**THE CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK**

**THE GRADUATE CENTER**

**WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES – SPRING 2024**

**WGS 71600-01 (53872)/ WSCP 81600-01 (53875) – RESEARCH METHODS**

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Class Hours: Thursdays 2-4PM

Office Hours: Thursdays 4-5PM or by appointment

**Women’s and Gender Studies Program Description:** The [Master of Arts in Women’s and Gender Studies](http://www.gc.cuny.edu/Page-Elements/Academics-Research-Centers-Initiatives/Masters-Programs/Women%E2%80%99s-and-Gender-Studies) offers an interdisciplinary approach to graduate study in topics related to women’s and gender issues. The program aims to combine theory and practice, looking at gender and sexuality issues from an academic perspective, while at the same time giving students a grounding in real world concerns and the tools they need to think critically and creatively about women’s and gender issues. Students enrolled in the program will gain a broad understanding of gender and sexuality theories, writing, and movements, as well as develop special competence in their particular area of interest. This program is open to students from any relevant academic major, and/or working people seeking to return to school for a higher degree. Students completing this degree will be prepared to enter a wide range of government or private organizations that require gender expertise including social policy organizations, and/or to undertake further study at the Ph.D. level. Students will have access to diverse faculty and wide expertise as well as to the rich resources available in New York City. For more information, contact the Center for the Study of Women in Society, 365 5th Avenue, Room 5116 New York, New York, 10016 csws@gc.cuny.edu, 212-817-8895, the Director Prof. Dána-Ain Davis <https://centerforstudyofwomen.commons.gc.cuny.edu/masters-program/>

**Course Description:**

This course explores research modes of inquiry in the transdisciplinary field of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. It asks several questions, such as 1) How do feminist, queer, and/or trans scholars create new knowledge in gender and sexuality studies? 2) How do we work with interviewees, key texts, and other data sources while putting not only protocols but political commitments into practice?, 3) How do we do gender and sexuality studies?, 4) Does academic inquiry require an ordered approach?, and 5) How can methods generate knowledge? These questions ask us to reflect on what research methods or modes of inquiry are and how we collect and analyze data to grow the field. Researchers count, survey, interview, transcribe, and code, use qualitative approaches, quantitative techniques, and critical lenses to understand culturally and historically significant phenomena, and feminist, queer, and/or trans researchers use multiple types of research methods or modes of inquiry, such as transdisciplinarity and intersectionality, among others, resulting in a blossoming and blurring of fields. You will do research that explores the possibilities and contradictions of social identity and human life, centering gender and the spectrum of difference (i.e., race, class, sexuality, ethnicity, age, religion, disability, etc.). The protocols of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies reflect not only researchers’ decisions about how to collect data, but also more fundamentally their own understandings about what counts as evidence. In this course, you will learn about research methods or modes of inquiry and do your own research in order to understand material practices as well as enactments of protocols and political commitments.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Required Texts:**

All texts are on Blackboard except the following novel:

Joukhadar, Zeyn. *The Thirty Names of Night*. New York: Atria, 2020.

**Course Objectives:**

• You will do close readings of texts, including summarizing and annotating, and understand social, political, cultural, and historical issues, contexts, and terms.

• You will create central arguments that include a clear topic, a solid stance, and provide support for your main ideas by quoting, paraphrasing, and analyzing passages from texts.

•You will conduct your own research, such as using archives, doing interviews, etc., and write a paper about your original work.

• You will recognize your writing processes, receive feedback from your peers, conference with me, and revise your major writing assignments.

• You will engage in rigorous discussion that fosters critical reflection about feminist theories in your lives, in the scholarship, in the world, and in the texts through collaborative interaction.

• You will write grammatically and mechanically correct papers and cite in academic format.

**Requirements:**

•A co-facilitation of a class based on an assigned reading, which includes an overview and discussion questions to lead a small group discussion of approximately 45 minutes

•An argumentative research paper, conducting research on a feminist, queer, or trans movement or issue of your choice (i.e., queer women in Black Lives Matter) that includes at least 10-15 scholarly peer-reviewed articles and original research (i.e., interviews, archives, etc.), goes through a revision process, and is approximately 15-20 pages

• Class participation and discussion

•All written assignments should be posted on Blackboard

**Grade Distribution:**

Presentation 20%

Research Paper 70%

Participation 10%

**Writing Procedures:**

• You will engage in a process of composing (i.e., prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and proofreading) for all writing assignments.

• You will receive a wealth of feedback on your essay from your peers. You also will conference with me. Before you submit your final drafts, you will produce several drafts for each essay, including for peer review and professor review. You will present your papers to the class during writing workshops once during the semester for feedback.

• You will have the opportunity to revise your essay after your initial grade is recorded so long as you consider my feedback and submit within one week. Revisions have the possibility of replacing the previous grade, but only if substantial improvement is evident. In other words, simply changing mechanical errors (i.e., commas) in your essay will not raise grades.

• You will be given ample feedback. This feedback will allow you to learn from the comments and apply the comments in your future writing projects.

**Discussion Procedures:**

• You will be well-prepared for all class discussions by doing all the assigned reading and writing prior to class.

• You will demonstrate your understanding and analysis of the readings by being fully engaged in class discussions.

• You will be respectful of your peers’ ideas and my ideas.

**Civility:**

The Graduate Center is committed to the highest standards of academic and ethical integrity, acknowledging that respect for yourself and others is the foundation of educational excellence. Civility in the classroom and respect for diversity and the opinions of others are very important in an academic environment. It is likely you may not agree with everything said or discussed in the classroom, yet courteous behavior and responses are expected. Acts of harassment and discrimination based on matters of race, ethnicity, class, gender, gender identity, sexuality, religion, and/ or ability, etc., are not acceptable. I promote strict enforcement of these rules. All students, faculty, or staff have a right to be in a safe environment, free of disturbance, and civil in all aspects of human relations.

**Names and Pronouns:** I affirm all forms of gender expressions and identities. If you prefer to be called a different name than what is on the class roster, please let me know. Feel free to inform me of your pronoun (i.e., she/her/hers, he/him/his, or they/them/theirs, etc.) or if you do not have a pronoun (i.e., name only). If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. For more information, please visit <http://www2.cuny.edu/about/administration/offices/legal-affairs/policies-procedures/equal-opportunity-and-non-discrimination-policy/and> <https://www1.cuny.edu/mu/forum/2017/02/24/protecting-the-rights-of-transgender-and-gender-nonconforming-students/>​

**Accommodations:**

CUNY Policy and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability. The Graduate Center provides adaptive technologies and services for qualifying students. For more information, please see the section “Student Disability Services” on the page <http://www.gc.cuny.edu/Prospective-Current-Students/Student-Life/Resources>. In addition, please consult with me if I can help meet your need for accommodations in this area.

**Participation:**

I will run this class as a seminar. Active participation in seminar discussions includes: finish reading assigned readings before the seminar meetings, coming to class, contributing to class discussion, and being prepared to raise questions, comments, observations, analyses of connections and discontinuities in/between the texts at hand and readings from earlier classes. The amount of reading will vary, but it will generally be between 100-300 pages each week. Please focus on close reading for 5 articles per week, except for the novel, and skim the rest enough to be able to put them in thematic conversation with one another.

Each seminar meeting will loosely follow this agenda:

1. Welcome (Prof. Washburn) (5 min)

2. Upcoming deadlines and readings (Prof. Washburn) (5 min)

3. Announcements (Seminar participants) (5 min)

4. Overview of Assigned Reading (Prof. Washburn) (10 min)

5. Group Discussion and Co-Facilitation (Co-facilitator and Prof. Washburn) (40-45 min)

6. Report Back (Co-facilitators, Seminar participants) (30-40 min)

7. Closing (Seminar participants) (5 min)

**Co-Facilitation**:

Once during the semester, each student will submit a facilitation overview and discussion

questions to share with the class for one week of the seminar. Each student’s overview and discussion questions will be due on Blackboard by 2pm on Wednesday (one day before the scheduled seminar meeting). You can post your overview and discussion questions

earlier than then, too. During the seminar meeting, you will facilitate a group discussion. You will use at least one of your discussion questions to engage fellow seminar participants in discussing the assigned reading for the day. You will facilitate the seminar using the discussion questions and overview that you have prepared.

**Academic Integrity:**

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged (intentionally or unintentionally) use of summary, paraphrase, direct quotation, language, statistics, or ideas from articles or other information sources, including the Internet. For further information about avoiding plagiarism please review *Avoiding and Detecting Plagiarism: A Guide for Graduate Students with Examples*: <https://www.gc.cuny.edu/CUNY_GC/media/CUNY-Graduate-Center/PDF/Policies/General/AvoidingPlagiarism.pdf?ext=.pdf>. The Graduate Center is committed to enforcing CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity. You must cite according to MLA, Chicago, ASA, APA, or some other academic format. Cite in whatever style you choose (footnotes, end notes, in-text parenthetical citations), but you must cite your work. If you plagiarize all or part of a writing assignment, you will automatically receive an F on it, and it cannot be revised. If you repeat the offense, you will fail the course. You also may be subject to other disciplinary measures. The Graduate College regards acts of academic dishonesty (e.g., plagiarism, cheating on examinations, obtaining unfair advantage, and falsification of records and official documents) as serious offenses against the values of intellectual honesty.

**Extra Credit:**

I am organizing numerous events to celebrate Women’s History Month for the Women and Gender Studies Program at Queens College. Most importantly, Susan Stryker will be delivering the Palmer keynote on March 4, 3:10-4:25 in QNS01 - RO-230 (Library). In addition, Valerie Fryer-Davis will be giving a talk on March 25, 3:10-4:25 in QNS01 - RO-230 (Library). Both of these talks focus on trans studies. I organized a student and faculty luncheon on March 13 during the free hour, 12:15-1:30pm in QNS01 - RO-525 (Library). I also organized a lecture by Bernardita Llanos on March 11, 3:10-4:25pm and an open mic on March 18 at 4:40-5:55PM in QNS01 - RO-525 (Library), both of which will be focused on feminist and queer issues. If you attend and write a short response to any of them, you will earn extra credit.

**Schedule of Assignments:**

**Please note:** The following schedule is tentative and may change based on the needs of the class. All assignments must be done before the date on which they are scheduled. I run this class as a seminar, focused on discussion.

**Week One (1/25): Introductions, Syllabus Distribution, & Feminist Knowledge Production**

**Week Two (2/1): Feminist Curiosity, Feminist Killjoys, and Bad Feminists**

“The Transformation of Silence into Language and Action,” Audre Lorde

“Being Curious about Our Lack of Feminist Curiosity,” Cynthia Enloe

“Feminist Killjoys (and Other Willful Subjects),” Sara Ahmed

“Transfeminist Kill/Joys: Rage, Love, and Reparative Performance,” T.L. Cowan

“Bad Feminist” (Intro), Roxanne Gay

“Womanism,” Alice Walker (Blackboard)

[“Introduction: How to Read This Book](https://cuny907-my.sharepoint.com/%3Ab%3A/g/personal/matthew_brim40_login_cuny_edu/EStu38iOVGZCkHS6oUMjCYMBgZvmZpndIPF6QXp1QYHrYw?e=SeuNOb),” Robyn Wiegman

**Week Three (2/8): Intersectionality and Identity Politics**

 “Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color,” Kimberle Crenshaw

“Notes toward a Politics of Location,” Adrienne Rich

“Defining Black Feminist Thought,” Patricia Hill Collins

 “Under Western Eyes Revisited,” Chandra Talpade Mohanty

“*La Conciencia de la Mestiza*: Towards a New Consciousness,” Gloria Anzaldúa

“*La Guera*,” Cherrie Moraga

“‘I Would Rather Be a Cyborg Than a Goddess”: Becoming Intersectional

in Assemblage Theory,” Jasbir Puar

“Trans\*feminist Intersections,” Reese Simpkins

“Toward a Decolonial Feminism,” Maria Lugones (Blackboard)

[Black Feminism Reimagined : After Intersectionality](https://cuny-gc.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01CUNY_GC/16jbkos/alma990093416560106140) (excerpt), Jennifer Nash (GC - pick one chapter)

**Week Four (2/15): Feminist Scholarship and Publishing**

“The Master’s Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master’s House,” Audre Lorde

“A Press of Our Own: Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press,” Barbara Smith

“Making Feminist Points,” Sara Ahmed

Cite Black Women -- <https://www.citeblackwomencollective.org>

Trans Syllabus for Bullshit Times -- https://abusablepast.org/trans-studies-syllabus-for-bullshit-times/

*Women’s Studies Newsletter/ WSQ: Women’s Studies Quarterly,* Feminist Press 1: (Fall 1972) (pick one)

*Nonbinary*, Red Washburn and JV Fuqua, *WSQ,* Feminist Press. 51.3-4 (Fall-Winter 2023)

(read introduction, a creative piece, and one academic article)

*TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly*. *Postposttranssexual: Key Concepts for a Twenty-*

*First-Century Transgender Studies* 1.1-2: (May 2014) (pick three keywords)

[Decolonizing Methods](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFQ09rPQFyA), Linda Tuhiwai Smith (Youtube)

[Decolonising Research: Working Methods](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9X6OADGTDI), Raewyn Connell (Youtube)

**No Class (2/22): (Monday Schedule)**

**Week Five (2/29): Cultural Analysis**

“Introducing the Museum of Transgender Hirstory and Art,” Chris Vargas

Alok Vaid-Menon, Kay Ulanday Barrett, Kiyan Williams, Cassils, Elektra KB, Kris Grey, and

Chris Vargas (performances on Blackboard)

**Week Six (3/7): Quantitative Work**

Guest Speaker: Dr. Beth King

“[Feminists Really Do Count: The Complexity of Feminist Methodologies](https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=tdvdAAAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false),” Christina Hughes and Rachel Lara Cohen

“Indigenous Data, Indigenous Methodologies and Indigenous Data Sovereignty,”

Maggie Waltera and Michele Suina

“Understanding and Reducing Sexual Prejudice in Jamaica: Theoretical and Practical Insights From a Severely Anti-Gay Society,” Keon West

**Research Topic Due**

**Week Seven (3/14): Literary Analysis**

*The Thirty Names of Night*, Zeyn Joukhadar

Interview with Zeyn Joukhadar, Red Washburn

[www.zeynjoukahadar.com](http://www.zeynjoukahadar.com) (read one other interview from his site)

**Week Eight (3/21): Oral History**

Brooklyn Public Library, Info Commons Lab, Class 2-4pm

“Trans/Feminist Oral History: Current Projects,” Elspeth H. Brown

 “A Method for the Margins: A Trans Feminist Oral History,” Darryl Hill (chapter 17, [*Handbook of Research with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Populations*](https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/cunygc/detail.action?pq-origsite=primo&docID=446671)GC login)

NYC Trans Oral History Project -- <https://www.nyctransoralhistory.org>

(check out five interviews)

Digital Transgender Archive -- <https://www.digitaltransgenderarchive.net> (find one to share)

**Week Nine (3/28): Archival Analysis**

[“An Inevitably Political Craft,”](https://read.dukeupress.edu/tsq/article/2/4/544/24743/Introduction-An-Inevitably-Political-Craft) K.J. Rawson (*TSQ*, GC database)

“Multiracial Feminism: Recasting the Chronology of Second Wave Feminism,”

Becky Thompson

“‘What Has Happened Here’”: The Politics of Difference in Women’s History and Feminist Politics,” Elsa Barkley Brown

“On Groundlessness: Transphobic Feminism, Gender Ideology, Transfeminist Critique,” Susan Stryker (Blackboard)

“Introduction” and “A Nightmarish Silhouette: Racialization and the Long Exposure of Transition,” C. Riley Snorton

“The Woman-Identified Woman,” Radicalesbians

“A Black Feminist Statement,” The Combahee River Collective

“What We Want, What We Believe,” Third World Gay Liberation

“Queers Read This,” Queer Nation

“Femme Shark Manifesto” (QZAP)

“The ‘Empire’ Strikes Back: A Posttransexual Manifesto,” Sandy Stone

“The Transfeminist Manifesto,” Emi Koyama

“Bread and Roses: International Manifesto”

“The Ten Point Program,” The Black Panther Party (Blackboard)

Black Lives Matter, https://blacklivesmatter.com

**Week Ten (4/4): Social and Biological Analysis**

“Of Gender and Genitals: The Use and Abuse of the Modern Intersexual”and two chapters of your choice from[*Sexing the Body: Gender Politics and the Construction of Sexuality*](https://files.libcom.org/files/Fausto-Sterling%20-%20Sexing%20the%20Body.pdf),

Anne Fausto-Sterling

“[*My Metamorphous*](https://www.harpersbazaar.com/culture/features/a42167371/insects-sabrina-imbler/)*,*”Sabrina Imbler

**Week Eleven (4/11): Queering Archives and Field Trip**

Lesbian Herstory Archives Tour (Park Slope, 12-4pm)

Lesbian Herstory Archives -- www.lesbianherstoryarchives.org

“[Getting from Then to Now: Sustaining the Lesbian Herstory Archives as a Lesbian Organization](https://content.ebscohost.com/cds/retrieve?content=AQICAHjIloLM_J-oCztr2keYdV8f1ibHmDucods679W_YPnffAEt0Rs6adLHwluyJqfYkQF2AAAA2zCB2AYJKoZIhvcNAQcGoIHKMIHHAgEAMIHBBgkqhkiG9w0BBwEwHgYJYIZIAWUDBAEuMBEEDCFESXPxrvJ7KISOUAIBEICBk0nf62hqKHFnB6XfQwKcLXKylgFRH8bsQNgAxZ4OHmzQCEBErgYzD4rZQLvJw5me1UHQNGMmwseQM6bkfRk-LC_COSsHAYI3Y42AZwn6tuKi_XQ4KzPvlgcOXLyl-Exs-eEcDaZJ0yKro-5NXkgpKIqnC5laLDdBp3DsUFJWeBG64FaXBVgk3Z61EE9w2HKXtJwDIQ==),” Shawnta Smith-Cruz et al (GC database)

**Week Twelve (4/18): Photography and the Archive: Dislodging Visual Methodologies**

Guest Speaker: Dr. Giulia Nazarro

“Introduction”(excerpt from *Unruly Visions: The Aesthetic Practices of Queer Diaspora*, Gopinath Gayatri)

--<https://www.dukeupress.edu/Assets/PubMaterials/978-1-4780-0035-8_601.pdf>

*Faces and Phases*. *Transition*, Muholi, Zanele. <https://doi.org/10.2979/transition.107.113>

**Spring Break (4/22-4/30)**

**Week Thirteen (5/2): Failures and Futures & Argumentative Research Paper**

“The Queer Art of Failure,” Jack Halberstam

“Feeling Utopia,” Jose Munoz

“Imagined Futures,” AlisonKafer

“Times to Come: Materializing Trans Times,” Jian Neo Chen and Micha Cardenas (Blackboard)

**Rough Draft of Argumentative Research Paper Due** **– Peer Review**

**Week Fourteen (5/9): Argumentative Research Paper and Course Wrap Up**

**Revised Draft of Argumentative Research Paper Due** **– Peer Review**

**Final Draft of Argumentative Research Paper Due: Wednesday, May 15**

**Week Fifteen/ Final Exam Period: (5/16-5/22) – TBD**

**Argumentative Research Paper**

**Paper Due 5/2 (Rough Draft), 5/9 (Peer Review), and 5/15 (Final Draft)**

Research is not a type of essay on its own. Research merely assistsin supporting a central argument. You should not rely exclusively on quoted passages. Instead, you should develop your own ideas and reasons as well as use original research. Your goal is not to string information together, but rather to write a coherent, argumentative research paper that embodies your ideas using 10-15 scholarly peer-reviewed articles and/or books you find independently to support your ideas about a feminist, queer, and/or trans movement or issue as well as include your own original research, such as interviews, archives, etc. You might think about the following: 1) my key texts and my framework(s) are, 2) my position as a researcher is: (past work, subjectivity, etc.), 3) this project matters to me and may matter to some others because:, 4) My research question is:, and 5) example: annotated bibliography. You may wish to write an initial draft before you incorporate research, and then supplement your ideas with the information you have found and synthesized. You should research a feminist, queer, and/or trans movement, issue, or topic (i.e., suffrage, street harassment, equal pay, welfare, intimate partner violence, cyberactivism, hip hop feminism, riot grrl, trans healthcare, sex work, #Black Lives Matter, #MeToo, the prison industrial complex, sanctuary campuses, the field formation of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, the journal history of *WSQ*, homelessness, sweatshops, environmental racism, and the media portrayals of women, etc.) about which you wish to know more. This issue should be examined within a historical context, i.e., World War II or Black Lives Matter. If you care about your topic, your essay will be easier for you to write. Your scholarly peer-reviewed articles must be valid, and you should include your own original research questions and analyses. For your secondary sources, you should come from one of the library journals, databases, or books. Journals should have an author, journal title, volume, issue, and year. It should not be a newspaper article or a magazine article. You must be able to examine scholarly journal articles and determine their relevance to your project. You must develop your own ideas and topics, follow your beliefs and passions, strengthen your ideas with outside sources, and contribute your own research. You may pick any feminist, queer, and/or trans movement or issue to research so long as you use 10-15 scholarly peer-reviewed articles or books, make your own argument, and provide several reasons for your arguments. For instance, you might explore the theme of sexuality in relation to terrorism. You might decide to discuss the rise of homonationalism and queer assimilation. What are the connections between theories of gender, sexuality, race, and nation under colonialism? Why is there queer acceptance in capitalist countries that are subservient to imperial ideologies and practices? Why were LGBTQ people not allowed into the country until 1990? You could discuss the politics of reproducing the nation in terms of racial purity, heteronormativity, and patriarchal norms. You should get assistance from librarians and come to me for help as you begin to work on your projects. All projects must be revised and proofread before handed in.If you plagiarize, the project will receive a failing grade. Your paper must be 15-20 pages. You should submit all drafts. Make sure your paper includes your original research, scholarly peer-reviewed sources, citations throughout your paper, a works cited page, and your voice/ argumentation is in the paper, not just synthesized secondary source data. It comprises 70% of your grade. Your paper should be double-spaced, have one-inch margins all around, be 12 point Times New Roman font, and have a proper heading with your full name, my full name, the full titles and sections for our classes, a date, and a title.

**Databases Instructions**

Go to the Graduate Center library site, go to databases, and search JSTOR (or some other database like Project Muse, EBSCO, etc.). You also can search by journal title (for example, *WSQ* or *TSQ*). Use 10-15 articles or books from the library database for your research paper. Limit search to full text and scholarly peer-reviewed. You need these sources for a passing grade.

**Grading Checklist**

•This project has a clear argumentative statement. Each body paragraph raises a supporting point. Each body paragraph has a topic sentence that clearly encapsulates the point of the paragraph and connects it to the central argument.

•The research is smoothly incorporated into your project. Nothing seems to have been forced in arbitrarily. All quotes need to be introduced, explained, and connected to support the topic.

•Every piece of information has a clear citation within the text. You have not plagiarized.

•You conduct your own research, such as archival work, interviews, etc.

•There is a Works Cited page that is formatted according to MLA (or some other academic format) rules.

•The project has been proofread for errors.

You should submit all drafts and peer reviews. Late papers will be penalized.

**Grading Checklist**

•You should write an introduction that has a strong hook or captivating opening (i.e., quote, anecdote, or question).

• You should synthesize your central arguments and main ideas.

• You should write in a professional tone by removing or revising personal experiences and reflections. Instead, you should focus on historical commentary about the texts for your body/ middle paragraphs.

• You should save passages from the texts you enjoyed and used in your journals, yet locate additional passages that further support your critical insights.

• You should explain and analyze why the passages you chose are important. You should support your claims by adding additional topic paragraphs.

•You should smoothly incorporate the article into your critical analysis. All quotes need to be introduced, explained, and connected to support the topic.

•You should have a clear citation within the text. You should not have plagiarized.

•You should have a Works Cited page that is in MLA format (or some other academic format).

• You should include a conclusion that neither summarizes your introduction nor includes topics that you did not discuss in your essay.

•You should develop and organize your sentences and paragraphs coherently, with clear topic sentences, a clear focus, and strong examples.

•You should revise your essay and eliminate any grammatical and mechanical errors.

**Citation­­ Guide**

•Remember to include all drafts.

•Remember to include a proper heading.

•Remember to craft a creative title. (i.e., “Research Methods” or “Queer Women in Black Lives Matter” are not creative).

•Remember to do parenthetical references in MLA format. For instance, according to MLA format, all references should have the author and the page from which you are citing in parentheses followed by a period. For instance, According to research, “. . .” (Smith 56). If “Smith” is in a sentence, just write the page number. For instance, Smith writes, “. . .” (56).

•Remember a passage that is more than four lines long needs to be indented.

•Remember that periods and commas always go in quotes and that only quotes within quotes have single quotes.

•Remember to do a Works Cited page.

For a book, the MLA citation is:

Brady, Evelyn et al. *In the Footsteps of Anne: Stories of Republican Women*

*Ex-Prisoners*. Belfast: Shanway Press, 2011.

For an article in a book, the MLA citation is:

James, Joy. “Framing the Panther: Assata Shakur and Black Female Agency.”

*Want to Start a Revolution?: Radical Women in the Black Freedom Struggle*. Ed. David F. Gore, Jeanne Theoharis, and Komozi Woodard. New York: New York University Press, 2009. 138-160.

For a journal article, the MLA citation is:

 Butler, Judith. “Critique, Dissent, Disciplinarity.” *Critical Inquiry*. 35.4. (Summer 2009): 773-795.

For a website, the MLA citation is:

 Goodman, Amy. “Deportations Continue Despite Review of Immigrants with

 Family Ties.” *Democracy Now!* 7 June 2012. Headlines. www.democracynow.org

**Online Instructions:**

To post assignments online, go to the main menu on the course page. Select the “Discussions” button. Select the name of your assignment listed for submission, i.e., “Reader Response – Week Two,” select “Create Thread,” and follow upload instructions. All assignments must be submitted as attachments using Microsoft applications, i.e., Word. Your file extension should read docx or .pdf. OTHER FILES CANNOT BE ACCESSED BY BLACKBOARD.

**Grading Criteria for Written Work**

A Applies to compositions that are clearly superior in their development and expression of ideas. An A paper may not be flawlessly proportioned or totally error-free, but it does all of the following:

• engages the topic thoughtfully and imaginatively; in addition to a detailed understanding of the topic, it has interesting, new or important insights to convey

• develops a thesis or idea using a logical structure; it has sound organization and offers detailed analyses of the evidence cited to support arguments

• uses sentences varied in structure and complexity to achieve a clear and eloquent expression of the ideas it discusses

• makes few or no mechanical mistakes (i.e. spelling, punctuation, grammar, etc.)

B Applies to good, solid and competent compositions. A B paper does most of the following well:

• responds intelligently to the topic with a clear thesis that is solid but not striking; ideas do not progress much beyond readings or classroom discussions

• is focused and provides an orderly progression of the argument or ideas, which are reasonable and anchored in examples drawn from readings and classroom discussions

• uses clearly written sentences, though the style may be slightly awkward at times

• makes some minor mechanical errors, but no major ones

C Applies to satisfactory compositions. A C paper usually:

• responds reasonably, if unimaginatively, to the topic; it may have a weak or fuzzy thesis and show some confusion about the topic

• shows some sense of overall structure, but the organization and connection between ideas may not always be clear; it may ramble at times and does not adequately back up points with evidence from readings or class discussions

• uses understandable if not always eloquent sentences; some sentences may not accurately or clearly convey the ideas being presented

• makes many minor mechanical errors and distracting mistakes (words are missing, diction is inconsistent); proofreading is weak

D Applies to less-than-satisfactory compositions. These papers usually lack the coherence and developments of C papers and exhibit significant deficiencies. In addition, a D paper often:

• offers a simplistic or inappropriate response to the topic; the thesis is usually missing or may be entirely incorrect (a serious misreading of a text, for instance)

• shows little sense of structure and organization

• makes frequent and serious mechanical errors that impede communication and understanding

F Applies to papers with serious weaknesses in many errors. An F paper shows severe difficulties in writing. It:

• offers little substance and may disregard the topic’s demands

• lacks any focus, organization, or development

• misuses words and contains abundant mechanical errors

• is plagiarized in part or as a whole

Adapted from Harry Edmund Shaw, “Chapter 5,” in *Teaching Prose*, Ed. Fredric V. Bogel and Katherine K. Gottschalk. New York: W.W. Norton, 1984.

1. Thanks to Professor Matt Brim for sharing his syllabus and ideas with me. I build on them in this class. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)