TEACHING GUIDE - 2026-2027

# Women's and gender studies

UGRA_014475

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| Departments | Department of Society, Politics and Sustainability |
| Teaching Languages | English |
| ECTS | 2 |
| Teacher responsible | Joyce Gwendoline Peronne Gourdin - joycegwendoline.peronne@esade.edu |

## Course Goals

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to:
• Define basic terms and concepts central to the field of Women's and Gender Studies.
• Understand and engage with central debates in this field.
• Use diverse methods of analyzing gender in society. • Communicate effectively about gender issues in both writing and speech, drawing upon Women's and Gender Studies scholarship and addressing a public audience

## Previous knowledge

None

## Prerequisits

None

## Teaching methodology

To actively question the meaning of gender in our community, this course is structured in a format that mixes lecture and discussion. It is thus important that students come to class on time, and that they complete the reading and writing tasks by the assigned dates. Many issues that we'll address in the course are controversial. Students will have different viewpoints and perspectives, therefore it's crucial that they respect one another's experiences so that our classroom is a safe and supportive space to debate. Active participation is required to receive full credit for the attendance and participation component of the final grade (20%).

(Please note: this course will be taught online.)

## Description

## Course contribution to

"Gender equality is more than a goal in itself. It is a precondition for meeting the challenge of reducing poverty, promoting sustainable development and building good governance." - Kofi Annan Gender Studies is an interdisciplinary academic field that explores critical questions about the

## program

meaning of gender in society.

Each class provides a theoretical framework, as well as examples of gendered-related situations that are controversial today, in order to make students reflect on our contemporary society, and create a debate. As a result, students not only learn how to use gender as a frame of analysis, but also think about the manifestation of gender in their own lives, leading to a range of personal and intellectual discoveries. This course analyses themes of gendered performance in a range of diverse social spheres: history, education, economy, politics, law and marketing.

(Please note: this course will be taught online.)

## Short description

Throughout the semester, we will "question gender" in multiple ways:
• What is the difference between sex and gender? Why does gender matter?
• Why don't we have a women's History? What lives did our female ancestors have?
• What does 'being a woman in the 21st century' mean? How can intersectionality help us to understand women's experiences? • How do gendered structures of power operate in politics and at work?
• What are the different kinds of feminism?
• How is gender taken into account in the political agenda? • How is the current visual industry an obstacle towards more gender equality?

(Please note: this course will be taught online.)

## Bibliography

McCall, L., The Complexity of Intersectionality, Signs (Book)
West, C. & Zimmerman, D, Doing Gender, Gender and Society (Book)
Angela Davis, Women, Race and Class (Book)

## Content

| # | Topic |
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| 1 | What is gender ? Sex and gender are two different concepts. The gender identity is composed of four components, as a consequence there are a wide range of diverse genders in our societies. Individuals experience discrimination not only because of their gender, but also because of their race, class, age, etc…To take into account all these factors, gender is now studied under an intersectional perspective. |
| 2 | Women in History (1): from the Roman Empire to the French Revolution The evolution of women's roles in History has to be understood in order to get a clearer view of women's current situation. At every point in our world History, there were powerful women – even |

| # | Topic |
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| 2 | when their rights were not guaranteed. From the influential Roman courtesans to the revolutionary women who invaded the Bastille in 1789, without forgetting the role of the catholic moral during the Middle Age, a large panel of women's stories will be covered. |
| 3 | 2. Women in History (2): The three waves of feminism (from the 19th century to today) The term feminism describes movements that aim to establish equal rights for women. There were three waves of feminism The first wave, occurring in the 19th, was concerned with women's right to vote. The second wave, which took place in the 1960s, was about women willing to get social rights. The third wave, beginning in the 1990s, sees women's lives as intersectional, demonstrating how race, class, and gender are all significant factors when discussing feminism. |
| 4 | 3. Being a woman in our 21st century world: different cultures, different situations. Gender in education. Global and regional data, from international organisations (such as the gender index), will be analysed to understand that women have different experiences depending on their class, nationality and culture. |
| 5 | 4. Gender in family, at work, and in religion Women are still victims of discrimination which prevent them from having the career they want. They do more domestic work, they suffer from the glass ceiling, and in the worst case they are victims of sexual harassment. A change has been noticed over the last decades, new laws and projects have been implemented to protect, but more progress needs to be done. |
| 6 | 5. Gender in politics and the different kinds of feminism The sex-typing characteristic of most institutions in the modern world cannot be denied and we'll analyse how gender shapes the ways people look at politics. However, some changes have occurred in this field, for example Europe has never had so many women as country's leaders. Nevertheless, some challenges remain. The first wave of feminism was liberal: women wanted equal rights. From the 1960s, new ideologies started to appear, and nowadays feminism refers to more than 7 different possible views: radical feminism, cultural feminism, black feminism… |
| 7 | Matriarchal societies A matriarchal society is an academic concept describing a social system in which one or more women exert authority over the community as a whole. We'll analyze the organization of different so-called matriarchal societies around the world, such as the Mosuos in China. |
| 8 | Gender and wars "It has probably become more dangerous to be a woman than a soldier in an armed conflict." (Major General Patrick Cammaert, former UN peacekeeping commander) Conflicts and situations of instability exacerbate pre-existing patterns of discrimination against women and girls, exposing them to heightened risks of violations of their human rights. We'll analyze more specifically the situation of women's rights in Afghanistan under the Taliban rule, and the role of women in the Ukrainian-Russian War. |
| 9 | Gender and art Although women artists have been involved in the making of art throughout history, their work, when compared to that of their male counterparts, has been often overlooked and undervalued. |

## Assessment

| Tool | Assessment tool | Category | Weight % |
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| Final individual project | The writing: Each student will be responsible for submitting a writing | Retake and ordinary round | 0.50% |

| Tool | Assessment tool | Category | Weight % |
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| | assignment over the course of the semester. Students are free to choose the topic they want, as long as it's related to one of the chapters of the course. A list of topics is availabl | | |
| Final individual project | The gender studies case: Each student will also be responsible for submitting a case. A list of questions/statements is available in the Moodle, all chosen because of their genderedrelated and controversial appearance in the newspapers, To make students | Retake and ordinary round | 0.50% |

PROGRAMS

ENGAL25-ENGAGE.EU (Undergraduates: Law)
- ENGAL25 Year 1 (Optative)

GBD20-Double Degree in Business Administration and Law (Undergraduates: Law)
- GBD20 Year 1 (Optative)
- GBD20 Year 4 (Optative)
- GBD20 Year 2 (Optative)
- GBD20 Year 5 (Optative)
- GBD20 Year 3 (Optative)

GBD23-Double Degree in Business Administration and Law (Undergraduates: Law)
- GBD23 Year 3 (Optative)
- GBD23 Year 1 (Optative)
- GBD23 Year 4 (Optative)
- GBD23 Year 2 (Optative)
- GBD23 Year 5 (Optative)

GBD25-Double Degree in Business Administration and Law (Undergraduates: Law)
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- GBD25 Year 4 (Optative)
- GBD25 Year 2 (Optative)
- GBD25 Year 5 (Optative)
- GBD25 Year 3 (Optative)

GBL24-Double Degree in Business Administration and Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Business)
- GBL24 Year 1 (Optative)
- GBL24 Year 2 (Optative)

GDL20-Double Degree in Law and Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Law)
- GDL20 Year 3 (Optative)
- GDL20 Year 1 (Optative)
- GDL20 Year 4 (Optative)
- GDL20 Year 2 (Optative)
- GDL20 Year 5 (Optative)

GDL23-Double Degree in Law and Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Law)
- GDL23 Year 3 (Optative)
- GDL23 Year 1 (Optative)
- GDL23 Year 4 (Optative)
- GDL23 Year 2 (Optative)
- GDL23 Year 5 (Optative)

GDL25-Double Degree in Law and Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Law)
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- GDL25 Year 1 (Optative)
- GDL25 Year 4 (Optative)
- GDL25 Year 2 (Optative)
- GDL25 Year 5 (Optative)

GED20-Bachelor in Law (Undergraduates: Law)
- GED20 Year 3 (Optative)

GED20 Year 1 (Optative)

GED20 Year 4 (Optative)

GED20 Year 2 (Optative)

GED25-Bachelor in Law (Undergraduates: Law)

GED25 Year 3 (Optative)

GED25 Year 1 (Optative)

GED25 Year 4 (Optative)

GED25 Year 2 (Optative)

GEL19-Bachelor in Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Law)

GEL19 Year 4 (Optative)

GEL19 Year 2 (Optative)

GEL19 Year 3 (Optative)

GEL19 Year 1 (Optative)

GEL23-Bachelor in Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Law)

GEL23 Year 3 (Optative)

GEL23 Year 1 (Optative)

GEL23 Year 4 (Optative)

GEL23 Year 2 (Optative)

GEL25-Bachelor in Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Law)

GEL25 Year 4 (Optative)

GEL25 Year 2 (Optative)

GEL25 Year 3 (Optative)

GEL25 Year 1 (Optative)