Palo Alto High School: Gender Studies Course Guide Fall 2023

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What is Gender Studies?

| Gender Studies serves as an essential role in educating students about sexuality |
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| gender norms, sexism, and consent. |

- Gender Studies is an interdisciplinary course where students will look at the humanities, pop culture, and science *through a lens of gender*.
- ☐ Gender Studies aim to enrich the traditional curriculum, investigating neglected material, raising new questions, and reevaluating the conventional focus on many disciplines.
- ☐ Students are invited to explore:
 - The social construction of masculine and feminine identities.
 - How gender intersects with nationality, race, ethnicity, and class
 - The way in which gender identities are redefined over time
 - Gender representation in fashion, art, film, music, and literature
 - How gender impacts the practice of science, health, and medicine
 - How gender is perceived in other countries.

Learning Outcomes:

As a result of successful participation (coming to class, reading the material, providing thoughtful contributions, and participation) students will be able to:

- 1. Learn how to analyze the social construction of gender historically and in the present
- 2. Understand how socially constructed norms of masculinity and femininity impact the lived experience and identity of individual men and women
- 3. Develop critical thinking skills necessary to apply the concept of gender to a wide range of social issues
- 4. Learn how to apply the concept of gender as a category of analysis if multiple disciplines and fields of study
- 5. Learn how informed, collective action leads to positive social change.
- 6. Reflect upon and describe the influence of social identity in their own lived experiences

Student Responsibilities:

Attendance: Absences and Tardies

- 1. Check Schoology for missed work, notes, video links, and readings: Look in the Archives Folder
 - a. Work must be completed prior to the benchmark (end of the unit quiz)
- 2. Check w/Ms. Edwards and another peer regarding what you missed
- 3. Participation: Students are expected to contribute to the development of knowledge through thoughtful, relevant questions, comments, and critiques. Student perspectives on course material and current events are highly encouraged. Please be an active, attentive listener in order to foster a thriving learning environment.

Course Assignments: *all assignments will have rubrics attached

- 1. Weekly student self-reflection:
 - Reflect on your engagement in class, and note anything that may have had an impact on your engagement: a reading, a guest speaker, a video, a discussion, etc. Submit reflections on Schoology. Explain your experience using 250-350 words
- 2. Readings and Discussion Posts: Appropriate comments that are thoughtful and reflective. Shows serious contemplation and application of content from the course and the reading. Shows original thought that goes far beyond the obvious (or the simple summary). Ends post with a discussion question, prompting further discussion. Makes connections!
- Film Viewings and Pop Culture Discussions: Reflect on films, TV commercials, music, and art and apply appropriate comments to class discussions in breakout rooms, discussion posts, and/or chats.
- 4. <u>Benchmark Quizzes:</u> Quizzes will cover key concepts, terms, and theories given in class, and will consist of multiple-choice, T/F, matching, and short answer questions.
- 5. <u>Guest Speaker Questions:</u> Prepare *prior* to the guest speaker 1-3 questions related to their field and gender. Participate in the Q & A.
- 6. <u>Project Presentation</u>: Each student will delve into a topic related to gender in more detail. The project will develop skills in gender studies analysis as well as research, writing, and communication skills. Students will present their projects in teams of 2-3 to the class during finals week.

Absent/Late Work:

<u>Make-up policy</u>: If you are absent, you are responsible for making up any missed assignments. Please email me and/or meet me during office hours to arrange and make up work. Check on Schoology or classmates for missed work.

Academic Honesty Policy:

Cheating is 100% unacceptable. This includes taking another's work as your own on quizzes, papers, homework, and projects.

Follow the handbook for the Academic Honesty Policy guidelines. Resources such as chat gtp are not accepted when used for written responses of any kind.

Semester Grades and Grading Scale:

Grades will be posted on Infinite Campus. Points will be totaled and divided by the total amount of points at the end of the grading period.