

Department: English

Course Name: Deconstructing Gender

Not currently offered

Course Description:

This senior English elective, a discussion-based seminar, focuses on the extent to which Western concepts of masculinity and femininity are socially constructed; moreover, the class will explore the effects of these prescribed “codes” on men and women with the goal of understanding how these codes are perpetuated or challenged by poetry and literature. There are no formal tests in this class; grades are derived from engagement of class discussion, reading assignments, and writing assignments.

Content:

The theories of various gender studies scholars, including Leonard Sax, Mary Pipher, Michael Thompson, and Dan Kindlon

Skills:

Read, comprehend, and analyze poetry and prose

Analyze author purpose

Annotate text

Make connections within and among literary works

Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of the piece.

Analyze/evaluate how the structure of a text contributes to its meaning as a whole.

Demonstrate knowledge that reflects a variety of genres of major periods, cultures and eras of literature.

Decode new vocabulary using contextual clues as well as other resources and methods

Identify figurative language and literary terminology

Analyze character development

Construct paragraphs

Write informally

Write formally

Proofread/Edit

Respond to literature

Write using sensory details

Write using figurative language

Cite research sources

Write a thesis statement

Write using transition words

Use search engines

Identify reliable sources

Respond to prompts

Utilize elements of essay writing

Clarify, support, and defend an argument

Analyze sources to determine their validity

Write a literary analysis

Write a clearly stated thesis statement with an arguable idea

Paraphrase text

Write a concise and developed outline for speech research

Formulate specific purpose statements for speaking objectives

Apply critical thinking analysis in formulating specific topics for speaking opportunities.

Recognize and avoid plagiarism

Review grammar skills
Respond appropriately to informal class discussion/question answer sessions
Express an understanding and analysis of literature through oral presentations
Develop oral presentation skills (posture, volume, pace, articulation, eye contact) for a variety of rhetorical modes
Read orally with fluency and expression
Use presentation technology
Articulate and communicate complex ideas through discussion.
Develop an understanding on non-verbal delivery skills
Appreciate and understand cultural phenomena in literature and American life

Text and Materials:

Sax, Leonard, *Boys Adrift* (Basic Books, 2007)
Sax, Leonard, *Girls of the Edge* (Basic Books, 2010)
Rhys, Jean, *Wide Sargasso Sea* (Norton, 1966)
Various Supplemental Materials

Methods of Instruction:

Guided Seminar
Film/Video
Lecture

Methods of Evaluation:

Class Engagement
Writing Assessments
Reading Assesments

