**ÇANKAYA UNIVERSITY**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**

**SPRING 2017-2018**

**ELL 502 GENDER STUDIES COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Berkem Sağlam, PhD**

**Office Hours:** Tues. 10:00-12:00

**Course Description:** This interdisciplinary course challenges students to engage with texts from the humanities and the social, natural, and physical sciences which question universalizing or stereotypical conceptions of gender and sexuality. It looks at how issues of gender, sexuality, race, class and ethnicity intersect; to what extent social or biological factors may inform “identities” based on these conceptions, and how gender roles serve to shape individual identities, agencies, and structures of power. Selected literary, cinematic, media and other kinds of texts, both mainstream and fringe, will be analyzed as cultural artefacts which interpret and question how such identity-forming constructs are produced, shaped and controlled in different historical and cultural contexts. As a corollary, the course will self-reflectively consider to what extent cultures, psychologies and ideologies of reception (i.e. conceptual moments in criticism and theory, readers’ frames of reference) affect the way these texts and contexts are read and presented. Course material will therefore also include a range of critical and theoretical perspectives in such areas as feminist, masculinity, queer, and transgender studies; postmodern, postcolonial, psychoanalytical, and cognitive theories; critical race and legal theory; gynocriticism, gendered writing and canon formation; and social and legal activism.

**Assessment:**

Advertising assignment 20%

TV show assignment 20 %

Final Examination 20 %

Journals and participation 20%

Response 20 %

**Textbook:** A course photocopy packet will be handed out at the beginning of the semester. Students are also required to obtain their own copies of Ursula LeGuin’s *The Left Hand of Darkness*.

**Weekly Schedule**

Week 1 Studying Gender: An Introduction to Key Terms & Debates

Week 2 Creation stories and myth: “Mother Eve and Other Death-Dealers” “Woman and the Serpent” (Margaret Hallissy) “Adem’in Cennetten Kovulması” (Muazzez İlmiye Çığ)

 Journal: Find various representations of “Mary”, “The Fall”, “Eve” “Lilith”, “Lamia”, and “Adam” in painting. Bring in the pictures to class and take notes in your journal.

Week 3 Studying Feminism:

Lexicon of the Debates

from *The Feminine Mystique* (Betty Friedan)

 From *The Second Sex* (Simone De Beauvoir)

Week 4 Feminism Continued

 From *A Room of One’s Own* (Virginia Woolf)

From *Gender Trouble:* *Feminism and the Subversion of Identity* (Judith Butler)

Journal: Find various representations of the “femme fatale”, “poisonous woman”, “devil”, “satan”, “vampire”, etc. Take notes in your journal.

Week 5 Representations of gender in media

 “Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema” (Laura Mulvey)

 “Spectatorship and the Gaze” (Liesbet Van Zooren)

Advertising and the gendered body

Journal: Bring in a magazine to class. Try to analyze the advertisements and the topics discussed in the magazines. Is the magazine targeting a general audience or does it specify its target gender: women’s or men’s magazine? Take notes in your journal.

Week 6 Analysis of “Women’s Magazines” and the representation of gender

Student assignment on advertising (5 ads for the same brand) (with presentation)

Week 7 Masculinity studies

“Changing Studies on Men and Masculinities” (Jeff Hearn & Michael S. Kimmel)

 “The Crisis in Masculinity” (David Morgan)

 Analysis of “Men’s Magazines”

Week 8 “Biological Causation: Are Gender Differences Wired into Our Biology?” “Yes” “No” (ed. by Mary Roth Walsh)

 “Ordained By Nature: Biology Constructs the Sexes” (Michael S. Kimmel)

Journal: Watch a movie from any genre: romantic comedy, horror, drama, etc. Analyze “the gaze” in the movie. Take notes in your journal.

Week 9 Hollywood Film & the representation of gender

Negotiated Feminism on Film: *Thelma and Louise*

Week 10 Case study: Women in Horror (Slasher) Films

 Discussion of Carol J. Clover’s “The Final Girl”

 “Trying to Survive on the Darker Side: 1980s Family Horror” (Tony Williams)

 *Halloween*

Week 11 Andrew Welsh, “On the Perils of Living Dangerously in the Slasher Horror Film: Gender Differences in the Association Between Sexual Activity and Survival”

 Sarah Trencansky, “Final Girls and Terrible Youth: Transgression in 1980s Slasher Horror”

Week 12 **LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY**

Journal: watch *Candyman* and take notes in your journal about the representation of gender and sexuality in the film.

Week 13 “The Gendered Classroom” (Michael S. Kimmel)

 Student assignment: presentations on TV Shows & the representation of gender and sexuality on media

 Journal: Watch a contemporary horror film OR play a horror video game. Take notes in your journal about how gender and sexuality is constructed, and how this has changed (if it has changed) from the case study we discussed in class.

Week 14 An Introduction to Queer and LGBT Studies

“Thinking Straight, Acting Bent” (Ingraham)