

Lakehead University
Gender and Women's Studies Department
WOME 3215 WA/WB/WAO/WBO
Term: Winter 2023



Term: Winter 2023

Instructor: Dr. Miranda Niittynen

Course Type: In-person (LU) / In person, Video Conference (Orillia)

Location: ATAC 5041 (Thunder Bay Campus) and OA 2020 (Orillia Campus)

Meeting Time: Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:30am – 10:00am

Office Hours: Virtual Office Hours, by appointment only

Email: mniitty1@lakeheadu.ca

Course Description:

In the course *WOME 3215: Gender, Bodies, and Technology*, students will learn of the complex interconnections between bodies and technology from a critical feminist perspective. We will explore feminist, queer, and decolonial interventions in science and technology looking to its potential to expand and emancipate the body, while also acknowledging the ways in which technology is used to manipulate and medicalize gendered bodies. Technology is wide-ranging and heavily interconnected in our lives; from this position, topics in this course will include mass media, popular culture, assistive technologies, surveillance, militarization, medicalization, reproductive technologies, museums and documentary film. We will discuss the necessity of an intersectional feminist lens to technology studies and the fields of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Medicine) and follow the advancements that feminists have made in these fields to date.

Student Evaluation:

1. Attendance / Participation	20%	ongoing
2. Sparker Presentation	15%	scheduled before Week 2
3. Film Response Papers (3 x 10%)	30%	Feb 6 + Mar 6 + Mar 27
4. Final Exam	35%	TBA

Required Texts:

- All pdfs will be offered through the course website. For your organization, each reading is organized alphabetically by the author's last name.

Email Note:

- Please include our course code (**WOME 3215**) in the subject line of any and all email correspondence to avoid any confusion throughout the term

Covid-19 Protocol for WOME 3215:

From the University:

Due to the transition back to in-class learning, Lakehead University will follow a cautionary protocol for Covid-19 related illness.

“Masking on Lakehead University properties will continue to be strongly encouraged in spaces where physical distancing may not be possible, however it is not required”

“It is important to respect those who choose to wear a mask - individuals will make such decisions based on their personal health and the needs of their community -- what they feel is right for them. Masks are one of the easiest ways to help protect oneself and those around you. If the ongoing COVID situation warrants, please be advised that the University may reinstate a masking requirement in specific, or all, indoor spaces in accordance with recommendations or requirements issued by public health and/or the province”

“As always, those experiencing COVID symptoms, or who are not feeling well, should avoid coming to campus”

From your professor:

In the event that I (your professor) contract Covid-19, class materials and lectures will be posted online until I test negative and can safely return to the classroom space.

I will be holding office hours virtually in order to avoid unnecessary contact, please book an appointment by email if you need to discuss the course assignments or anything else related to our course.

Course Evaluation and Assignments:**1. Class Attendance/Participation: 20%** of overall course grade.

Students are expected to attend all classes, read the outlined materials in preparation for classroom discussion, and actively and respectfully listen to course lectures and to peers. Without a documented medical reason, student’s absences will be reflected on their final grade. Attendance will be taken every class. In the event that you contract Covid-19, please get in touch with your professor at your earliest convenience and review lecture materials online for that week. It may be useful to get the contact of a peer from class to receive notes by the chance of any absences related to Covid-19.

Due Date: Participation will be **ongoing** throughout the course term.

2. Sparker Presentation: 15% of overall course grade.

Discussion Sparkers -- *choose one cultural example related to the course theme of gender, bodies, and technology*. Sparkers will give the class the opportunity to expand on a variety of social/cultural examples regarding the theme of gender, bodies, and technology and further our classroom discussion from a critical lens. Students will have 15 minutes to present their cultural example and facilitate discussion with 2 questions.

Due Date: Students must sign up for their Sparker Presentation **no later than Week 2** of the course.

Sparker presentations will focus on a topic of choice by the student and do not have to be related to the weekly theme. This is an invitation to share your interests in the topic/theme of gender, bodies, and technology with the class and to give us an opportunity to expand our interests and discussion beyond the course content.

3. Film Response Papers (3 x 10%): 30% of overall course grade.

Each student will write 3 short response papers reflecting on the three documentary films screened in the course. Papers will be 2-3 pages in length and will discuss the film in relation to the 2 weeks of readings assigned to the theme. All papers will follow *MLA* style formatting (see course website for details). Students are encouraged to explore and respond to each film and include secondary research that reflects the topic of *Gender, Bodies and Technology*. Each short response paper will be clearly organized (you are encouraged to outline your paper with a thesis and introduction), focusing on key content that the student finds relevant from the film and the assigned readings (in addition to any other relevant materials the student wants to add).

Reminders:

- Put your Name on your paper
- Include a Paper Title
- Times New Roman font; pt. 12 size font
- Double-spaced
- Page numbers
- Be sure to properly cite IN-TEXT the sources you are using throughout
- *Cite the film you are discussing in the formal bibliography/works cited page*
- Late assignments will be penalized 2% per day without prior arrangements made
- Papers will be cited in *MLA* style

A good response paper will:

1. Address the overarching discussion of the documentary and any interesting or relevant key points from the assigned readings
2. Draw connections across supplementary materials (news articles, blog posts, videos, books, short-stories, other media and relevant content etc.)
3. Offer the student's reflection on the documentary as it relates to the discussion of gender, bodies, and technology

4. Include any follow-up questions or viewpoints the student may have in response to the film screened in class

Due Date: Papers due dates are set by the following schedule:

Note: Assignment guidelines and rubrics will be posted on D2L and discussed in class

Due Dates:

Film 1:

January 23, *CinemAbility*

Due Date: **February 6**

Movie 2:

February 13, *The Stories We Tell*

Due Date: **March 6**

Movie 3:

March 13, *Killing Patient Zero*

Due Date: **March 27**

ALL FILM RESPONSE PAPERS WILL BE EMAILED TO ME IN DOCX FORMATTING

Please send response papers with document title: Last Name, First Initial – Assignment Title (ex., Niittyinen, M – Film Response 1)

4. Final Exam: 35% of overall course grade.

Students will be tested through a formal Final Exam on the lectures, course readings, videos, films, and other materials discussed throughout the term. Students will be tested on their comprehension and understanding of the course concepts related to *gender, bodies, and technology*. The final exam will test students on material cumulative of the course, Weeks 2-12. An exam review and study preparation will be discussed in class and posted on D2L.

Due Date: Final Exam **TBA**.

Note: Exam review will be scheduled and notifications will take place prior to the scheduled exam.

Reading Schedule

W1/Jan 9/11: Introduction to Gender, Bodies and Technology

- *Syllabus*

W2/Jan 16/18: Gender, Bodies, and Technology: Cyborg Theory

Readings:

- Donna Haraway – *excerpts* from “A Cyborg Manifesto”
- Cristina Masters – “Bodies of Technology: Cyborg Soldiers and Militarized Masculinity”

- Nayar Pramod – “Transhumansim”

January 18

Sparker 1:
Sparker 2:

W3/Jan 23/25: Disability, Prosthetics and Posthuman Aesthetics I*Readings:*

- Marissa Martinelli – “*CinemAbility* Director Jenni Gold on What It Will Take for Hollywood to Start Caring About Disability Representation”

January 23

Film:
- *CinemAbility* (2014)

January 25

Sparker 1: Kathleen Freethy
Sparker 2:

W4/Jan 30/Feb 1: Disability, Prosthetics and Posthuman Aesthetics II*Readings:*

- Rosemarie Garland-Thomson – “Misfits: A Feminist Materialist Disability Concept”
- Alison Kafer – “Crip Kin, Manifesting”
- Sara Hendren – “All Technology is Assistive”

Videos:

- Miscellaneous Lisa Bufano performances

February 1

Sparker 1:
Sparker 2:

W5/Feb 6/8: Gender, Sex and Reproductive Technologies: Medicalization*Readings:*

- Georgiann Davis, Jodie M. Dewey, and Erin L. Murphy – “Giving Sex: Deconstructing Intersex and Trans Medicalization Practices”

- Christ Kaposy – “An Expressivity Disability Critique of the Expansion of Prenatal Genomics”

**Film Response Paper 1
Due February 6**

February 8

Sparker 1:

Sparker 2:

W6/Feb 13/15: Documentary Film, Storytelling, and Tape Recording Part I

Readings:

- Richard Porton – “Family Viewing: An Interview with Sarah Polley”
- Sue Thornham – “Impossible Subjects? In Search of the Maternal Subject in *Stories We Tell* (Polley 2012) and *The Arbor* (Barnard 2010)”

February 13

Film:

- *The Stories We Tell* (2012)

February 15

Sparker 1:

Sparker 2:

W7/Feb 20/22: Reading Week

- *Relax and catch up on reading* 😊

W8/Feb 27/29: Documentary Film, Storytelling, and Tape Recording Part II

Readings:

- Judith Butler – *excerpts* from “Giving An Account of Oneself”
- Trinh T. Minh-ha – Interview, “There is No Such Thing As Documentary”

February 22

Sparker 1:

Sparker 2:

W9/Mar 6/8: Feminist Science and Technology: From Taxonomy to Gamete

Readings:

- Donna Haraway – “Situated Knowledges: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspective”
- Helen E. Longino – “Can There Be a Feminist Science?”
- Londa Schiebinger and Martina Schraudner – “Interdisciplinary Approaches to Achieving Gendered Innovations in Science, Medicine and Engineering”

**Film Response Paper 2
Due March 6**

March 8

Sparker 1: Riley Fredrickson

Sparker 2:

W10/Mar 13/15: Illness, Discrimination and Digital Activisms Part I

Readings:

- The Queer Review – Interview, “Killing Patient Zero Director Lauri Lynd”
- Jennie Punter – “‘Killing Patient Zero’s’ Laurie Lynd: ‘I Will Never Understand that Hatred’”

March 13

Film:

- *Killing Patient Zero* (2021)

March 15

Sparker 1:

Sparker 2:

W11/Mar 20/22: Illness, Discrimination and Digital Activisms Part II

Readings:

- Marika Cifor – Epilogue: “How to Survive Another Plague”
- Grace Gao and Linna Sai – “Opposing the Toxic Apartheid: The Painted Veil of Covid-19 Pandemic, Race, and Racism”
- Sandy Sufian and Licia Carlson – “Thoughts of Precarity, Disablement, and Risk during COVID-19”

March 22

Sparker 1: Grace Paron

Sparker 2:

W12/Mar 27/29: Museums, Taxidermy, Dioramas*Readings:*

- Donna Haraway – *excerpts* from “Teddy Bear Taxidermy”
- TBA

**Film Response Paper 3
Due March 27****March 29**

Sparker 1:

Sparker 2:

W13/Apr 3: Exam Review*Final Exam Review Scheduled***Final Exam: TBA****Course Policies:**

Class Participation and Attendance: Students are expected to attend all classes in order to listen to course lectures, screen videos, and view visual examples in preparation for tested comprehension of course materials on the Final exam. A failure to do so will be reflected on each student’s final grade. Students are expected to read the course material for each week and are encouraged to participate in course discussion.

If a student is absent for more than 20% of class attendance (without a valid reason or accommodation) the professor is not permitted to pass the student in the course.

As per Lakehead University’s Regulation VIII, part (d):

“(d) A student is required to attend the courses of instruction and the examinations in all subjects prescribed. A student whose *attendance* at lectures and laboratories is deemed to be unsatisfactory by the Senate may have her/his registration in that course cancelled at any time.”

Academic Integrity: Students are expected to know Lakehead University’s policy on plagiarism

and academic dishonesty. Lakehead University's policy on academic dishonesty can be found at the following url: <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/students/student-life/student-conduct/academic-integrity/faq>

Policy on Missed/Late Assignments: Students are required to submit all assignments on the assigned due date. If accommodations are needed for an assignment, students should make arrangements with the instructor ahead of time otherwise late assignments will be penalized 2% for each day (including weekends) that the assignment is late.

- late work will not be accepted after two weeks from the due date unless there are extreme extenuating circumstances
- arrangements can be made for accessibility needs regarding due dates. Please make sure to sort out arrangements with the instructor prior to the due date

Email Etiquette:

All correspondence should be polite, respectful, and professional. Email inquiries must include:

- a salutation, (i.e. "hello", "dear", "To", etc.) and **the course code WOME 3215**
- a detailed question, or polite request.
- a signature (i.e. your name). **Emails that do not follow this format will be discarded.**
- Before you email a question, be sure to read the course syllabus to see if you can find the answer there.
- If you have to discuss an in-depth issue, please email the instructor and make an appointment request for a meeting time that works for both you and the instructor.

Every effort will be made to respond to emails within 48 hours (excluding weekends or holidays). If you have not received a response after 48 hours, please send a polite reminder as sometimes emails can get lost in the shuffle.

Digital Policy and Classroom Etiquette:

Laptop computers and tablets are permitted in my class; however, such technologies should be used for classroom activities only. Students are not permitted to take photos, videos, record my lectures, or share any course materials online.

- Turn your phone and other electronic devices to SILENT MODE when you come into class. Texting and smart phone use are strictly prohibited in class.
- Talking in class: Please do not be disruptive during class lectures. Students are expected to be respectful to the professor and their peers. Talking is encouraged only during in-class discussion, Q&A sessions, or group work. Those who persist in talking and disrupting their peers learning during lectures will be asked to leave class.

Copyright

© Instructor-generated course materials (e.g., lectures, audio lecture, notes, summaries, exam questions, etc.) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. Note that infringements of copyright can be subject to follow up by the University under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.

Submitting Assignments:

All assignments that are submitted by email must include the students name and be in docx formatting (Microsoft word). Please send assignments with document title: Last Name, First Initial – Assignment Name (ex., Niittynen, M – Response Paper 2).

Lakehead University Resources:

Lakehead University offers a number of resources for students who need additional accessibility and resources for their individual learning. “Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities and/or medical conditions to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) and register as early as possible.” For more information on these services contact Student Accessibility Services.

Student Accessibility Services:

<http://studentaccessibility.lakeheadu.ca>

Office: SC0003

Tel., 343-8047

Email: sas@lakeheadu.ca

Other LU Resources:**Student Success Centre:**

<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/student-success-centre>

Academic Support Zone / Writing Tutors:

<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/students/academic-success/student-success-centre/academic-support-zone>

Tutoring and Peer Assistant Learning:

<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/academics/academic-support/tutoring>

Important Note: Academic tutors / Writing tutors are available and paid for in your tuition.

This is a great resource if you are new help with university level essay writing or if you need some additional help comprehending assignments / class content. *Be sure to plan ahead:* create drafts or prepare for exams and book early appointments with writing tutors / peer assistants with sufficient time before the assignment/exam due date.

Student Health and Counselling:

<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/student-services/tb/health-and-counselling>

All Emergencies: 24 Hours, Call 8-911

Your 8-911 call will be received at the Security Services Department.

Safe Walk:

“At any time during the night or day, if you feel uncomfortable walking alone, or would just like someone to walk with, contact Security at 343-8569 or call 343-7742 (8569 or 7742 using a campus Nortel phone).

One of our friendly and professional guards will be dispatched to your location and escort you to anywhere on campus. This service is offered 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. You can also let us know in advance of when you would like one of our team members to escort you by calling the numbers listed above.”

Indigenous Student Services Centre:

<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/current-students/student-services/tb/aboriginal-services>

Pride Central:

<http://pride.lusu.ca/>

Gender Equity Centre:

<http://gic.lusu.ca/>

Let's Have a Wonderful Term Together!