VP & Title IX Coordinator at YMCA Ste 108, College Station, TX 77843, 979-458-8407, or email [civilrights@tamu.edu](mailto:civilrights@tamu.edu). For other reporting options, visit <https://ocrcas.ed.gov/contact-ocr> to locate the address and phone number of the office that serves your area, or call 1-800-421-3481.

### Civil Rights, Free Speech, and Title IX Policies

Texas A&M University is committed to fostering a learning environment that is safe and productive for all. University policies and federal and state laws prohibit discrimination and harassment based on an individual's race, color, sex, (including pregnancy and related conditions), religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other legally protected characteristic. This includes forms of sex-based violence, such as sexual assault, sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, dating/domestic violence, and stalking.

Students can report discrimination/harassment, access supportive resources, or learn more about their options for resolving complaints on the [University's Civil Rights & Title IX webpage](#).

Students should be aware that all university employees (except medical or mental health providers) are mandatory reporters, which means that if they observe, experience or become aware of an incident that they reasonably believe to be discrimination/harassment alleged to have been committed by or against a person who was a student or employee at the time of the incident, the employee must report the incident to the university.

### Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Policy

Texas A&M University is committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities for all students. If you experience barriers to your education due to a disability or think you may have a disability, please contact the Disability Resources office on your campus (resources listed below). Disabilities may include, but are not limited to attentional, learning, mental health, sensory, physical, or chronic health conditions. All students are encouraged to discuss their disability related needs with Disability Resources and their instructors as soon as possible.

If you are experiencing difficulties with your approved accommodations, contact the office responsible for approving your accommodations or the Texas A&M ADA Coordinator Julie Kuder at [ADA.Coordinator@tamu.edu](mailto:ADA.Coordinator@tamu.edu) or (979) 458-8407.

### Pregnancy Accommodations

Texas A&M provides reasonable accommodations to students due to pregnancy and/or related conditions, such as childbirth, recovery and lactation. Students should contact the University's [Pregnancy Coordinator](#) as soon as they become aware of the need for accommodation. Depending on the circumstances, accommodations could include extended time to complete assignments or exams, changes in course sequence, or modifications to the physical classroom environment. Texas A&M will also allow a voluntary leave of absence, ensure the availability of lactation space, and maintain grievance procedures to provide for the prompt and equitable resolution of complaints of sex discrimination. For information regarding pregnancy accommodations, email [TIX.Pregnancy@tamu.edu](mailto:TIX.Pregnancy@tamu.edu).

### Statement on Mental Health and Wellness

Texas A&M University recognizes that mental health and wellness are critical factors influencing a student's academic success and overall wellbeing. Students are encouraged to engage in healthy self-care practices by utilizing the resources and services available through [University Health Services](#) on its [mental health webpage](#). The [TELUS Health Student Support app](#) provides access to professional counseling in multiple languages anytime, anywhere by phone or chat, and the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline offers 24-hour emergency support at 988 or [988lifeline.org](https://988lifeline.org).

Students needing a listening ear can contact University Health Services (979.458.4584) 24-hour emergency help is also available through the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (988) or at [988lifeline.org](https://988lifeline.org).

### Statement on the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

FERPA is a federal law designed to protect the privacy of educational records by limiting access to these records, to establish the right of students to inspect and review their educational records and to provide guidelines for the correction of inaccurate and misleading data through informal and formal hearings. Currently enrolled students wishing to withhold any or all directory information items may do so by going to [howdy.tamu.edu](https://howdy.tamu.edu) and clicking on the "Directory Hold Information" link in the Student Records channel on the MyRecord tab. The complete [FERPA Notice to Students](#) and the student records policy is available on the Office of the Registrar webpage.

Items that can never be identified as public information are a student's social security number, citizenship, gender, grades, GPR or class schedule. All efforts will be made in this class to protect your privacy and to ensure confidential treatment of information associated with or generated by your participation in the class.

Directory items include name, UIN, local address, permanent address, email address, local telephone number, permanent telephone number, dates of attendance, program of study (college, major, campus), classification, previous institutions attended, degrees honors and awards received, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, medical residence location and medical residence specialization.

**Free Speech and Civil Discourse**

Texas A&M recognizes that the pursuit of truth through open and robust discourse is critical to academic inquiry. However, as a community of scholars, the university has an aspirational expectation that such discourse will be conducted in accordance with Aggie Core Values. In this “marketplace of ideas,” we encourage civil dialogue creating an environment that allows individuals to express their ideas and to have their ideas challenged in respectful and responsible ways. Students can learn more about Freedom of Expression and Free Speech on the University’s [website](#) about the [First Amendment](#).

**Artificial Intelligence**

With the emergence of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies, the ways in which we define our creative processes continue to transform. AI generators are rapidly evolving from simple editing for grammatical errors and spelling mistakes (Grammarly, MS Word Spell Check) to sophisticated text production (ChatGPT, Google Bard, etc.), as well as image, computer code, and audio generation. The presence of such tools, however, does not replace our need to learn how to draft, revise, and reflect on texts, programs, drawings and how to exercise information literacy and personal responsibility in how we locate, evaluate, incorporate, and cite primary/ secondary sources. For example, the Association for Writing Across the Curriculum states the following: Writing to learn is an intellectual activity that is crucial to the cognitive and social development of learners and writers. This vital activity cannot be replaced by AI language generators (AWAC).

Engaging in the various aspects of creative pursuits (e.g., writing, coding, drawing) is critical to education in a broad sense. While AI technologies will continue shaping how we approach these creative tasks, the critical work of creativity relies on integrity, originality, and ethical conduct in regard to appropriate representation as an author or creator. Thus, submitting work with a significant percentage of AI-generated content, unless otherwise permitted, can be considered academic misconduct under Texas A&M University Student Rule 20. Students must therefore cite the use of Generative AI tools and document what they have contributed to an assignment.