

HS Women and Gender Studies Monthly Course Outline

September

Unit 1: The Evolution of Gender and The Rise of the Patriarchal Structure

Essential Questions:

- How were ancient civilizations structured?
- What was the role of people according to their biological sex?
- What was the role of people according to their assigned gender roles?
- What events and changes culminated in the rise of the patriarchal structure?
- How much of our daily lives are dictated by biological sex, and how much is dictated by assigned gender?
- Are these roles perpetuated by societal constructs, and if so, to what end?
- Can a different societal structure be implemented today?

Unit Lessons:

- Is anatomy destiny?
- Ancient Civilization Structures and “Traditional Family Values”
- Defining Gender and its Economic Impact: Wage Gap, Pink Tax, Tampon Tax
- Gender and Sports

October

Unit 2: Religion, the Danger of a Single Story, and Hunting Witches

Essential Questions:

- How has language been used as a weapon against women?
- Why did religious and governmental institutions turn to violence to further their oppression of women?
- What is the lasting legacy of historical witch trials and why are there witch hunts that still occur in places around the world?
- Why were women with knowledge of medicine and women’s own bodies seen as a threat to the power structure?
- Why are emotions in women both mocked and feared?
- How are women with any form of power treated by society throughout history?
- Why is it important for women and people from marginalized groups to tell their own stories?
- What is the history and evolution of words used against women?
- What power does language have and who are the gatekeepers?

Unit Lessons:

- The Danger of a Single Story and the Power of Language
- The Danger of a Single Story: Mythology Edition
- The Danger of a Single Story: Monotheism Edition
- Witch Hunts: Church and State Sanctioned Murder
- A Girl in the River: Honor Killings and Other Harmful Modern Practices

November

Unit 3: The X Women of History

Essential Question:

- Women have always been an equal part of the past, why have they not been an equal part of history?
- What impact does the limited scope of history we learn have on students and their future?
- Who are the women we do not learn about, and where can we include them in our already existing curriculums?
- Why are some people with institutional power against a more inclusive and multi-perspective-based teaching curriculum?

Unit Lessons:

- The Danger of a Single Story: History Edition
- Well Behaved Women
- Historically Labeled: Hysteria, Anger, Power, Politics, and the evolution of Modern Medicine
- You can't be what you can't see

December

Unit 4: The First Wave: Fomenting a Rebellion

Essential Questions:

- Who are the leaders, writers, organizers, and activists of 1st Wave Feminism?
- Why were women not granted the right to vote in America to begin with, considering it was idealized to be an experimental 'representative' democracy?
- What impact did writing have during the first wave of feminism?
- Why was the fight for the vote one of the more controversial items put into the *Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions*?
- What role did activism and organizing play in the movement?
- Who were the women and men of the movement?
- What was achieved at the end of the first wave, and what was still left to be accomplished?

Unit Lessons:

- A Vindication of the Rights of Women
- Mary to Malala: The Importance of Education
- Remember the Ladies and the Founding of America
- Ain't I a Woman?
- Iron Jawed Angels

January

Unit 5: Beauty Standards, Body Image, and Media

Essential Questions:

- Who owns the major media industries, and why does this matter?
- What is the gender ratio of writers, creators, directors, producers and how is this impacting who appears on screen?

- What is the relationship between advertising and eating disorders/body dysmorphia?
- How does the male gaze affect how men see women and how women view themselves?
- Is there a link between the sexualization and objectification of women in media and sexual violence against women in reality?
- When women are on screen, how are they portrayed, and what roles are they playing?
- How has media and advertising been used purposefully in America to keep women in the sphere of the household?

Unit Lessons:

- Defining Beauty: The History and Evolution of the Beauty Standard
- The Cost of Beauty: Economics, Body Image, and Mental Health
- MissRepresentation: Media and the Male Gaze
- The Dress Code: The Fashion Industry, Control, and the Planet

February

Unit 6: The Second Wave: The Personal is Political

Essential Question:

- Who are the leaders, writers, organizers and activists of second wave Feminism?
- What are the major events and accomplishments of the second wave?
- What does the 'personal is political' signify in terms of equality and the feminist movement?
- What are student's rights under Title IX?
- How and why has the fight for reproductive rights become politically divisive?
- What is rape culture and how is it manifested in and by society?
- What does reproductive freedom look like at the state level?
- What is the status of sex education in America and what effects do certain types of curricula have on communities?
- Was there a strong and concentrated effort to halt the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment?
- What impact did the backlash of the 1980s have on gender equality?

Unit Lessons:

- Second Wave 101: The Sisterhood is Powerful
- The Personal is Political: Defining your Feminism and Intersectionality
- What we Gained and What we Lost: ERA, Title IX, and Roe v. Wade
- The Hunting Ground: Combating Rape Culture
- Reproductive Freedom and Sex Education
- The Backlash

March

Unit 7: LGBTQIA+: The First Pride was Protest

Essential Questions:

- Who are the leaders, writers, organizers, and activists in the LGBTQIA+ community?
- What are the major events and accomplishments of Gay Rights movement?
- What is the intersection between the LGBTQIA+ community and the Feminist movement?
- What legislation existed and still exists to oppress members of the LGBTQIA+ community?

- Why is there a backlash against the progress of the LGBTQIA+ rights movement post-Stonewall and post Marriage Equality?
- What are the further definitions of gender identity and expression, and how does breaking the gender binary help everyone?
- Does the commodification and commercialization of PRIDE help the movement?
- Why are members of the LGBTQIA+ community more at risk in terms of depression, suicide, and violence?
- What does the global LGBTQIA+ movement look like, and how is it affecting members of the community in other countries?
- What does it mean to be an ally?

Unit Lessons:

- Before Stonewall
- The First Pride was Protest: The Evolution of LGBTQIA+ Movement
- The Personal is Political: LGBTQIA+ Edition
- Global Equality and Intersectionality

April

Unit 8: The Third Wave: Riot Grrrl

Essential Questions:

- What are the defining characteristics of 3rd Wave Feminism?
- Who are the leaders, writers, organizers and activists of 3rd Wave Feminism?
- What role did pop-culture play in the advancement of third wave ideologies?
- What role did sub-culture play in the advancement of third wave ideologies?
- What prominent legislation was passed during the 3rd Wave?
- What role did the increased understanding of intersectionality play in the achievements and schisms of 3rd Wave Feminism?

Unit Lessons:

- Anita Hill and the Year of the Woman
- We are Third Wave
- Riot Grrrl and Girl Power: Subculture, Pop Culture, and the Feminist Movement
- Zines, Blogs, and Feminism On-Line

May

Unit 9: The Fourth Wave: #MeToo and Modern Feminism

Essential Questions:

- Who are the leaders, writers, organizers and activists of 4th Wave Feminism?
- What has been the impact of social media on feminism and the fight for gender equality?
- What is the movement still fighting for in terms of gender equality?
- How has the movement become more intersectional? What can it do to continue striving for inclusivity?
- What role does generation Z play in the movement?
- What is the state of the Equal Rights Amendment? Why has it still failed to pass as of 2022?
- What is the cause of the backlash and the election results of 2016?

- How do we address the issues of toxic masculinity and invite cis men into the fight for equality?
- Are we moving into a 5th wave?

Unit Lessons:

- Why Marching Matters
- #MeToo, Gamergate, and Cyberfeminism
- MRAs, Incels, and Toxic Masculinity
- Trump, Dobbs, and the Fifth Wave?

June

Unit 10: *A Lesson in Activism: Think Global act Local*

Essential Questions:

- What does gender equality look like on a global scale?
- What role does education have in creating gender equality around the world, and what are the obstacles female students face when seeking access to education?
- What impact is the climate crisis having on gender equality around the globe?
- What are international organizations doing, on a global scale, to help achieve gender equality?
- Where does the United States rank amongst other countries in terms of gender equality?
- What can we do in our local communities and our global communities to help combat gender inequality?

Unit Lessons:

- Half the Sky
- CEDAW
- Climate Change, War, and Global Issues Affecting Women
- Think Global; Act Local