



**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
FACULTY OF ARTS  
Department of Philosophy

**GSXS 305.3 LEC 01**  
**Gender and Popular Culture**  
Spring Term 2022  
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9:00am – 11:45am, on Zoom

### **COURSE OUTLINE**

**Instructor Name:** Paul Meunier (he/him)

**Email:** pnmeunie@ucalgary.ca

**Office Hours:** On Zoom, Tuesdays 12:00pm – 1:00pm

**Office:** Social Sciences (SS) 1210 – in-person meetings by appointment only

### **COURSE DELIVERY INFORMATION**

Lectures on Tuesdays & Thursdays are synchronous, and students are responsible for their own attendance. Tuesday office hours are also synchronous, with an “open door” policy (on Zoom) for all students. Additional meetings may be arranged by appointment, on Zoom or on campus in SS 1210.

### **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The University of Calgary resides upon the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta, which includes the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprising the Siksiká, Piikáni, and Káínai First Nations), the Tsúút’ínà First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including the Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Wesley First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III. The University of Calgary is situated on land adjacent to where the Bow River meets the Elbow River; the traditional Blackfoot name of this place is “Moh’kins’tsis”, which we now call the City of Calgary.

*ii’ taa’poh’to’p*, the Blackfoot name of the University of Calgary’s Indigenous Strategy, was bestowed and transferred in ceremony by Kainai Elder Andy Black Water on June 21, 2017. The name signifies a place to rejuvenate and re-energize while on a journey. Traditionally, these places are recognized as safe, caring, restful – and offer renewed energy for an impending journey. In a traditional naming ceremony, transitioning into the new name is a journey of transformation towards self-actualization.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Popular culture is a powerful force in our society, providing representations, messages, images, and ideas that have incredible influence throughout society. This course examines issues of gender and sexuality in popular culture, utilizing feminist, queer, trans, intersectional, and decolonial frameworks. We will think critically and analytically about these representations, about popular culture itself, and about different ways that communities participate and produce. We will also examine representations offering alternative portrayals to those of the mainstream. We will draw from a variety of cultural forms, including film, video, music, television, advertising, books, and the internet.

### **PREREQUISITE(S)**

There are no prerequisites for enrollment in GSXS 305: Gender and Popular Culture.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES**

- 1) To understand mass media and pop culture more fully.
- 2) To gain a historical perspective on pop culture.

- 3) To examine the ways in which gender and sexuality are represented within pop culture, and how they connect to systems of sexism and racism.
- 4) To understand how pop culture topics are represented, reinforced, and circulated.
- 5) To develop and strengthen critical thinking skills.
- 6) To become a more conscious, self-reflective person.
- 7) To create a vibrant learning community based on respect and curiosity.

### **PARTICIPATORY CLASSROOM PHILOSOPHY**

Gender and Sexuality Studies courses (GSXS) operate according to a participatory classroom philosophy. Students will be expected to engage with each other and the Instructor in a number of ways, whether in person or online, synchronous or asynchronous. Students need to be prepared for an intensive learning environment in which their ongoing participation is required. Everyone should follow our braver space model (see below). Your participation must apply the analytical frameworks that are standard to a university undergraduate experience.

We recognize that these are extraordinary times, with additional stress upon everyone. Technology helps us stay connected but also adds different pressures and expectations – and new forms of etiquette. In an in-person classroom, with rare exception, personal technology devices should only be used for note-taking and course-relevant research. If your circumstances require that you receive messages, it is helpful to inform the Instructor in advance and to seat yourself somewhere where distraction to others will be at a minimum. In a synchronous online environment, we encourage students to turn on their video interface. In all environments, non-essential communication or “surfing” is in violation of the Student Code of Conduct. Asynchronous communication must be timely, detailed, and respectful. More details are provided below, including university regulations governing academic and non-academic misconduct. GSXS Instructors rely on students to follow guidelines and policies.

### **CONTENT WARNING**

Any course in Gender and Sexuality Studies will include topics and content that may be uncomfortable, distressing, or a reminder of personal trauma. Students are encouraged to develop personal response mechanisms that keep you safe while staying engaged. Respectful, compassionate language is required at all times – no one needs to be “shocked” into recognition of injustice. Please review the Braver Space Guidelines in this document for more information.

### **REQUIRED/RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS, READINGS AND MATERIALS**

All readings are available on D2L at Content > Course Readings. Some may require additional searching either through Google or the university library catalogue. It is the responsibility of the student to secure permanent copies of the readings at the beginning of term. Due to licensing issues, a reading may not always be available to you when you want it. Students may be asked to access public broadcasting sites such as CBC Gem, TVO, and BC Knowledge Network. All services are free and do not require an account. The university also has a number of video streaming sites with material that may be assigned.

CBC Gem:

<https://gem.cbc.ca/>

BC Knowledge Network

<https://www.knowledge.ca/>

TVO

<https://www.tvo.org/documentaries>

University of Calgary Video Databases (including many copyright-cleared clips):

<https://library.ucalgary.ca/az.php?t=17737>

University of Calgary Images Databases (including many copyright-cleared images):

<https://library.ucalgary.ca/az.php?t=17736>

Colourbox (copyright-cleared images and videos):

<http://ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/loggedin/colourbox.html>

## COURSE ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

Refer to the section on D2L >Assignments for full details on each of the below assignments. All assignments are evaluated in accordance with the course General Grade Rubric.

Assignment	Weighted Grade	Deadline
Personal Introductions	Pass / Fail, 5%	Sunday, May 8 <sup>th</sup> , 11:59 PM
Student Code of Conduct	Pass / Fail 5%	Sunday, May 15 <sup>th</sup> , 11:59 PM
Pop Culture Curation	30%	Friday, June 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 11:59 PM
Reflection Analyses	10 X 2% = 20%	Weekly / Sunday, June 12 <sup>th</sup> , 11:59 PM
Final Essay	40%	Wednesday, June 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 11:59 PM

### GSXS GRADING SYSTEM:

Graded work for GSXS-305 follows the chart below. The university's Undergraduate Grading System is available here: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html>

Percentage	Letter	Usually Graded	Point	Description
96 + %	A+	97	4.0	Outstanding
90 – 95.9 %	A	92	4.0	Excellent
85 – 89.9 %	A–	87	3.7	Approaching Excellent
80 – 84.9 %	B+	82	3.3	Exceeding Good
75 – 79.9 %	B	77	3.0	Good
70 – 74.9 %	B–	72	2.7	Approaching Good
65 – 69.9 %	C+	67	2.3	Exceeding Satisfactory
60 – 64.9 %	C	62	2.0	Satisfactory
55 – 59.9 %	C–	57	1.7	Approaching Satisfactory
53 – 54.9 %	D+	54	1.3	Marginal Pass
50 – 52.9 %	D	52	1.0	Minimal Pass
0 – 49.9 %	F	0	0	Did Not Meet Requirements

### Policy for All Assessments and Absences (synchronous and asynchronous)

As per the University of Calgary Calendar G.1.1., a student who is absent from an in-person assessment in a course will receive a grade of zero on the assessment. This policy will remain the same for synchronous assessments scheduled to happen during a zoom meeting, such as a class presentation. If a student communicates with the Instructor and explains the circumstances around the absence, the Instructor may transfer the percentage weight for the assessment to another component of the course (such as the final examination), set another assessment, or make other alternative arrangements. An Instructor will normally make this decision based on the information provided by the student.

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of all assignments and to follow all instructions for completion and submission in case of loss by any cause.

## GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES PROGRAM COURSE POLICIES

### Student Conduct

A Student Code of Conduct Agreement, available on D2L, is part of this course. It is a required component of the class. Expectations for course engagement are detailed in D2L, which monitors student use.

Responsibility for fulfilling the requirements for all aspects of the course resides with the student. The Instructor will not give out lecture notes, repeat information, nor provide replacement copies of material provided during regular class meetings.

Group work is a normal component of a participatory classroom because it develops critical thinking and social skills. There may be a variety of assignments and engagement requirements that will demand your time and consideration of others.

Students must adhere to the Principles of Conduct, both Academic and Non-Academic, as outlined in the University of Calgary Calendar: [ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html](http://ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html)

### **Course Technology**

This course is offered as an online/remote version only. Students are responsible for their own technological equipment (hardware, software, and connectivity) and must feel confident using a variety of programs and portals. The Instructor does not provide technical support. If you are experiencing any technical issues, you must go through [ucalgary.ca/it](http://ucalgary.ca/it). All work must be completed using the online technologies designated by the Instructor. Failure to complete any assignments by the deadline and according to the instructions due to technological error on the student's part is not sufficient grounds for an extension or re-take, and may result in a grade of F (0).

Students are eligible for an Office 365 subscription with their U of C IT account/email with which they may install and activate the Microsoft Office program suite on up to 5 devices. They may download the Microsoft Office installation file by signing into their email online at <https://office365.ucalgary.ca> and selecting "Install Office Apps" from their main Office 365 portal page. Once the Microsoft Office suite is installed, they may activate the license by signing in with their @ucalgary.ca email.

A D2L portal has been set up for this course that allows for group correspondence, course announcements, class materials, assignment submissions and grading, and other forms of communication. Students are expected to check D2L at least once a week for any updates. D2L only uses @ucalgary email addresses.

Other platforms, portals, and programs may be required to complete course work. Students must have the capability to stream video.

Students must be able to edit files in Google Docs and Google Slides.

During synchronous meetings, we encourage students to turn on their video interface, and avoid distractions (including technologies and screens that are not relevant to the course) in order to facilitate group connections. At the same time, we are aware that there are circumstances that do not always make this possible. We trust students to make the right decision for themselves in keeping with the Braver Space Guidelines.

### **Student-Instructor Communication**

Appropriate communication procedures are described in detail in the Student Code of Conduct Agreement. The Instructor's preferred means of communication is first by scheduled office hours, then by a pre-arranged meeting time (only if the Instructor's office hours conflict with another course), and then by email.

The Instructor will endeavor to respond to emails within three business days of receiving the message. *If the student emails a question that is fully addressed by the syllabus, Student Code of Conduct, or posted on D2L, the Instructor will not reply.* If you don't receive a response within three business days, you can

likely find the answer yourself. The Instructor may respond to your email query with the request that you meet to discuss. Please note, that the university's regular business hours are 8:30-4:30, Monday through Friday and excludes recognized holidays. See the Academic Schedule for more details: [ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html](http://ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html)

### **Student Queries Regarding Grades**

If you have concerns about a received grade, email the Instructor and request a meeting. No re-assessment will be considered without a meeting. Only the Instructor may re-assess a grade, even if the assignment was originally graded by a teaching assistant. The Instructor will not re-assess any grades assessed by a teaching assistant without first discussing the grade with the assistant. Emails requesting a meeting to review the assessment will be responded to within five business days. The meeting will be scheduled according to the Instructor's availability. Requests for additional assignments or a re-take will not be granted.

Before contacting the Instructor, students are advised to:

- Review all rubrics, assignment instructions, and supporting documentation
- Be prepared to answer why you received the grade you did based on the materials listed above
- Review the university's policy on reassessment:  
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

### **Braver Space Guidelines**

*Second-wave feminists worked hard to strengthen group dynamics so that meetings and gatherings became supportive, positive spaces for everyone present. Initially, feminists used the terms safe space and safer space to indicate that commitment. Currently we use the term braver space.*

*In our GSXS program, the term braver space indicates a commitment to being respectful, self-aware, and mindful of the classroom dynamic and our place in it. It reminds us that it takes courage to participate in meaningful discussions of important social issues, in thoughtful and considered ways.*

*Awareness of group dynamics means that differences and diversity are respected, and that debate and discussion are welcome. This is particularly important in a course dedicated to social justice education, where conflict will inevitably arise. At the same time, remember that GSXS is an evidence-based discipline with high standards of research and analytical proof.*

*A more complete discussion of what steps create braver space classrooms is available on the D2L site.*

### **Gender and Sexuality Studies Program Course Policies**

Respect difference and diversity while welcoming thoughtful, critical debate and discussion. No one person's right to their beliefs may supersede another person's right to security and dignity.

When in a classroom dedicated to social justice education, conflict will happen. That is part of a healthy, dynamic, questioning space of learning and discovery. You are encouraged to hold onto your own personal beliefs, but recognize that there will be differences of opinion and experience.

A university classroom holds high standards of research, evidence, and analytical proof. Students need to listen attentively, respectfully, and critically to the evidence provided in class lectures, readings, discussions, and other materials.

Some of the materials and topics may include explicit content (violence; sexuality; profanity; blasphemy; objectionable or illegal conduct). If you feel any materials may cause you distress or severe discomfort,

you are encouraged to speak with the Instructor and/or to take measures to ensure that you feel braver in the classroom. You will not be exempt from any assigned work, but we will work together to accommodate your concerns.

## Resources

If you feel that you need more support than can be provided by the classroom or the Instructor, you are encouraged to take advantage of some of these resources:

- *SU Student Wellness Services*  
[ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre](http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre) 403-210-9355 / 403-266-4357
- *Alberta Mental Health Help Line*  
[albertahealthservices.ca/findhealth/Service.aspx?id=6810&serviceAtFacilityID=1047134](http://albertahealthservices.ca/findhealth/Service.aspx?id=6810&serviceAtFacilityID=1047134)  
1-877-303-2642
- *Calgary Communities Against Sexual Abuse Hotline*  
[calgarycasa.com](http://calgarycasa.com) 403-237-5888

Trained peer supporters are also available on campus:

- *Women's Resource Centre*  
[ucalgary.ca/women](http://ucalgary.ca/women) 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, MacEwan Student Centre, in The Loft
- *Q Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity*  
[su.ucalgary.ca/programs-services/student-services/the-q-centre](http://su.ucalgary.ca/programs-services/student-services/the-q-centre) 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, MacEwan Hall, near The Den
- *Faith and Spirituality Centre*  
[ucalgary.ca/fsc](http://ucalgary.ca/fsc) 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, MacEwan Student Centre
- *Writing Symbols Lodge*
- <https://live-ucalgary.ucalgary.ca/student-services/writing-symbols/home>  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, MacEwan Student Centre

For more resources, you are encouraged to consult the Campus Mental Health Strategy:  
[ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth](http://ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth)

If you have a serious concern about the Instructor's conduct, you may speak in full confidence to the Department of Philosophy [phildept@ucalgary.ca](mailto:phildept@ucalgary.ca). Please note, the Gender and Sexuality Studies program is administered by the Department of Philosophy.

## About the Gender and Sexuality Studies Program

The Gender and Sexuality Studies Program offers Major, Minor, and Honours undergraduate degrees. Housed in the Department of Philosophy, the program is dedicated to offering students a feminist social justice classroom where we can bravely explore issues relating to gender and sexual equity and diversity from many perspectives. For more information, contact the program coordinator ([gsxs@ucalgary.ca](mailto:gsxs@ucalgary.ca)) and check out our listing on the Faculty of Arts website: [arts.ucalgary.ca/gsxs](http://arts.ucalgary.ca/gsxs)

The University of Calgary has a number of student clubs and campus centres dedicated to issues of gender and sexual equity and diversity.

Consent Awareness and Sexual Education Club  
Faith and Spirituality Centre  
Writing Symbols Lodge  
Queers on Campus  
Q: The SU Centre for Gender and Sexual Diversity

Women in Leadership Club  
Women's Resource Centre  
Women's Studies and Feminism Club

The Gender and Sexuality Studies program is administered by the Department of Philosophy. The Gender and Sexuality Studies Program Coordinator is Joe Kadi ([jkadi@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jkadi@ucalgary.ca)). The Head of the Department of Philosophy is Nicole Wyatt ([nicole.wyatt@ucalgary.ca](mailto:nicole.wyatt@ucalgary.ca))

*Effective July 1, 2021, the program's name was changed from Women's Studies (WMST) to Gender and Sexuality Studies (GSXS). This will not affect your degree or course standing. If you have any questions, ask your Instructor or the program coordinator.*

## **DEPARTMENTAL, FACULTY, AND UNIVERSITY INFORMATION**

### **Academic Accommodations**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures. The student accommodation policy can be found at [ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Accommodation-Policy.pdf](https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Student-Accommodation-Policy.pdf)

Students needing an Accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: [ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf](https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Accommodation-for-Students-with-Disabilities-Procedure.pdf). Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a protected ground other than disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor.

Time limit and extended deadline accommodations can be set by D2L. Therefore it is imperative that students provide Instructors with the appropriate documentation at the beginning of term.

### **Absence or Missed Course Assessments**

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their Instructors as soon as possible. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, Instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test.

### **Student Support and Resources**

Full details and information about the following resources can be found at [ucalgary.ca/current-students/student-services](https://ucalgary.ca/current-students/student-services)

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success Centre
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk



## Academic Advising

If you are a student in the Faculty of Arts, you can speak to an academic advisor in the Arts Students' Centre about course planning, course selection, registration, program progression and more. Visit the Faculty of Arts website at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate/academic-advising> for contact details and information regarding common academic concerns.

For questions specific to the philosophy program, please visit [arts.ucalgary.ca/philosophy](https://arts.ucalgary.ca/philosophy). Further academic guidance is available by contacting Jeremy Fantl (Undergraduate Program Director, [jfantl@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jfantl@ucalgary.ca)) or David Dick (Honours Advisor, [dgdick@ucalgary.ca](mailto:dgdick@ucalgary.ca)). General inquiries may be sent to [phildept@ucalgary.ca](mailto:phildept@ucalgary.ca)

You may find answers to your more specific questions about a degree in Gender and Sexuality Studies at the University Calgary at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/gsx> or contact the Coordinator of the GSXS Program, Joe Kadi at [jkadi@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jkadi@ucalgary.ca)

## Writing Assessment and Support

The assessment of all written assignments—and, to a lesser extent, written exam responses—is based in part on writing skills. This includes correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.), as well as general clarity and organization. Research papers must include a thorough and accurate citation of sources. Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services for assistance (one-on-one appointments, drop-in support and writing workshops). For more information, and other services offered by the Student Success Centre, please visit [ucalgary.ca/ssc](https://ucalgary.ca/ssc)

## Responsible Use of D2L

Important information and communication about this course will be posted on D2L (Desire2Learn), UCalgary's online learning management system. Visit <https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it> for how-to information and technical assistance.

All users of D2L are bound by the guidelines on the responsible use of D2L posted here: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/commitment-to-the-responsible-use-of-d2l/>. The Instructor may establish additional specific course policies for D2L, Zoom, and any other technologies used to support remote learning. Instructional materials, including audio or video recordings of lectures, may not be posted outside of the course D2L site. Students violating this policy are subject to discipline under the [University of Calgary's Non-Academic Misconduct policy](#)

## Media Recording

Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students: [https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP\\_FINAL.pdf](https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf)

## Academic Misconduct/Honesty

Cheating or plagiarism on any assignment or examination is as an extremely serious academic offense, the penalty for which will be an F on the assignment or an F in the course, and possibly a disciplinary sanction such as probation, suspension, or expulsion. For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at [ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html](https://ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html)



Intellectual honesty requires that your work include adequate referencing to sources. Plagiarism occurs when you do not acknowledge or correctly reference your sources. If you have questions about referencing, please consult your Instructor.

### **University Policies**

The Instructor Intellectual Property Policy is available at [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/Intellectual%20Property%20Policy.pdf](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/Intellectual%20Property%20Policy.pdf)

The University of Calgary is under the jurisdiction of the provincial Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act, as outlined at [ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip](http://ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip). The Instructor (or TA) must return graded assignments *directly* to the student UNLESS written permission to do otherwise has been provided.

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright ([ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf)) and requirements of the copyright act ([laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html](http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html)).

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Acceptable-Use-of-Material-Protected-by-Copyright-Policy.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>).