This course introduces core topics, perspectives, and theories in Gender Studies. The course examines how feminist, queer, and trans “conversations” have illuminated the categories “women,” “gender,” and “difference.” Foregrounding anti-racist feminist analysis of “intersectionality” -- which explains the simultaneous action of multiple power relationships -- the course examines how gender, race, nation, class, sexuality, disability, and age interrelate and how intersectional analyses and movements can respond. Guided by accounts of conversations and intersectionality, the course then examines the topics of inequality, marginalization, violence and anti-violence, solidarity, and transnationalism, with such examples as: Indigenous feminism; men and feminism; trans activism; organizing against gender and sexual violence; and transnational feminism. No previous courses or experience in Gender Studies is required. GNDS 120 serves as an introduction to the Gender Studies program of study at Queen’s University.

This course explores women, gender, and difference from feminist and anti-racist perspectives. It identifies the ways in which women’s activism, politics, and experiences intersect with other gendered identifications such as race, location, class, (dis)ability, and sexuality. Lessons and texts will introduce feminism, the body, colonialism, gender performance, and strategies of resistance.

Name & Gender Pronoun Statement

Knowing and applying the names and pronouns that students wish to use is a crucial part of developing a productive learning environment that fosters safety, inclusion, and personal dignity. If you do not use the official name or gender pronoun that appears in the course enrollment section, please inform me at your earliest convenience.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, you will have:

- Learned key topics, questions, and methods in the interdisciplinary field of gender studies;
• Developed a capacity for critical, intersectional thought and action;
• Developed skills in thinking, communicating, and working together across differences;
• Considered the role gender studies can play in your education and broader life.

Course Materials

There is no required textbook for this course. All readings and notes will be provided to you through the onQ course site.

• Module course notes
• Module Required Materials (essays and videos accessed through onQ)

Suggested Time Commitment

Students can expect to spend, on average, about 10–12 hours per week completing relevant readings, assignments, and course activities.

Weekly Work Schedule

As an online course, GNDS 120 posts or links all course content on this website. You must practice Active Learning by independently studying all of the website contents in order to keep current in the course.

Course Notes and all required readings are the primary course text. Read the Course Notes and required readings. Approach the Course Notes as if they represent the lecture of the week: they, and the required readings offer primary knowledge. Optional material is for those who would like to learn further on the topics. If you do not have enough time, please skim through the optional material. They will provide you with ideas for your assignments and the information will sometimes come up in the course notes.

At the end of each week you may test your new knowledge by taking the weekly Quiz, anytime after Thursday or before 5 pm Sunday. The quiz tests material assigned during the week in which it opens: see Timeline for a weekly guide. Six (6) quizzes are required. Ten (10) quiz options are available, as indicated on
the Timeline and Modules. You may complete as many quizzes as you wish. If you complete more than the minimum required, your top six scores will be averaged to produce your grade for the quiz assignment.

**Weighting of Assessments** *(subject to revision)*

- **Quizzes** (6x5%)  
  30%
- **Critical Reflection Paper**  
  20%
- **Collaborative Digital Report**  
  25%
- **Final Essay**  
  25%

**Quizzes**

You are required to take six (6) quizzes to complete the Quiz Assignment. You may take as many quizzes as you wish up to the total available of ten (10). Your final grade for the Quiz Assignment will be calculated as the average of your top six quiz scores: all quiz scores below the top six will be dropped.

**Late Policy**

Deadlines must be respected whenever possible. If a student is unable to submit an assignment on time, the student must provide a note from a counsellor, doctor, etc., explaining the outstanding circumstances. Written assignments submitted after the deadline, without proper documentation, will receive a late penalty of 5 percent per day, including the weekends.