Instructor contact information:

Dr. Shelley Park  
Department of philosophy  
PSY 269  
407-823-2273  
email: Shelley.Park@ucf.edu. I would prefer you contact me via course mail at web courses.  
Office Hours:  M 9-10 (Virtual), T 9-10 (F2F in Orlando) or by appt.

Course description:

In this course, we will examine a variety of contemporary theories concerning sex and gender. Theories to be examined include post-structuralist theories of gender, feminist theories of sex and gender, biological theories of nature and nurture, developmental systems theories of sex and sexuality, critical race theories concerning the intersections of race, class, gender and sexuality, and phenomenological theories of the lived experiences of sexual and other orientations. We will examine these and other theories in light of their interplay with popular culture and everyday life.
Required texts:


Course requirements:

**Attendance and participation (ongoing): 25%**

**Attendance:** 12%. I care whether or not you attend class. Your learning requires your attentive presence in class in addition to your preparedness for our discussions (see below). Everyone is allowed to unexcused absences without penalty; after that you will be docked one point for each unexcused absence. Excused absences according to UCF policy include: religious observances, documented illness, bereavement, participation in a University sponsored event requiring your presence. Please also make every effort to arise in class by the scheduled starting time and to stay until class ends. Tardiness and premature departures disrupt class in addition to your own learning; thus you will be docked .5 points for each instance of such behavior after the first two.

**Participation:** 13% Participation requires regular attendance but it also goes beyond sitting in a desk at the required hour. It requires you demonstrate a willingness and ability to be an active member of our learning community. Please read the material noted on the course schedule prior to each class and be prepared to ask and answer questions, participate in full class and small group discussions and exercises, and contribute to your peers’ learning while enhancing your own. You will demonstrate your participation skills and earn participation points by the following behaviors: making informed and relevant contributions to our discussions, asking informed, intelligent questions, answering my questions in ways that demonstrate thoughtful grappling with readings, concepts and themes, taking a leadership role in group work when asked, skillfully facilitating the speech of others, respecting the informed and relevant opinions of others even when they may differ from your own, and bringing *completed* homework items to class to aid our discussions.

You will lose participation marks by exhibiting behaviors such as the following: texting during class, playing computer games during class, completing homework during class, sleeping during
class, having side discussions during class, starting sentences with the words “I haven’t done the reading but . . .” and verbal and nonverbal communications demonstrating disrespect for your classmates, your teacher, or the authors whose work we are discussing. Your participation grade will also reflect the quality of your formal class presentation during the final week of class.

**Homework and quizzes (daily): 25%**

On most days, there will be either a homework assignment or a brief quiz on assigned material. Homework will ask you to define, analyze, or most often apply concepts and themes from our readings. Homework assignments will be posted on the course website (see course calendar); please check this site for assignments. Homework should be submitted at the start of class and will be evaluated according to its accuracy, thoughtfulness, and effort.

Quizzes will be brief (true/false or multiple choice) and designed to assess understanding of basic concepts or themes from that day’s reading. Most often, quizzes will be given on homework days, but I reserve the right to give unannounced quizzes on any day.

**Midterm: 25%**

There will be a midterm exam covering material in our first three texts: Foucault, Butler, Fausto-Sterling. This exam will include both objective questions and short answer or essay questions. Study guides will be provided as we go. See course calendar for date of exam.

**Final exam or project: 25%**

A final exam, scheduled during final exam week, will be comprehensive but emphasize material covered after midterm. See course schedule for date. Like the midterm exam it will include both objective questions and short answer or essay questions. In lieu of the final exam, you may opt to do a final project that will be submitted on or before the final exam day. This project should demonstrate your ability to engage and apply concepts and themes from the class—especially concepts and themes from our last two texts: Hill Collins and Ahmed. Further information on the final project option will be forthcoming after spring break.
Grading Policies:

I use a plus/minus scale for grading as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A (Exceptional, Outstanding, Wow!)</td>
<td>93% or better</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B (Very good, exceeds expectations)</td>
<td>83-86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D (Below satisfactory, fails to meet basic expectations)</td>
<td>63-66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F (Fail)</td>
<td>Less than 60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Attendance Policy: See course requirements above.

Academic Integrity: There is a zero tolerance policy for cheating and plagiarism. Cheating occurs when someone else does your work for you or gives you test answers, etc. Plagiarism occurs when you quote or paraphrase someone else's words or borrow their ideas and fail to cite your source. It is a form of cheating because this failure (whether intentional or unintentional) represents someone else's work as your own. It is an infraction of the student code of conduct and will result in a referral to the Office of Student conduct and an automatic "F" on that assignment. If you have questions regarding when or how to cite something, please consult the MLA style guide, the University Writing Center, or your professor.

Disability accommodations: If you need accommodations, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (SDS) who will inform me how to best provide individualized accommodations consistent with your documented disability. To be eligible for disability related accommodations, students must have a disability as defined by applicable federal and state laws and documented by an appropriate health care provider or professional.

Late Submissions: Late submissions will not be given full credit unless you have an excuse recognized by UCF policy, e.g. hospitalization, death or life-threatening illness of a family member, or other documented medical excuse. Other legitimate reasons for absence (e.g. religious holidays, UCF related travel) are not excuses for late submissions; work should be turned in early when you know you will be absent on the deadline. Please also note that a broken computer, or the inability to retrieve, produce, or submit assignments from a computer will not be accepted as a valid excuse for submitting an assignment late. Back up your work and avoid procrastination in order to meet deadlines.
Extra-credit: Do not ask for extra-credit. Do your best throughout the class and you will not need it. If I decide a substantial portion of the class would benefit from an additional opportunity, it will be offered to everyone. I will not select you out for special treatment. Don't ask.

Course Schedule:

The course schedule, including topics, readings and assignment due dates can be accessed at the online course calendar.