All the World’s a Stage:
The Performance of Gender
FY97-T121- F01
MWF – 9:30 Mercy 105
First Year Seminar
Fall 2010
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Office Hours: 10:30-11:30 MWF
Mercy 103

All the world’s a stage
And all the men and women merely players
They have their exits and their entrances;
And one man in his time plays many parts.
--As You Like It (Act II, scene 7)

Course Description
Though we don’t usually realize it, we perform gender in our everyday lives, through our clothing, gestures, speech patterns, and other behaviors. This course examines how individuals, influenced by society’s institutions are drawn into the performance of gender as spectators, script writers, performers, and critics and explores how these performances can both empower and control us. We will investigate how we learn our gender roles, and how our identities and interactions with our environment are shaped by playing these roles.

The Common Curriculum and the First-Year Seminar
In addition to their major course of study at Loyola, students take a broad range of courses in the liberal arts and sciences known as the Common Curriculum. The Common Curriculum includes courses in English, history, philosophy, religious studies, the natural sciences, the social sciences, and the arts. This broad educational foundation is meant to:

- offer perspectives beyond students’ majors, preparing them for the demands of a complex world;
- is grounded in the core values of Loyola’s Jesuit mission and identity;
- develops students’ understanding of human values and social justice;
- develops students’ critical thinking, writing and speaking skills.
The gateway course to the Common Curriculum is the **First-Year Seminar**. This interdisciplinary seminar introduces the processes of academic inquiry and teaches students to think and learn as college students. While it focuses on a single topic, it provides an interdisciplinary approach and focuses on the larger theme of “thinking critically, acting justly.”

**Requirements**

- Informed participation is an important part of this class. Students must show good knowledge of the sources assigned for class, thoughtful reflection on their meaning, and engagement with as well as respect for the contributions of others. In order to participate students must attend class. You are allowed only three absences during the course of the semester. After this, points will be deducted from your final grade. Consistent tardiness will also result in a loss of points. (20%)

- Throughout the semester, students will write a total of ten (10) one-page (typed) papers that will respond to an assigned question or to the reading materials. (30%)

- Discussion Leader: students in groups of 2 or 3 will be responsible for leading one discussion during the semester. You will be expected to turn in an outline to me ahead of time along with a bibliography of secondary sources. (10%)

- Performance project to be presented in class. Since this class explores the ways we perform gender students will create plays that imaginatively showcase these gender performances. (20%)

- Final essay exam (20%)

**The grading scale:**

A = 94-100  
A- = 91-93  
B+ = 88-90  
B = 84-87  
B- = 81-83  
C+ = 78-80  
C = 74-77  
C- = 71-73  
D+ = 68-70  
D = 61-67  
F = 0-60

**Texts:**  
All readings will be posted on Blackboard.
Co-Curricular Events:
At least twice during the semester, this class will attend events outside of class time. You may be asked to write reflection papers on them. Classes may be cancelled to compensate for such events.

Personal Technology:
No computers, telephones, electronic recording devices, etc., of any kind are permitted in this class.

Academic Integrity
Academically dishonest behaviors such as cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. If you feel you need to clarify what constitutes plagiarism, please see me, one of the WAC lab tutors, or one of the reference librarians in Monroe Library. It is your responsibility to understand and avoid academically dishonest behavior. In accordance with Loyola University policy, students found cheating, plagiarizing, or misrepresenting someone else’s ideas as their own will be reported to their dean. In addition, you risk failing not only the assignment, but the course as well.

Students with Disabilities
The following is the University’s official statement on accommodation for students with disabilities: “A student with a disability that qualifies for accommodations should contact Sarah Mead Smith, Director of Disability Services at 865-2990 (Academic Resource Center, Room 405, Monroe Hall). A student wishing to receive test accommodations (e.g., extended test time) should provide the instructor with an official Accommodation Form from Disability Services in advance of the scheduled test date.”

Instruction in the Event of Evacuation
All students should familiarize themselves with “A Guide to Hurricane Preparedness for Loyola University Students” at http://www.loyno.edu/studentaffairs/hurricane_prep_students.html and the University’s “Hurricane Emergency Plan” at http://www.loyno.edu/studentaffairs/hurricane.emer.plan.html. Should an evacuation necessitate the cancellation of classes, students are expected to consult Blackboard for information about assignments. In the event of an extended closure of the University (more than 72 hours), faculty are expected to resume classes using Blackboard as a primary vehicle for delivering content and assignments. Changes to assignments for this course will be posted to Blackboard immediately following the announcement of a protracted closure; students are responsible for consulting Blackboard for this information.

The instructor reserves the right to alter this syllabus at any time. Any changes will be announced in class and on Blackboard.
Schedule of Classes

Week One

Learning Our Gender Roles

M 8/30  Introductions, class overview.


Sojourner Truth: “Ain’t I a Woman?”

Writing Assignment #1 (due Wednesday 9/8): Thinking about gender roles: Imagine close friends and family as the “other” gender. How might this affect your relationship with/perception of these people? Suppose that your gender has changed. How might your self-perception and experiences in the world be different?

Week Two

M 9/6  Labor Day Holiday


F 9/10  Visit to the Library: Class meets in LI room on 2nd floor of Monroe Library

Week Three


9/15  Taking the Stage: Ways We Perform
   Everyday Performances
9/17  Schechner pp. 151-158

Writing Assignment #2 (Due Monday 9/20): Observe and analyze the performances you see on campus and in the New Orleans community referring to our readings in your analysis.

Week Four
9/20  Butler continued

9/22  Interpreting our role – Communicating through our words and body

Discussion of Sheryl WuDunn’s book “Half the Sky”

(9/23 – Sheryl WuDunn on campus: 7 pm - Nunemaker)


Writing Assignment #3 (Due Monday 9/27): Response paper to the WuDunn lecture.

Week Five
9/27  Film – “Stage Beauty”
9/29
10/1  Writing Assignment #4 (Due Monday 10/4): Reaction paper to film.

Week Six  Dress Rehearsal – Costumes and Props
10/4  Discussion/Power point – Library DVD
Men’s and women’s Fashion/Style magazines


Week Seven
10/13 (tentative - Jennifer Craik: *The Face of Fashion*)
Other props
10/15 Costuming to class
*Writing Assignment #5 (due Wednesday 10/20)*

Week Eight
10/18 – *Fall Break*
10/20 Kimmel: *Guyland*, Ch. 10: “Predatory Sex and Party Rape” (pp. 215-241)
10/22 Guest Speaker: Wayne Barnes, Metropolitan Center for Women and Children—
“Redefining Masculinity: The Man Box”

Week Nine
10/25 Constance Johnson, “Her Toughest Case” in *Women’s Voices, Feminist Visions* pp. 417-422
10/27 *Take Back the Night*
10/29 *Writing Assignment #6: Gender roles and activism – Take Back the Night (due Monday 11/1)*

Week Ten
10/1 Film: “The Bird Cage”: tentative
11/3
11/5 *Writing Assignment #7 (due Monday 11/8): Film Reaction paper*

Week Eleven *A Critic is Born - Identity and Body Image*
11/10 Naomi Wolf: The Beauty Myth
11/12 *Writing Assignment #8 (due Monday 11/15)*

Week Twelve *Writing Your Own Script* Gender role awareness and empowered self-identity


11/18  Nona Willis Aronowitz on campus – 7 pm Audubon Room – “Girl-Drive: Criss-crossing America, Redefining Feminism”


Writing Assignment #9 (due Monday 11/22) – Nona Willis Aronowitz/Gender role awareness paper

Week Thirteen
11/22  Writing your own script continued

11/24-26: Thanksgiving Holidays

Week Fourteen  Gender Rebellions: Queer and Transgender identity and Drag Shows

11/29  Guest Speaker (tentative) – Professor Thomasine Bartlett


12/3  Suzanna Danuta Walters: “From Here to Queer: Radical Feminism, Postmodernism and the Lesbian Menace” in Feminist Theory Reader, pp. 482-502.

Writing Assignment #10 (due Monday 12/6)

Week Fifteen  It’s a Wrap -- Student performance presentations and final discussions.
12/6
12/8
12/10 Last Day of Class