



GEN 210

Reading Gender in Everyday Life

S2 External 2015

Dept of Sociology

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Unit convenor

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Credit points

3

Prerequisites

12cp or admission to GDipArts

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit examines how gender functions in our day-to-day lives. We look closely at common activities like shopping, eating, grooming, talking, reading, going to the movies, using cosmetic surgery, getting married and more, to examine some of the discourses – biological, cultural, social, anthropological – that reproduce ideas of masculinity and femininity, of being a man or woman. We look at intersections of gender with class, ethnicity, and race. We also introduce students to some of the influential ideas on how gender works, theories by European philosophers like Freud and Foucault, as well as essays by feminist activists and post-modern writers on gender and sexuality.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- Understand the ways in which gender is conceived and found significant in everyday life
- Understand what gender studies is about, why it has developed and why it matters today
- Develop a sense of the complexity and significance of a number of key cultural issues and debates (local and global) in contemporary gender studies
- Understand how the writing of scholars like Freud, Foucault and others has been taken up and critically extended in gender studies.
- Develop a practical sense of how to research a variety of texts in public circulation, how to evaluate their content and engage with it effectively.
- Develop an understanding of the relationship between forms of knowledge and forms of everyday living. The topics covered will help the student to approach real-life situations, analyse them, and remedy problems when necessary.
- Share information and debate ideas with peers. The material in this unit raises questions about everyday life, and by coming to grips with it, we expect that the student will have a stronger sense both of who they are and where they come from, and how others from very different backgrounds and situations view the world.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
Quizzes	30%	Weeks 2-12
Two summaries	20%	Week 7

Name	Weighting	Due
Essay	40%	Week 13
Participation	10%	throughout

Quizzes

Due: **Weeks 2-12**

Weighting: **30%**

Weekly multiple choice quiz on the required reading and the lectures of weeks 2-12

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Understand the ways in which gender is conceived and found significant in everyday life
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- Understand how the writing of scholars like Freud, Foucault and others has been taken up and critically extended in gender studies.

Two summaries

Due: **Week 7**

Weighting: **20%**

This assessment exercise requires students to write a short precis (a summary in one's own words) of two readings, from the choice in the summary list. The point of this exercise is to learn to reproduce a concise but accurate account of the principal argument of an academic text. Students should identify and reproduce the significant points made by the author (using entirely their own forms of expression) rather than exploring their own opinions (which they should leave for tutorial discussion and the research essay).

The minimum number of words is 500 and the maximum without penalty is 750.

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- Develop a practical sense of how to research a variety of texts in public circulation, how to evaluate their content and engage with it effectively.

Essay

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **40%**

Choose a question from those listed on iLearn. Write an analytical essay on the question selected.

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- Understand how the writing of scholars like Freud, Foucault and others has been taken up and critically extended in gender studies.
- Develop a practical sense of how to research a variety of texts in public circulation, how to evaluate their content and engage with it effectively.
- Develop an understanding of the relationship between forms of knowledge and forms of everyday living. The topics covered will help the student to approach real-life situations, analyse them, and remedy problems when necessary.

Participation

Due: **throughout**

Weighting: **10%**

Peer discussion of unit material in tutorial groups and on the GEN210 iLearn site.

For external students, the benchmark for a clear pass is 3 contributions per week on the iLearn forums, regularly discussing the weekly topic and required readings, introducing relevant resources or ideas associated with the weekly topic, or responding to the contributions of other students. The expected total of contributed iLearn postings throughout the semester is 36 (these can be spread unevenly throughout the range of topics). The quality as well as quantity of discussion is important especially for the higher grades.

Active participation on iLearn is a requirement of the course for external students; those who do not engage in forum discussion will be contacted and asked to consider withdrawing from the unit, ahead of the census date for withdrawal without penalty.

On successful completion you will be able to:

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- Understand how the writing of scholars like Freud, Foucault and others has been taken up and critically extended in gender studies.
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Delivery and Resources

Delivery:

Day and Online.

GEN210 comprises of one 2 hour lecture (recorded) and one 1 hour tutorial weekly (or forum discussion for externals).

Technologies used and required

This unit has an online presence in iLearn (<http://ilearn.mq.edu.au>). Students are required to have regular access to a computer and the internet. Mobile devices alone are not sufficient.

This unit will use Echo lecture recording (accessed via iLearn).

- For technical support go to: http://mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/informatics/help - For student quick guides on the use of iLearn go to: http://mq.edu.au/iLearn/student_info/guides.htm

Times and Locations for Lectures and Tutorials

For current updates, lecture times and classrooms please consult the MQ Timetables website: <http://www.timetables.mq.edu.au>

GEN210 Lecture: Monday 1-3pm E7B T4

GEN210 Tutorials: Monday or Thursday- please consult MQ Timetables for times and locations

Required and recommended resources

Required readings can be accessed through e-reserve via iLearn. These can be read online, printed out by the student and/or downloaded.

FEEDBACK

Feedback and unit evaluation

The Faculty of Arts values student feedback and seeks to continually improve its teaching. At present, the Faculty collects student feedback in two ways:

1. Anonymous evaluation surveys which are disseminated at the completion of each unit.
2. Student feedback meetings which are held twice a year in the Faculty of Arts. These meetings are advertised on campus and all students are encouraged to attend.

Unit Schedule

2015 LECTURE PROGRAM

The tutorials run one week after the lectures. Forum discussion of topics start in week two. Required reading is directly addressed in iLearn discussion. The required readings will be accessible via iLearn. Quiz questions will be set on both the required readings and the weekly lectures.

Attendance

Attendance on campus by external students is not required. Students must listen to ECHO recordings of the lectures on iLearn.

Week	Reading Gender in Everyday Life - Lecture topics
Week 1	Having gender (biology): the brain and hormones (no tutorials this week)
Week 2	Having gender (sociobiology): rape; mothering
Week 3	Representing gender (socialisation & coding): advertising
Week 4	Buying into gender (socialisation & consuming): shopping
Week 5	Playing out gender (socialisation & coupling): weddings
Week 6	Playing with gender (socialisation & queering): Barbie dolls
Week 7	Constructing gender (socialisation & psychoanalysis): stalking and jealousy
Week 8	Doing gender (cutting up the body; conforming/transforming): cosmetic surgery
Week 9	public holiday, no lecture or tutorials: study week
Week 10	Doing gender (cutting up the body; conforming/transforming): inter-sex and trans-sexual surgery
Week 11	Doing gender (fighting back through the body): female body building
Week 12	Performing gender (through the masquerade): make-up, masking and drag

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

Assessment Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Grievance Management Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grievance_management/policy.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <http://informatics.mq.edu.au/help/>.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Develop a practical sense of how to research a variety of texts in public circulation, how to evaluate their content and engage with it effectively.
- Develop an understanding of the relationship between forms of knowledge and forms of everyday living. The topics covered will help the student to approach real-life situations, analyse them, and remedy problems when necessary.
- Share information and debate ideas with peers. The material in this unit raises questions about everyday life, and by coming to grips with it, we expect that the student will have a stronger sense both of who they are and where they come from, and how others from very different backgrounds and situations view the world.

Assessment tasks

- Two summaries
- Essay
- Participation

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to

demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Develop a practical sense of how to research a variety of texts in public circulation, how to evaluate their content and engage with it effectively.
- Develop an understanding of the relationship between forms of knowledge and forms of everyday living. The topics covered will help the student to approach real-life situations, analyse them, and remedy problems when necessary.
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Assessment tasks

- Two summaries
- Essay
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Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand what gender studies is about, why it has developed and why it matters today
- Develop a sense of the complexity and significance of a number of key cultural issues and debates (local and global) in contemporary gender studies
- Understand how the writing of scholars like Freud, Foucault and others has been taken up and critically extended in gender studies.
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Assessment tasks

- Quizzes
- Two summaries
- Essay
- Participation

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

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Assessment tasks

- Quizzes
- Two summaries
- Essay
- Participation

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand the ways in which gender is conceived and found significant in everyday life
- Understand what gender studies is about, why it has developed and why it matters today
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Assessment tasks

- Quizzes
- Two summaries
- Essay
- Participation

Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand the ways in which gender is conceived and found significant in everyday life
- Understand how the writing of scholars like Freud, Foucault and others has been taken up and critically extended in gender studies.
- Develop a practical sense of how to research a variety of texts in public circulation, how to evaluate their content and engage with it effectively.
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Assessment tasks

- Quizzes
- Two summaries
- Essay
- Participation

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Develop a practical sense of how to research a variety of texts in public circulation, how to evaluate their content and engage with it effectively.
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Assessment tasks

- Two summaries
- Essay
- Participation

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand the ways in which gender is conceived and found significant in everyday life
- Understand what gender studies is about, why it has developed and why it matters today
- Develop a sense of the complexity and significance of a number of key cultural issues and debates (local and global) in contemporary gender studies
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- Essay
- Participation

Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active

participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Understand what gender studies is about, why it has developed and why it matters today
- Develop a sense of the complexity and significance of a number of key cultural issues and debates (local and global) in contemporary gender studies
- Develop a practical sense of how to research a variety of texts in public circulation, how to evaluate their content and engage with it effectively.
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- Quizzes
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Changes from Previous Offering

The assessment has changed in 2015. The Quiz component has been reduced from being worth 40% to 30%. This change is made in order to reduce the fail rate. The Essay component has been decreased from being worth 50% (in its previous, two-part total) to 40%. The Summaries component (worth 20%) no longer needs to be accompanied by an essay plan. This latter change is made in order to reduce confusion (each component is now stand-alone), and increase flexibility.