

WGS 3590: Violence Against Women

Spring 2020 Course Syllabus

Instructor: Prof. Kameron Hamilton

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Lecture: Monday & Wednesday 12:50pm - 2:05pm; Boylan Hall 3226

Office Hours: Thursdays 1pm-3pm and by appointment; Boylan Hall 3230

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Violence against women maintains unequal power relations imposed by sex inequality. This course examines the historical and modern forms of violence used against women and the unjustifiable reasons behind such atrocities. We will be reading selections of literature demonstrating the accounts of women who have overcome their hardships. In addition, we will also watch several films in which you will be required to explore and delve into aspects in which you find personally riveting. The goal of this course is to allow students to develop a multifaceted and introspective understanding of events that receive less attention than they deserve.

Class Schedule

| | Topic | Date | Readings/Film | Assignments | Aim |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|------|--|---|---|
| Week 20: | Women & the Slave Trade | 4/20 | "The 'Father of Modern Gynecology' Performed Shocking Experiments on Slaves" by Brynn Holland "Rape and Race in the Nineteenth-Century South" by Diane Sommerville (read as much as you can) | From the second reading, find a quote that sticks out to you and summarize how the passage made you feel, in 400 words. | Week's Goal: To understand the unspoken atrocities that women face in Africa. The assigned reading & assign. assists with this. |
| | Female Genital Mutilation | 4/22 | Watch the documentary "The Girl Who Said No to FGM" | Quiz 4 | Quiz will assess students' grasp on material. |
| Week 22: | Japan's 'Comfort Women' of WW2 | 4/27 | "The Brutal History of Japan's 'Comfort Women'" by Erin Blakemore | In-class free write on doc. that will be shown in class | Week's Goal: To understand the violence faced by Asian women. |
| | Acid Attacks & Dowry Deaths | 4/29 | Watch the documentary titled "Witness - Ending the Violence" on YouTube | Presentations Due Today | The assignments allow students to interact w/material. |
| Week 23: | Stories of the Holocaust | 5/4 | Explore the site below: www.yadveshem.org Read up on "Spots of Light-Women in the Holocaust" | 2 page essay of experience at "The Museum of Jewish Heritage" | Week's Goal: To change perspectives and review stories of survivors. |
| | Escaping the Community | 5/6 | Unorthodox: The Scandalous Rejection of my Hasidic Roots by Deborah Feldman pgs. 20-45 | Create an artistic piece that represents a theme found in the reading. | The assignments will allow students to engage the topic in an involved and creative manner. |

