GENX110
Foundations in Gender Studies
SP1 OUA 2015
Dept of Sociology

Contents
General Information 2
Learning Outcomes 2
General Assessment Information 3
Assessment Tasks 3
Delivery and Resources 6
Unit Schedule 7
Policies and Procedures 8
About this Unit 10
Extensions and Special Consideration 11
Reading Material 11

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
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Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit introduces students to fundamental theory used within gender studies to explore what it means to be male and female today, and what it has meant for past generations. Students will gain a sense of the complexity and significance of a number of key issues and debates (local and global, past and present) that have arisen within the study of sex and gender. These include: body, image and power, the cultural and psycho-sexual dynamics of oppression and violence; ideas of equality at work, at home, and at school; and the changing nature of masculinity and femininity in Australia. The unit is interdisciplinary, with input from politics, education, history, philosophy and indigenous studies, as well as sociology and gender studies. All enrolment queries should be directed to Open Universities Australia (OUA): see www.open.edu.au.

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://www.open.edu.au/student-admin-and-support/key-dates/

Learning Outcomes

1. An understanding of what the social movement of feminism is about, why it has developed and why it matters today
2. An understanding of what the discipline of women's studies, gender and sexuality is about, why it has developed and why it matters today
3. An understanding of gender and power
4. A sense of the complexity and significance of a number of key issues and debates (local and global) in contemporary women's studies, gender and sexuality
5. A sense of the complexity and importance of cross-cultural dialogue on gender issues
6. A practical knowledge of how to critically analyse texts and engage with their content effectively

7. An understanding of the relationship between forms of knowledge and forms of everyday living. The material itself, which focuses on a range of contemporary issues to do with gender, will help students to approach real-life situations, analyse them, and remedy problems when necessary. We believe that what students learn in GEN110 is knowledge that they will be able to adapt to the real world by using the analytical skills developed in the unit.

General Assessment Information

Detailed guidelines explaining the requirements for each assignment are available on iLearn in the section marked 'Assessment details and Resources.' It is necessary to have read these guidelines in order to successfully complete each task.

A late penalty may be applied to assignments submitted after the due date: 5% on the first day, 1% per day thereafter.

Essays are submitted electronically via Turnitin. There is no hard copy necessary. Details on how to submit can be located on iLearn.

Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Weekly quiz starting in week 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay - Academic Resources</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Sunday Week 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay - Media Sources</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Sunday Week 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Throughout</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Quizzes

Due: Weekly quiz starting in week 2
Weighting: 30%

- Students will be required to complete a weekly multiple choice quiz, starting in Week 2 (10 quizzes in total).
- There will be three questions for each quiz based on the required readings and/or the lecture material.
- Quizzes are scheduled to open on a Monday and close at the end of the week on Sunday.
This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
- An understanding of what the social movement of feminism is about, why it has developed and why it matters today
- An understanding of what the discipline of women's studies, gender and sexuality is about, why it has developed and why it matters today
- An understanding of gender and power
- A sense of the complexity and significance of a number of key issues and debates (local and global) in contemporary women's studies, gender and sexuality
- A practical knowledge of how to critically analyse texts and engage with their content effectively

**Essay - Academic Resources**

Due: **Sunday Week 6**  
Weighting: **30%**

- Select a GEN110 Foundational or Focus topic.
- Design a research question in response to that topic or use the generic one provided.
- Summarise one of the required readings that relates to your chosen topic and question.
- Compose a 1000 word essay in answer to your research question, incorporating your summary and any additional academic resources you feel are necessary.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
- An understanding of what the social movement of feminism is about, why it has developed and why it matters today
- An understanding of what the discipline of women's studies, gender and sexuality is about, why it has developed and why it matters today
- An understanding of gender and power
- A sense of the complexity and significance of a number of key issues and debates (local and global) in contemporary women's studies, gender and sexuality
- A sense of the complexity and importance of cross-cultural dialogue on gender issues
- An understanding of the relationship between forms of knowledge and forms of everyday living. The material itself, which focuses on a range of contemporary issues to do with gender, will help students to approach real-life situations, analyse them, and remedy problems when necessary. We believe that what students learn in GEN110 is knowledge
that they will be able to adapt to the real world by using the analytical skills developed in the unit.

**Essay - Media Sources**

**Due:** **Sunday Week 12**  
**Weighting:** **30%**

- Select a GEN110 Foundational or Focus topic  
- Find a recent newspaper item to address in relation to that topic.  
- Design a research question in response to the topic or use the generic one provided.  
- Explore additional media sources in relation to your chosen topic/question.  
- Critically analyse the primary news item and secondary media sources. It may also be necessary to refer to academic sources to help frame your argument.  
- Compose a 1000 word essay incorporating the above elements.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- An understanding of what the social movement of feminism is about, why it has developed and why it matters today  
- An understanding of what the discipline of women's studies, gender and sexuality is about, why it has developed and why it matters today  
- An understanding of gender and power  
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- A sense of the complexity and importance of cross-cultural dialogue on gender issues  
- A practical knowledge of how to critically analyse texts and engage with their content effectively  
- An understanding of the relationship between forms of knowledge and forms of everyday living. The material itself, which focuses on a range of contemporary issues to do with gender, will help students to approach real-life situations, analyse them, and remedy problems when necessary. We believe that what students learn in GEN110 is knowledge that they will be able to adapt to the real world by using the analytical skills developed in the unit.

**Participation**

**Due:** **Throughout**  
**Weighting:** **10%**

- Regular forum contributions to iLearn are a requirement of this unit.
Students are expected to contribute to 80% of the online discussion.

A Pass grade for this component will therefore entail at the minimum: 2 posts (approx 150 words each) in 8 out of 10 topics. Total of 16 posts.

Posts will need to show evidence of having done the readings and listened to the lecture.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- An understanding of what the social movement of feminism is about, why it has developed and why it matters today
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Delivery and Resources

Technologies used:

This unit is conducted entirely online via iLearn. Lectures for this unit were originally delivered to a live audience during Semester One at Macquarie University. Students can access the recordings through ECHO on iLearn. The lectures are 2hrs long: 1 x hour lecture and 1 x hour video. Please note that the video material is supplementary to the lecture, not essential viewing. Echo recording doesn’t typically allow the capture of video material for copyright reasons. Where possible I have therefore included hyperlinks on iLearn to streaming versions of the films. The remaining videos can be viewed at Macquarie University library if students live locally (remember to bring your own headphones), or sourced independently.

Students require access to reliable broadband internet and a computer.
# Unit Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Feminism/s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Femininity</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sex-gender</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Equality &amp; Difference</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Gendered Harm</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Reproduction: Rights &amp; Responsibilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Politicians &amp; Prejudice: Sexism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Muslim Women, Feminism &amp; Islamic Feminism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Female Genital Mutilation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Indigenous family violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Gender (masculinity) &amp; Education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Policies and Procedures

Late Submission

Unless otherwise stated, late submission of written work will result in a deduction of 10% of the mark awarded for each week or part of a week beyond the due date, or date to which an extension has been granted.

Extension Request


The University recognises that students may experience disruptions that adversely affect their academic performance in assessment activities.

The disruption to studies policy (http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html) applies only to serious and unavoidable disruptions that arise after a study period has commenced.

Serious and unavoidable disruption

The University classifies a disruption as serious and unavoidable if it:

• could not have reasonably been anticipated, avoided or guarded against by the student; and
• was beyond the student's control; and
• caused substantial disruption to the student's capacity for effective study and/or completion of required work; and
• occurred during an event critical study period and was at least three (3) consecutive days duration, and/or
• prevented completion of a final examination.

If you feel that you've been impacted by a serious and unavoidable disruption to study situation, submit an application as follows:

1. Visit Ask MQ (https://ask.mq.edu.au) and use your OneID to log in via 'Current student domestic and international'
2. Under 'Forms' select 'disruptions' and fill in your relevant details.
3. Attach supporting documents by clicking 'Add a reply', click 'browse' and navigating to the files you want to attach, then click 'submit form' to send your notification and supporting documents
4. Please keep copies of your original documents, as they may be requested in the future as part of the assessment process

**Review**

Once your submission is assessed, recommendations are sent to your unit convenor to ensure an appropriate solution for affected assessment(s) is organised.

**OUA Specific Policies and Procedures**

**OUA Special Circumstances Process**

Special Circumstances refers to late withdrawal from a unit and your request to have your circumstances taken into account for a possible refund of fees and removal of a "fail" result.

*Applications for Special Circumstances are to be submitted to Open Universities Australia directly:*


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:


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/](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 Enquiry Service
For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

Equity 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.

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.

About this Unit
Foundations in Gender Studies is an introductory unit for students interested in what it means to be male and female today and what it has meant for past generations. The unit is divided into two parts: Foundational Topics and Focus Topics.

The Foundational Topics will each use first, second and third wave feminist theory to explain how issues that are now fundamental to Gender Studies - such as the ethics of care, gender identity, equal rights - first came to prominence. In addition, by using the different waves of feminism to structure the unit students will glean how gender theory has changed over time and how the discipline continues to evolve in response to contemporary issues.

The Focus Topics contained in the second part of the Unit will give students the chance to apply the different theoretical frameworks they've learnt above to specific discussions of local or global issues that affect men, women and gender-diverse subjects today.
GENX110 is an interdisciplinary unit, drawing from sociology, philosophy, education and more. The unit has been designed by the Director of the Gender Studies Program at Macquarie University, Dr Judy Lattas, who also provides the majority of the lecture material. A number of guest academics will also deliver lectures within their fields of expertise.

Trigger Warning: GENX110 contains lecture material on sexual assault and domestic violence. I urge any student who feels unable to engage with lecture content of this sort (for example in Week 6 on Gendered Harm or Week 11 on Indigenous Family Violence) to contact me so that I can organise alternative assessment if necessary.

Extensions and Special Consideration

Extensions

Extension requests should be made as early as possible before the assignment due date to:

ouainfo@mq.edu.au

Extensions are granted only on grounds of illness or misadventure, and appropriate supporting documentation must be submitted. If you are having problems completing an assignment, please contact the convenor or tutor as early as possible.

OUA Special Circumstances Process

Special Circumstances refers to late withdrawal from a unit and your request to have your circumstances taken into account for a possible refund of fees and removal of a “fail” result.

Applications for Special Circumstances are to be submitted to Open University Australia directly.


Reading Material

There is no requirement to purchase any texts for this unit. All required reading can be accessed electronically through MQ library. For more information click on the Online Learning Guides tab in the top right sidebar on iLearn. Then click 'Library Support'

In summary, required readings can be accessed via:

- hyperlinks for each text on the GENX110 iLearn site (within each topic section)
- iShare link on iLearn (this will take you to all the unit readings housed within MQ library)
- general Catalogue search of the MQ library website

The required reading for each of our Foundational Topics will consist of 3 texts (usually journal articles or book chapters) that represent first, second and third wave feminist theory.

The required reading for each of the Focus Topics will consist of 2 texts.

The required reading is one of the most challenging parts of the unit - those of you who have studied Arts subjects previously will have some familiarity with this. As the articles or book chapters can be complex it may be necessary to read them more than once. Please be an active...
reader, make notes, print out the readings if it’s helpful and underline relevant passages. Use secondary sources. Learning a new language like gender theory takes time, but is worth the effort!

A supplementary reading list has also been provided.