# GEN 110

## Foundations in Gender Studies

S1 External 2015

*Dept of Sociology*

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## Disclaimer

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**General Information**

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Credit points
3

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status
Unit description
This unit invites students to interact with each other and with teachers and social activists from inside and outside the university on the question of what it means today to be male or female, and what it has meant for past generations. We consult some of the key texts in women’s studies, gender and sexuality, like those of Mary Wollstonecraft, Simone de Beauvoir, Jessica Benjamin and Bob Connell. We turn our attention to some important issues including: body image and the internalisation of power; the cultural and psycho-sexual dynamics of domination and violence; ideas of equality at work, at home, and at school; and the changing nature of masculinity and femininity in Australia. A new way of conducting classes using elements of enquiry-based learning has led to the introduction of collaborative, self-designed assessment projects. The unit is interdisciplinary, with input from politics, education, ancient history, Indigenous studies and more, as well as from sociology and gender studies. It can be taken as a one-off elective in any degree, or in pursuit of a major or minor in Gender Studies. Both male and female students are warmly welcome.

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://students.mq.edu.au/important-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 summarise texts and engage with their content effectively
7. A practical knowledge of how to work with others in small groups on a collaborative project
8. 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 you to approach real-life situations, analyse them, and remedy problems when necessary. We imagine that what you learn in GEN110 is knowledge that you will be able to, through using the analytical skills developed in the unit, adapt to the real world.
Assessment Tasks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Quizzes</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Weekly in weeks 2-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Essay - Academic Resources</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Friday 24th April 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Research Project – Media</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Friday 5th June 2015</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Throughout</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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1. Quizzes

Due: **Weekly in weeks 2-11**

Weighting: **30%**

From week 2, a multiple choice quiz will be opened on the GEN10 iLearn unit on the morning of the weekly lecture. Students will have three days in which to complete it. There will be three questions each week, based on required readings or the lecture. A total of 30 questions will be set with each attracting one mark.

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 summarise texts and engage with their content effectively

2. Essay - Academic Resources

Due: **Friday 24th April 2015**

Weighting: **30%**

A mid semester research essay (1000 words, maximum 1250 words) drawing on academic literature to explore a GEN110 topic, and demonstrating academic skills in research, writing and referencing.

See in iLearn, under ‘Assessment Resources’ (scroll down from weekly topic details), the file ‘Assessment details: Task Two, Research Essay - Academic Resources’ for details of this task.
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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- A practical knowledge of how to summarise texts and engage with their content effectively

3. Research Project – Media

Due: Friday 5th June 2015
Weighting: 30%

An end of semester piece of research (1000 words, maximum 1250 words) drawing on non-academic resources (e.g. news items, opinion pieces, websites, blogs, images) to explore a GEN110 topic that is recently in the news.

See in iLearn, under ‘Assessment Resources’ (scroll down from weekly topic details), the file ‘Assessment details: Task Two, Research Project –Non-academic Resources’ for details of this task.

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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- A sense of the complexity and importance of cross-cultural dialogue on gender issues
- A practical knowledge of how to summarise 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 you to approach real-life situations, analyse them, and remedy problems when necessary. We imagine that what you learn in GEN110 is knowledge that
you will be able to, through using the analytical skills developed in the unit, adapt to the real world.

Participation

Due: Throughout
Weighting: 10%

Regular contributions to group discussions on GEN110 topics on-line on the GEN110 iLearn unit (at least 3 per week on average is a requirement in order to pass). Evidence of having done the readings, and having thought about the topics in connection with events and relations between people in the wider world, will be taken into account.

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

Please note that lectures start in the first week of S1 classes, tutorials start in the second week.

Technologies used:

There is an online presence on iLearn; lectures are recorded and available through Echo on iLearn; students require access to reliable broadband internet and a computer. Externally enrolled students must keep up a regular and active weekly presence on iLearn in order to pass the unit; it is not enough just to submit other items of assessment.
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:


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/](http://students.mq.edu.au/support/)

Learning Skills

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://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.

Graduate Capabilities
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

• 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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real world.

Assessment tasks

• 1. Quizzes
• 2. Essay - Academic Resources
• 3. Research Project – Media
• Participation

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

• A practical knowledge of how to work with others in small groups on a collaborative project
• 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 you to approach real-life situations, analyse them, and remedy problems when necessary. We imagine that what you learn in GEN110 is knowledge that you will be able to, through using the analytical skills developed in the unit, adapt to the real world.

Assessment tasks

• 3. Research Project – Media
• 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

• 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
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Assessment task

- 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

- An understanding of what the social movement of feminism is about, why it has developed and why it matters today
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Assessment tasks
• 1. Quizzes
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• 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
• 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
• A practical knowledge of how to summarise texts and engage with their content effectively
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Assessment tasks

• 1. Quizzes
• 2. Essay - Academic Resources
• 3. Research Project – Media
• 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

• A sense of the complexity and importance of cross-cultural dialogue on gender issues
• A practical knowledge of how to summarise texts and engage with their content effectively
• A practical knowledge of how to work with others in small groups on a collaborative project
• 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 you to approach real-life situations, analyse them, and remedy problems when necessary. We imagine that what you learn in GEN110 is knowledge that you will be able to, through using the analytical skills developed in the unit, adapt to the real world.

Assessment tasks

• 1. Quizzes
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• 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**

- 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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**Assessment tasks**

- 3. Research Project – Media
- 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**

- 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
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Assessment tasks
• 3. Research Project – Media
• Participation

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:

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Assessment tasks

- 1. Quizzes
- 3. Research Project – Media
- Participation

Changes from Previous Offering

While all existing material is updated each year, especially the lectures, there have been new changes made to the content of this unit in 2015. This is due to the introduction of a new unit in 2015, especially dedicated to exploring masculinities (GEN220), which meant some redistribution of teaching materials. It is also due to the initiation of new collaborative links with Criminology, requiring a strengthening of the focus on gender-linked crime within the program as a whole.

We will continue to seek and respond to student feedback on all aspects of the unit, so that it works in well with student interests, capabilities and needs.

Changes since First Published

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20/02/2015</td>
<td>mistake corrected</td>
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</table>