

**SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY**

Department: Women's & Gender Studies

Term: Fall 2018

Form: Teaching Associate Evaluation Form - Women's and Gender Studies Discussion Sections

Instructor: Jaffee, Laura Jordan

Class: WGS101 Section M004 (Intro to Women's & Gender Stds)

Responses: 15 Enrollment: 22 Response Rate: 68.2%

**How has this course furthered your understanding of the field of Women's & Gender Studies?**

- Having a discussion based environment for conversations about women and gender studies was very beneficial for understanding the material and having my ideas and my peer's ideas go further.
- I feel that Laura really facilitated good learning because she would give us definitions for a lot of the hard vocabulary.
- I learned the different perspectives of feminism from the readings and my classmates
- I loved this course because it made me reflect on my own biases and personal experiences in conjunction with the information that is out there so that I can be a better feminist overall.
- I was able to ask questions and think through what had been discussed in class.
- It has shown me different perspectives
- It hasn't really a lot of the things we talk about are things that are starting to get talked about in the world today.
- My discussion section with Laura helped me understand Women and Gender studies a million times better than what I was learning in lecture.
- The instructor gave many very interesting discussion questions
- yes

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**Which aspects of this course were most valuable to your overall learning experiences? Why?**

- Being able to do the group discussion during recitation because it allowed me to hear other ideas.
- Having a small group was very beneficial and going over what my professor spoke about in class was also very beneficial because Laura was able to explain it in a way we could all understand.
- I loved that we were able to talk with our TA about things that were confusing in lecture and topics that we wanted to discuss. Laura was very good at making sure that what we did in our discussions was helpful to each of our understandings of the course.
- Learning about all the proper terms and the history behind some movements
- Learning about intersectionality was very valuable to my overall learning experience and thoroughly helped me see the world and access I have in the world differently. I will definitely apply this understanding in my other classes, essays, and overall understanding of how the world is limiting to some bodies.
- Listening to my peers' opinion is pretty valuable.
- my TA did a good job of encouraging group discussion even though our class was not very enthusiastic
- Talking in class about our views on things it was nice to be able to speak our mind without being judged.
- videos and the presentation
- yes

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**Which aspects of this course would you suggest changing? Why?**

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- I wish the TA's were more involved in teaching lecture because they were more helpful than our professor
- more group activity
- None, the discussion section was helpful and inviting.
- not really
- The number of readings required was overwhelming and having to read so much was difficult because I was more focused on getting through all of the I instead of making sure I understood all of the content.
- The readings the readings are way too much for this class and have little importance as most people just skim through them to answer the questions they needed them for.
- The syllabus wasn't very clear nor were the prompts for the papers.
- yes

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**Evaluate the instructor's interactions with students (i.e., Did the instructor communicate clearly & effectively? Were student questions welcomed and respected?)**

- i sometimes felt like my opinion was made to feel inferior to others and the instructor supported this, it felt like in the discussion there was only one right thing to respond to what was being discussed and it didnt feel like a safe space to talk
- Laura did so good at making sure that she was available for us when we needed her help with anything. She was also understanding when things came up and made sure that everyone was heard and respected in discussions.
- Laura was absolutely amazing. She was able to communicate instructions effectively and if not she was able to meet outside of class when needed and respond to emails in a timely manner. She was very interactive during class and always opened up the class to the discussion without forcing it upon students. You can tell she genuinely cares about the well-being of her students and is very accommodating to our needs. She welcomed the input of everyone in the class and respected all opinions and viewpoints. She really welcomed the idea that there are no wrong/dumb questions and encountered a welcoming discussion-based environment.
- Laura was amazing. She did not hesitate to accommodate students and was very understanding with students. She was very well versed in the subject, communicated clearly/effectively and was very welcoming.
- Laura was very inviting and even helped me open up in class when I have severe social anxiety. I don't speak in any of my other classes but I speak in this discussion because it is helpful and interesting to involve myself in conversations.
- Laura was very nice when she interacted with us and made us feel valued and appreciated. I liked working with Laura way better than working with Professor Lal
- She did
- She knew how to interact very well and how to facilitate.
- Student participation was welcomed warmly, even when we did not really want to.
- The interaction is pretty good. All questions are respected and welcomed.
- yes

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**Evaluate the instructor's interactions with students (i.e., Did the instructor communicate clearly & effectively? Were student questions welcomed and respected?)**

- Yes she did
- Yes, the instructor was very friendly and students were able to feel welcomed.
- yes, very nice and warming

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**Evaluate the instructor's responses to your work (i.e., Were the instructor's responses to assignments, exams, presentations, or other coursework helpful? Did the instructor set high standards? Were you evaluated in a constructive way?)**

- blessed my grades, thank you.
- Her comments were very helpful.
- Laura gave an in depth response to my work and helped me understand her grading and why I would get a certain grade. Very fair.
- Laura gave very helpful and honest feedback!
- Laura was very good at making sure that her feedback was helpful and constructive. I enjoyed hearing about how I could improve.
- Laura was very helpful with her feedback and evaluated students in ways that were constructive and allowed students to learn.
- Laura's responses to assignments, exams, presentations, and coursework were very helpful. She always provided feedback if I needed to add information before turning in an assignment and after the assignment to let me know what I did correctly. She had high expectations and always encouraged us to do our best and turn in our best work on assignments.
- The feedback from the instructor is pretty helpful
- There were positive feedback that enabled me to do better in the next assignment / work
- They were thorough and helped me improve on my paper
- yes
- Yes her responses were very useful she helped students like me understand what we were doing wrong with our papers.

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**Other comments or feedback?**

- Great job, Laura!
- I felt as if since i was a male my assignments were graded a little more critically than my female peers were. Furthermore, i believe that this course was drawing on instances which are not prevalent in todays society in 2018 and should focus on more pressing cultural and societal issues.
- Laura is amazing, if I had her for a Professor I would be very happy.
- Laura was amazing!
- nope
- She was great to have as a TA and very understanding
- yes