

GWS 325G-001: International Women's Issues
T/Th 9:30-10:45am Quinn #104



Fall 2025

University of Rhode Island

Instructor: Dr. Kathleen M. McIntyre

E-Mail: kamcintyre@uri.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday from 1-2pm & Wednesdays from 1:30-2:30pm in Roosevelt Hall #317 and by appointment. [Virtual meetings: <https://uri-edu.zoom.us/my/mcintyreoffice>]

Required Text/Materials:

- *Grass*, Gendry-Kim, Keum Suk, 2019 (paperback or kindle edition)
- *Women Across Cultures: A Global Perspective*. Burn, 5th edition, 2023.

Recommended free subscription:

<https://www.nytimes.com/activate-access/edu-access/university-of-rhode-island-kingston-ri>

General Education: GWS 325G meets learning objectives

- (A2) Understand theories and methods of the social and behavioral sciences
- (C2) Develop and exercise global responsibilities
- (GC) Exploration of multiple perspectives of areas of contemporary significance, including their ethical implications

Course Description:

Focuses on women's rights in a global context, ideologies and practices that deny women equal status in society, including violence against women, freedom and democracy movements and women's rights. Through a variety of primary sources—including popular culture and current news articles—we will contemplate the societal norms and institutional structures that impact the lived experiences of women across the globe. Special emphasis placed on the impact of postcolonialism and cultural imperialism on developing nations. Students will analyze a course theme and apply it to a current events topic research project.

GWS 325G Learning Goals:

After taking this course, students enrolled in GWS 325G will be able to:

- Gain factual knowledge about international women's issues including terminology and trends (evaluated in reading quizzes, exam, and discussions)
- Apply course material to current events (assessed through research paper project)
- Learn how to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments and points of view (assessed in written reflections and class discussions of assigned readings)
- Recognize cultural diversity in women's movements (assessed in discussions and exam)

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS, EXAM, & ACTIVITIES

- Participation— Attendance and class participation 100 points (10% of final grade)
- Student Survey— Questionnaire related to interests in GWS 325G 10 points (1% of final grade)
- 4 Reading quizzes—Some weeks you will take an on-line multiple-choice reading quizzes through our Brightspace site. There are 5 quiz opportunities—I count the highest 4 scores at the end of the semester. Quizzes may not be made up at a later date unless you have a university-sanctioned excuse. 25 points per quiz for 100 points (10% of final grade)
- 3 Short reflections— Throughout the semester, you need to submit one-page reflection pieces on the assigned readings. You will respond to three prompts on the correct due date (there are four options listed; I take the three highest). Each reflection is worth 50 points each for total of 150 points (15% of final grade)
- Film Review Project—140 points (14% of final grade). Choose a film from the approved list and write a review which links the film to key themes/topics explored in GWS 325G.
- Discussion Participation and Facilitation: You must sign up to co-facilitate a particular topic's week of reading. There are five discussions; sign up to lead one. 100 points (10% of final grade—5 points per pre-discussion topic post/5 points for class discussion; 50 points for facilitation role).
- Mid-term exam: Multiple choice and essay based on concepts and terms from course materials/lectures and article quotation analysis. 200 points (20% of your final grade)
- Research paper project: 200 points (20 % of final grade) Proposal (20 points), Bibliography (20 points), Peer Review (20 points), Presentation (20 points), Rough Draft (20 points), and Final Version (100 points). Write a 6-7 pg. research policy paper on a current global women's movement that relates to course themes.

MAJOR ASSIGNMENT POLICY:

- 1) All assigned work due dates are listed on the calendar on our Brightspace course website and in this syllabus. Bring the syllabus to class each week.
- 2) All submitted work must be typed and submitted on Brightspace through "Assignments".
- 3) Only documented illness or documented university-related activity allows a student to submit work late.
- 4) Guidelines for correct APA/MLA/Chicago formatting for larger assignments are posted on Brightspace.
- 5) Throughout the semester, there will be opportunities to earn extra credit points. It will be up to you whether you want to pursue them or not.

CLASS PARTICIPATION: As a member of this community, you are responsible for speaking up, listening carefully, and investing in not only your educational experience but that of your classmates. We frequently come to understand our own positions by holding them up against those of others. Thus, each of us is a learner and a teacher.

- Treat the professor & classmates with respect and proper decorum.
 - Be prepared each class to speak and/or work in small groups.
 - You need to prepare ahead of time for class participation and presentations.
-

Student Evaluation: During the course of the semester, you will amass points from writing assignments, quizzes, projects, exam, and participation. There are 1,000 potential points in this course; your final total will provide the basis of a standard grading scale whereby 930 points = A, 900 points = A-, 880 points = B+, 840 points = B, 800 points = B-, 780 points = C+, 730 points = C, 700 points = C-, etc.

GWS 325G Attendance Policy: We are a community of learners. When you aren't here, you miss our ideas and we miss yours. I expect that you'll honor the community with your presence and your preparedness to fully participate. Please be punctual by arriving on time to class. Throughout the term, you are permitted 2 absences without losing any participation points. You do not need to notify the professor if you miss two or fewer classes. After two absences, I will begin to deduct substantial points from your class participation grade. According to university policy, if you miss class due to a documented university function, sport competition, or illness, you still are responsible for assignments due and/or makeup work. For complete URI Excused Absence Policy: [See University Manual sections 8.51.11-8.51.16](#)

CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY:

To submit assignments and find additional readings, you will need internet access and technological ability to run the Brightspace platform on your laptop, desktop computer, or mobile phone. We will also have a few Zoom class days or presentations. Brightspace Student Tutorial videos are located [here](#). Brightspace runs best with Chrome, Safari, or Firefox browsers.

PLAGIARISM:

The university has a campus-wide policy regarding plagiarism (see URI catalog for details). This means that you do not engage in any of the following offenses:

- 1) Turn in material that was written for any other class (high school included)
- 2) Offer a re-structured, re-worded version of someone else's text
- 3) Download text from Internet sites/sources and offer them as your own ideas
- 4) Turn in work for which you received significant content contribution from a friend, family member, tutor, coach, etc. Doing so is called collusion and is a form of plagiarism.
- 5) Turn in work in which ideas and text from outside sources are not credited.
- 6) Use of Chat GPT or AI.

Committing any of the above violations or variation thereof will result in a report to the University Conduct Board.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF COURSE MEETINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS.

****All readings due BEFORE the class day they are listed under****

Week One: Course Welcome

Thursday, 9/4: Snapshot of current issues

Read: Syllabus

*Student survey due at end of class or via Brightspace

**Small group activity—Get to know your classmates

Week Two: Theorizing Global Feminisms

Tuesday, 9/9: History of Transnational Women's Activism

Bring in (paper form or electronic link) two news articles published this week (or within last few weeks) related to women's rights globally. You will share with classmates during class and upload to class shared discussion list via Brightspace.

Read: Ch. 1, pgs. 1-8 in *Women across Cultures (WAC)*

- Quiz #1 due Wednesday, 9/10 by 10pm

Thursday, 9/11: Postcolonialism and Orientalism

Read: *Women across Cultures*, pgs. 9-17 and /discussion/study questions on pgs. 20-21.

View: "The Danger of a Single Story" (Brightspace) and "Orientalism" clips on Brightspace

- Reflection Choice #1 due by Friday, 9/12

Week Three: Gender Inequalities

Tuesday, 9/16: Family & Marriage

Read: Ch. 2, pgs. 24-35, in *Women Across Cultures*

Read: pgs. 13-37 in *Grass*

View: Child marriage clips on Brightspace

- Quiz #2 due Wednesday, 9/17 by 10pm

***Discussion #1 post due Wednesday, 9/17 by 10pm; be prepared for full class discussion on Thursday

Thursday, 9/18: Sexual violence, war, and #MeToo

Read: Ch. 2, pgs. 35-50 (includes discussion/study questions) in *Women Across Cultures*

Read: *Grass*, pgs. 41-71

Full Class Discussion #1

Week Four: Reproductive Rights

Tuesday, 9/23: Virginity testing, family planning; postnatal complications; abortion

Read: Ch. 3, *Women Across Cultures*, pgs. 60-66; 72-85

View: Links on [uterine prolapse](#) and [obstetric fistula](#)

****Extra Credit Presentation on Homophobia and Postcolonialism in Haiti (time/place TBD)

Thursday, 9/25: Talk and demonstration by Ikonik Dance Studio (meet in MSSC Hardge Room)

Read: *In India, There's an App for Everything. Even Dream Babies.*

Reflection Choice #2 due

Week Five: Human and Sex Trafficking

Tuesday, 9/30: **VIRTUAL CLASS MEETING**--Cyber-brides and migrant marriages

Read: Ch. 7, WAC pgs. 218-225 in *Women Across Cultures*

Read: *Grass*, pgs. 75-120

*Discussion post due Wed.

Thursday, 10/2: Sex tourism and trafficking [Conference Travel]

Read Ch. 7 WAC pgs. 226-231

Read *Grass*, pgs. 126-191

Discussion #2 on Brightspace Discussion Board (asynchronous)

Week Six: Economic Policy

Tuesday, 10/7: Microcredit Loans, Development, Sustainability

Read: Ch. 6 pgs. 172-197 in *Women Across Cultures*

- Discussion #3 paragraph post due Wednesday

Thursday, 10/9 Corporations, Sweatshops, and Fast Fashion

Read: Ch. 7, pgs. 208-217

Read: ["How Big Business got Brazil Hooked on Junk Food"](#)

**Discussion #3 in class

****Extra credit: "Stories from the Soil," 4pm Hope Room in URI Welcome Center or Livestreamed.

**Final Paper Proposal due Friday by 10pm

Week Seven: Political and Social Activism, Part I

Tuesday, 10/14: Guest presentation, Dr. Carmen Alvaro Jarrin, Trans Activism in Brazil

Read: <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/latin-americas-trans-politicians-gain-ground-dangerous-region-2022-03-09/>

 Thursday, 10/16 **MIDTERM IN CLASS**

***Confirm film selection with instructor

Week Eight: Political and Social Activism, Part II

Tuesday, 10/21: Historical overview of gender and politics

Read: Ch. 9, pgs. 296-330, in *Women Across Cultures*

Quiz #3 due by Wednesday

Thursday, 10/23, 11/1: Iranian Protests

Read: [The Protests Inside Iran's Girls' Schools](#)

***Film Review due Friday, 10/24 by 10pm

WEEK Nine: LGBTQ+ Rights

Tuesday, 10/28: Guest talk by artist Xalli Zúñiga on LGBTQ+ communities in Mexico.

Read: Ch. 4, pgs. 98-115, in *Women Across Cultures*

- Discussion #4 paragraph post due Wednesday

Thursday, 10/30: Queering Global Health

Read: TBD article link on Brightspace

Reflection #3 Choice due on Friday by 10pm

Week Ten: Refugee Experiences, Part I

Tuesday, 11/4: “Boat People”

Read: *Grass*, pgs.196-305

***Bibliography research training in class

Thursday, 11/6: Black Feminist Roundtable (virtual or in person attendance)

View: [Optional Links on Brightspace]

Week Eleven: Refugee Experience, Part II

Tuesday, 11/11: NO CLASS-VETERANS’ DAY

Class Discussion Question Post due Wednesday by 10pm

Thursday, 11/13: Syria, Gaza, and Venezuela

View: <https://news.un.org/en/focus-topic/refugees-and-migrants>

Read: *Grass*, pg. 311-end

CLASS DISCUSSION #4



**Bibliography due Friday by 10 pm on Brightspace

Week Twelve: Rituals and Resistance

Tuesday, 11/18: Menstruation

Listen: [Why it’s so hard to stop women from sleeping in a menstrual shed](#)

Read: [Where a taboo is leading to the death of young girls](#)

****Mini writing workshop in class

Quiz #4 due on Wednesday by 10pm

Thursday, 11/20: Female Circumcision

Read: pgs. Ch. 3, pgs. 67-71, *Women Across Cultures*, [“She Ran from the Cut and Helped Thousands of Other Girls Escape”](#)

CLASS DISCUSSION #5

Reflection Choice #4 (Bonus) due Friday by 10pm

Week Thirteen: Research

Tuesday, 11/25: **NO CLASS MEETING—WORK ON ROUGH DRAFT**

- **Quiz #5 (Bonus)** due TUESDAY by 10PM


Bonus Quiz Reading: Brief selection on women and sports in Istanbul (Brightspace)

Thursday, 11/27: **NO CLASS MEETING—THANKSGIVING BREAK**

Week Fourteen: Current Events and Policy Recommendations

Tuesday, 12/2: Student Group Presentations


Thursday, 12/4: Student Group Presentations

 **ROUGH DRAFTS DUE Friday, 12/5 by 10PM VIA BRIGHTSPACE**

Week Fifteen: Review

Tuesday, 12/9: Course wrap-up

- Course evaluations
- Peer reviews due in class

 **FINAL RESEARCH PAPER IN LIEU OF EXAM: DUE BETWEEN 8AM-10AM ON BRIGHTSPACE ON TUESDAY, DEC. 16TH.**

Review URI's full statement on course policies here: <https://web.uri.edu/atl/syllabus-statements/>

ACCOMMODATION FOR DISABILITIES: Any students with documented disabilities should speak with the professor to arrange any necessary accommodations to help insure their optimal performance in the class. As defined by URI's Disability Services office, "Students with qualifying disabilities may be eligible, under the Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act of 2008 (ADA), for reasonable accommodations that will support equal opportunity and inclusion in university programs and services. Documentation from a credentialed examiner is required to substantiate the presence of a possible disability and to establish the possible need for accommodations at the University of Rhode Island." For more information please refer to URI Disability Services at: <http://www.uri.edu/disability/dss/documentation/index.html>.

WRITING CENTER: All writers, all disciplines, all levels, all stages of writing. If possible, call ahead for an appointment (874-4690). Drop-in tutorials are often available. Basement, Roosevelt Hall. You can also consult with people in the Academic Enhancement Center, Monday-Thursday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday 10a.m.-1p.m., and Sunday 4p.m.-8p.m. For more information call 874-2367 or go to www.uri.edu/aec.

Title IX. Any student, faculty, or staff member with questions or concerns about the Policy on Sexual Misconduct or who believes that they have been the victim of sex discrimination, sexual harassment, or sexual violence, as defined under Title IX, is encouraged to contact the University's Title IX Coordinator. Matters involving employees that do not meet the burden of proof under Title IX are forwarded to the Office of Equal Opportunity and the Office of Human Resources. The Title IX Office, in collaboration with the Dean of Students, provides support for and ensures enforcement of the University's Policy on Sexual Misconduct. The Title IX Coordinator also provides support to pregnant and parenting students, in collaboration with the Dean of Students, and to pregnant and parenting employees, in collaboration with the Office of Human Resources. Faculty with questions or concerns about potential sex-based discrimination or sex-based harassment violations, or departments seeking training, should contact the Title IX Coordinator at tixc@etal.uri.edu. More information is available at: [Know your Title IX – Sexual Violence Prevention and Response](#). Anti-Bias Syllabus Statement available at www.uri.edu/brt