Welcome to Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies! I am so excited to be teaching this class and I look forward to our time together.

WGS 200 is an introduction to women’s and gender studies as an interdisciplinary field spanning the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. We will study historical perspectives and contemporary understanding of women and gender. We’ll also use theory, systematic analysis, and experiential accounts to explore the complexities of gender. Below is your course syllabus.

**Learning Outcomes**
By the end of the semester, the student will be able to demonstrate understanding in the unit assignment papers, forum discussions and the final project of the following…

- Explain the complexities of gender as they relate to a spectrum of other identity determinants, such as race, class, ethnicity, and sexuality.
- Analyze gender-related mechanisms of interpersonal and institutional power and privilege.
- Place contemporary issues about women and gender within a larger historical framework and use that perspective to anticipate the future.
- Formulate and evaluate various strategies for social change.
- Articulate the relation of the study of women and gender to your own life and chosen discipline.

**Instructor Info**
Ashley Simons-Rudolph, PhD
apsimons@ncsu.edu (email is best way to contact me)
I am also the Director of the NCSU Women's Center and you can find me on the 3rd floor of Harrelson Hall in my office (Harrelson 326) Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:30-3:30. To ensure that I am not in a meeting, please email me in advance to let me know you are coming.

**Prerequisites**
None. This course fulfills a US Diversity GEP.

**Required Textbooks**
Reading Women's Lives, compiled by Cat Warren & Ashley Simons-Rudolph, Pearson Custom Publishing, 2006. Listed price at NCSU bookstore is $61.95 new. Many students have obtained cheaper used copies from NCSU and surrounding textbook bookstores. If you can, buy this one. It will save you alot of hassle throughout the semester.
Reading Women's Lives comprises the major part of your reading, but it will be supplemented with material you can access from our course website, in each week's schedule. If you don't want to buy the text, a copy of it is on reserve at DH Hill library.

I'll also list helpful weblinks and additional readings (.pdfs) sometimes. You will need regular access to the internet.

**Suggested Reading**

Boston Women’s Collective. (2011). Our Bodies, Ourselves. Touchstone Books. & 16.37 on amazon.com (for final project selection and additional reading) There is a copy of a former edition (2005) of this on reserve at the NCSU library and you can also borrow any edition from Wake County Libraries. You don't have to buy this book but it is a great reference, especially for WGS majors and minors. You can use it for topic selection for your final projects and you will likely find it useful explanatory reading throughout the semester.

**Course Organization**

There are seven topics of material organized into (sometimes multiple) course weeks. Each week in the semester has its own webpage accessible from Moodle. These units are:

- Introduction: What is Women’s and Gender Studies, Feminism, and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Waves of Feminism
- Relationship Between Gender, Race, Class, and Socio-economic Status
- Women and Media Images
- International Women’s Movements and Human Rights
- The Gendered Body: Science and Social Policy
- Relationships and Sexuality

**How you will be Graded**

This is an online course and most activities will be self-paced within a weekly schedule. You'll find the due dates and particulars for all of these assignments on your weekly schedule pages. Generally speaking, our weeks will run Monday morning (or whenever you choose to begin your workweek) to Sunday 11:45pm. This is to give you weekend-time to complete regular assignments and get ahead for the following week. However, past students have had better luck reading a bit throughout the week. While most readings aren't long in length, they are thought-provoking. Don't try to cram all of the reading and writing into one day...

Writing assignments are always due on the date specified at 11:45pm (this is a Moodle convention, not mine) unless otherwise noted. Moodle is merciless so make sure you get the assignment in BEFORE 11:45pm.

Your grades will be assigned as follows:

- **Class Participation on Moodle Forum**-30%
- **Unit Assignments** including summaries and short answer questions as specified on the weekly pages and the course schedule-40% / 10 points per assignment
**Final Project**-30%

***Your grades will be posted by their point value. For example, if you submit a weekly assignment that receives a “B-” grade, your grade will be “8” or 8/10 (80%)***

For final course grades, I do utilize standard NCSU +/- grading as follows:

- A+ = 97% and above; A = 94-96%; A- = 90-93%
- B+ = 87-89%; B = 84-86%; B- = 80-83%
- C+ = 77-79%; C = 74-76%; C- = 70-73%
- D+ = 67-69%; D = 64-66%; D- = 60-63%
- F= 59% and lower

**Late Assignments**

One good thing about an online course is that you may post your assignments at any time 24 hours a day/7 days a week. I expect you to plan ahead for life's emergencies...If you finish assignments early, you should post it early. Computers crash, websites go down, we all get sick, etc. Taking an online course means taking responsibility for your own work. We are all adults and I trust you to get things in on time. I know you are busy and I try to give you as much time as I can to complete your work...

If you submit late work, it is my discretion whether I will grade it. I’m not trying to be mean, but late papers put me in a jam too. Summary papers that are an hour or two late will be graded with a late penalty of at least one letter grade. Some assignments (like your final project for example) I cannot grade late because of my quick turnaround time to get your grades in.

The bottom line is: try not to be late, and if you are, email me as soon as possible to let me know when I can expect it. Please note that I do not give incomplete final grades.

**Attendance**

As this is an online course, there are no policies on in-person attendance. However, I do expect you to participate weekly in Moodle Forum and respond in a timely way to any emails that I may send to you.

**Academic Integrity**

Don’t cheat. Don’t buy papers. Don’t copy Wikipedia, change a few things, and then submit it to me. Don’t take other people’s work without citing them. Any of these things are (in my mind) exactly like copying off someone’s paper. Cheating is a personal insult to us academics. I will turn you in to the Academic Integrity Office and I don’t want to have to do that. The NCSU Honor Pledge specifies that: "I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this test or assignment." By simply turning in an assignment, you are indicating that you neither gave nor received unauthorized aid on the assignment. The University policy on academic integrity found here:
Code of Student Conduct Policy (POL11.35.1)

Disability
I really want this class to be accessible to everyone. If you have special needs, please let me know and I will do my very best to accommodate them. If you are visually impaired, you may change the font size on the website and/or contact me for further assistance. If you have other needs, I will try to address them. The university also wants you to know this:

"Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with verifiable disabilities. In order to take advantage of available accommodations, students must register with Disability Services for Students at 1900 Student Health Center, Campus Box 7509, 515-7653. For more information on NC State's policy on working with students with disabilities, please see the Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities Regulation (REG02.20.1)"

A Final Word
Most students have found this class interesting if not a bit fun. Most of the material is thought-provoking and I try to present different sides to controversial issues. Sometimes people misunderstand WGS so let me say right away that you will likely not personally agree with everything you read in this class. Again, I try to present different sides to the issues and the women’s movements (like all other social movements) are not monolithic. The selected readings are intended to give you a well-rounded perspective on some of today’s controversial issues. They don’t necessarily reflect my own political views nor do I expect that they will always reflect yours. Students from many different ways of life, political affiliations, viewpoints, etc have and will succeed in this class. What I ask of you is that you keep an open-mind and critically reflect on what you read. By all means, I welcome a professional, academic deconstruction of an argument and I invite you to engage the readings, me, and your peers in this kind of debate. Still, I want you to keep it academic and not personal. Ultimately, I don’t grade you on how much I personally agree with you nor whether you are/are not a feminist, an activist, etc. I grade you on how well you understand the course material and can apply it in a thoughtful way.

Respecting Other's Privacy
Students may be required to disclose personally identifiable information to other students in the course, via electronic tools like email or web-postings, where relevant to the course. Examples include online discussions of class topics, and posting of student coursework. All students are expected to respect the privacy of each other by not sharing or using such information outside the course.

Basic Computer Requirements
- Read the Basic Computer Requirements and check that you have the skills you need.

DE Virtual Orientation
- Review the Virtual Orientation to distance education to help you become familiar with the online course environment. You will find a wealth of information here, from
Getting Started to Tips for Success, lots of "how to's", examples of DE courses as well as other helpful information.

**NCSU e-Reserves**

- Make sure to have an updated version of Adobe Reader installed on your computer.

- Some of your readings will be available through the NCSU e-reserves. You will see the link located on the right hand side of the home page. You will then be taken to the e-reserves page for your course where you will login with your Unity ID and Password.

  - Email Dr. Simons-Rudolph
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