

The University of Western Ontario  
London Canada

Department of Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies

School of Health Studies

September 2021 – April 2022

HS/GSWS 244: Women and Health

Wednesday 9:30 am – 4:30 pm

Through class discussion and completion of written assignments and papers students will gain a number of practical skills. Specifically, students will:

- (i) develop their ability to read and analyze scholarly and popular texts closely and rigorously;
- (ii) learn to question and analyze critically how women's health issues are framed in the popular media;
- (iii) gain experience developing and applying a critical perspective to issues in women's health;
- (iv) participate in informed discussions and critical dialogues about issues relevant to women's health in an interdisciplinary group setting;
- (v) develop greater reflexivity (self-awareness) of their own understandings of health, its determinants and its relationship to gender constructions and experiences

### Required Texts and Course Packages

There is no required text book for this course. All readings will be put on OWL. Students will be required to read and write a critical book review of *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, which will be made available at the campus bookstore.

### Prerequisites

The prerequisite for this course is registration in second year or higher. Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all prerequisites. Lack of prerequisites may be used as the basis for appeal. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be

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## Support Services

Registrar's Office <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Development Centre [Learning Development & Success Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>



### Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is provided here: <https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?site=univwo>

### Attendance Policy

Attendance will be recorded. Persistent absenteeism (3 weeks or more/term) will be rendered grounds for failure in the course in accordance with the policies of the Department of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies and the School of Health Studies. Persistent absenteeism will result in you being contacted by the instructor, who may request a meeting. Continued absence after this point will be reported to the Undergraduate Chair.

### Turnitin

All required papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com [ht](https://www.turnitin.com)

## Evaluation

### Participation(10% total: 2 X 5%)

Participation includes regular attendance and thoughtful contributions during class or online in relation to required course readings. Guidance for what constitutes a thoughtful contribution will be provided. Attendance will be recorded each week.

### Critical Thinking Practice Drills(24% total: 3X8%)

Students will complete critical thinking practice drills in order to build and “flex” their critical thinking muscles. Two written reflections on these drills will be submitted in term one (October 6, November 10) and one written reflection will be submitted in term two (February 9). Each submission will be approximately 3-4 typed pages (excluding attachments). Detailed instructions and a grading rubric will be provided in class and on OWL.

### Critical Book Review: 16% due March 30)

Students will read and review the book *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot. Students will critically reflect on the themes of the book and relate them to relevant course concepts. Detailed instructions and guidance will be provided in class and on OWL.

### Exams: 50% total: 2 X 25%

The December exam will cover material from September to December. The April exam will cover material from January to April. Dates and locations of exams are set by the Registrar's Office. All material covered in class (including regular and guest lectures, films and other learning materials) is testable.

Assignments must be submitted in class and on OWL. Assignments will NOT be accepted by email.

ClassSchedule

Week #	Date	Topic
<b>MODULE 1- THE MEDICALIZATION OF WOMEN'S HEALTH</b>		
1	Sept 8	The politics of "women's health"
2	Sept15	The medicalization of female sexuality
3	Sept22	Women and medicalization
4	Sept29	From medicalization to healthism
5	Oct6	The corporatization of women's health CRITICAL THINKING PRACTICE DRILL# 1 D
<b>MODULE 2- REPRESENTING GENDER AND WOMEN'S HEALTH</b>		
6	Oct13	Representations of gender and health in the biomedical sciences



## Required Readings

All required readings are posted on OWL.

TERM 1: SEPTEMBER 10 Tw (-)Tj 2.0

Week 4 –September 29

From medicalization to healthism

Duncan, M. (1994). The politics of women's body images and practices: Foucault, the Panopticon, and Shape magazine.

Week 11–



Week4 – January26

African-Canadian women's experiences of health care

Etowa, J. et al. (2007). Determinants of Black women's health in rural and remote communities. *CJNR*, 39(3), 56-76.

Waldron, I. (2005). African Canadian Women Resisting Oppression: Embodying Emancipated Consciousness through Holistic Self-healing Approaches to Mental Health. *Surviving in the hour of darkness: Health* 2256



Week 11 – March 23