

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 M009 (Intro to Women's & Gender Stds)

Responses: 16 Enrollment: 22 Response Rate: 72.7%

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

- Greatly expanded my knowledge and understanding of the field - it is much more complex than I had ever thought.
- i felt like our class had really insightful discussions
- I have learned a lot more about feminism and women's history as a whole. As a young woman, i believe it is important for all women to have a better understanding of the obstacles that have existed and still continue exist because of our gender. This course has taught me that though feminism is a movement that is supposed to represent all women equally, there are people who are still not ready to let that happen. It has made me more passionate about women empowerment in general.
- i was able to see from different perspectives the issues with gender, race, etc. in the U.S today
- It has allowed me to see feminism in a more intersexual way and how everyone's feminism looks different because of their different identities.
- It made me aware of the injustices in our society
- It opened my eyes to all the problems going on in the world specifically regarding women.
- It overall opened my eyes to the studies of our society in terms of gender. A lot is the answer.
- The videos and discussions helped me learn new things regarding this subject.
- This course furthered by understanding of the different kinds of feminism and the history of feminism and Women's and Gender Studies.
- This course has furthered my understanding by learning from other students as well as myself through research and reading of articles
- This course helped me dissect what would be spoken about in lecture as well as share ideas and thoughts with others.
- very well

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

- Almost every reading and film was extremely interesting and I believe they really drove the course and were valuable aspects to my experience.
- Discussion and films were most valuable to my learning in this course. Lecture was too rushed and too many complex ideas were introduced. Films were more focused and allowed in-depth understanding of the particular idea. Discussion section allowed time to break those complex ideas down in a more personalized way.
- Everything.
- I enjoyed the videos where we could view actual people who deal with women and gender study related things. This allowed me to truly view what these terms mean and how they affect someone.
- I liked the films we watched and doing the responses that went along with them. It made it helpful to see what things are like from other people's perspectives
- I really liked the movies we watched along with recitation discussions generally.
- I thought the discussion part of the course helped a lot. A lot was introduced during lecture and some of it I didn't really understand so it was very beneficial to hear it kind of unpacked in discussion and to hear other people's opinions on it.
- intersectionality
- just listening and talking with other students
- none
- Sharing ideas always helps because each individual tries to help the other one understand so you can get the most out of your group work.
- the films in class. I learned a lot from watching and also having to write about them
- The learning environment was really positive. The TA was really welcoming and inclusive.

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

- The most valuable aspects of this course was the group work and learning from each other
- Watching relevant movies or reading relevant articles and evaluating them was one of the most helpful because it was very immersive and help me evaluate things in my world.

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

- i feel like more time should be dedicated to discussion sections
- I think more could be done during the discussions that relates to the course without repeating the same information. For example, bringing in current events or other relevant discussions.
- I think that the amount of reading assigned weekly is too much and often times it would take up way too much time for me to actually read and understand them all.
- I would do more of an introduction into gender and its construction before diving into feminism because it would have helped me understand where the feminist portion was coming from.
- I would suggest a different professor take over (explained in my prof. eval) the responsibility of this course. Since that is not likely a review and revision of the syllabus and course expectations would be useful. The amount and complexity of material covered was extensive and more that there should be for a 100 level course.
- (2) N/A
- Nothing, everything was very informative.
- nothing.
- reflection papers were not interesting
- Similar to lecture, a lot of this was opinion based. I almost felt uncomfortable by being both white and straight. We talked about minority's and I understand the different struggles each race, class, and gender deal with. However, the way we talked about men, especially in the MeToo movement weeks, it seemed a bit much. I come from a small town but I never witnessed anything crazy done by the men in my town. I also have a boyfriend and he would never hurt me. Thus, I think it's great to have opinions, but the TA can express gets more subtly and allow the room to calm down if too much of the same opinion is being said as it can offend people.
- the lectures

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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?)

- Everything was good I have no complaints.
- Inclusive, welcoming, made me feel comfortable to share my opinions
- interactions were perfect. i was emailed back right away with questions and comments. i felt comfortable also sharing with my ta about personal issues that affected school work.
- It was very clear what was expected of the students - all assignments and tasks were made and explained very clearly. The environment was comfortable, even during hard topics and I personally felt very respected and welcomed when it came to asking questions.
- Laura is extremely responsive to questions and always offers constructive feedback.
- Laura made this class much more bearable. She created a welcoming atmosphere for the most part, unlike lecture. She was more than willing to provide resources and help students outside of the classroom. The key points of lectures and readings were made much more clear in discussion. Laura made an effort to engage and involve students and to have students make personal connections to the ideas being discussed.
- Our TA did communicate clearly and she was helpful in meeting outside of class. She graded very difficult in the beginning, but after meeting with her at after hours, she seemed to have an understanding on my work. She was helpful and relatable towards her students, including me.
- The instructor as awesome, she was always giving feedback on my assignments on what to improve and do differently, and always willing to help.
- The instructor was always spot on with everything and always available for questions. I never had a problem with reaching out to her.
- The instructor was very understanding and open to hearing all students opinions and helped further my understanding of certain concepts
- yes, i feel like laura did a good job of posing good questions and listening to students

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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, my instructor did communicate clearly and was very good at giving feedback.
- Yes, questions were always welcomed and respected
- Yes, we had very open conversations in our discussion period where people were able to share what they were feeling. She also would always pull up assignment prompts and make sure everyone fully understood what it was asking and seeing if anyone had questions.

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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?)

- Clear feedback, good tips, advice for future assignments
- Constructive criticism for essays
- Feedback made sense and was helpful for future assignments.
- Feedback was helpful, however somewhat unfair because this is an intro class and some of the points off were from not knowing things in depth enough that I could not have known.
- I think I was evaluated fairly and was always given helpful feedback
- Laura made this class much more bearable. She created a welcoming atmosphere for the most part, unlike lecture. She was more than willing to provide resources and help students outside of the classroom. With that being said, I do believe grading was very strict and much too strict for a 100 level course. Our entire grade was based on writing assignments graded by TAs. Some of these assignments were based on prompts that were heavily opinion based so it was not very fair to those with other idea than what was discussed in class. The assignments also had a very strict word limit which is not common for college level assignments. An absurd amount of content was expected to be introduced and thoroughly analyzed, much more than should have been required for a 100 level course. Prompts are created by the prof. so it is not the fault of the TAs but the grading on the assignments was quite harsh. Not only was the content of the paper analyzed to an advanced degree, the grammar was also taken into account like it would in a writing course. Laura provided comments on the assignments but I do believe the comments included some expectations that were well above 100 level course work.
- Laura's questions and commentary for our presentations helped increase my understanding of the injustices against women. She has a great understanding of the course material and is an amazing TA.
- she graded fairly
- She set very high standards as she would great very hard early on. When she would give feedback it would be difficult to tie everything in when we had a word limit on essays.
- Very helpful and i feel like my writing got better with each assignment.

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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?)

- yes they were all helpful.
- yes, her responses were very helpful and were very clear about what the specific issues were.
- yes, i feel like i always was able to grow from her feedback
- Yes, the comments left throughout the essay and at the end showed that she was really reading them and evaluating them. The responses were very valuable and helped me to improve my writing throughout the course.

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Other comments or feedback?

- I would make the word limit on essays longer than 1000 words, especially when we have to relate 2-3 readings for the most part. The worst part is when I would listen to feedback and deepen my analysis, I would get points taken away by being over the word limit.
- N/A
- no
- she was so incredibly sweet and understanding. definitely couldn't have gone through the course without her as my TA
- The instructor was very knowledgeable on Women's and Gender Studies and did a great job trying to get us to understand beyond the classroom and get involved in our community. Also she was very understanding and helpful to students. I had to miss a fair amount of school due to a family event and she was very accommodating and understanding with that situation which I really appreciated.
- The requirements for the course were well above that of a 100 level course. Prof. Lal created the syllabus and outlined the course expectation so many negatives of this course were not the direct fault of TAs.
- Very interesting class! I consider myself even more of a feminist than I did before and I have always considered myself one!