Unit 1: De/constructing Gender: Bodies, Institutions, Representations (SUPA)

Content Area: **English Language Arts**
Course(s):
Time Period: **Marking Period 1**
Length: **10 Weeks**
Status: **Published**

Brief Summary of Unit

Understanding Gender Constructions, Identity and the Patriarchy

Focus -“One is not born a woman, but, rather, becomes one.” - Simone de Beauvoir, The Second Sex (SUPA)

Summary: This unit is designed to introduce students to contemporary studies of gender that put into question and trouble “commonsense” definitions of gender. The unit readings aid students in conceptualizing gender as a social construct and seeing gender as part of a social system of difference that has its own history and institutional determinants. We’ll use literary and theoretical texts as a way to begin questioning, among other things, who or what determines gender binaries; and how other subject positions, such as race and class, are enmeshed in definitions of gender and social relations of power.

In the process, we’ll explore how literature participates in or challenges the social reproduction of gender, i.e., to see literature not as a reflection of real life and “things as they are,” but as a form of representation that performs particular cultural work in terms of gender. Students will examine literature as an ideological apparatus that produces, constrains, and enables gendered subjects and gendered expressions, positioning readers/viewers in particular ways that are also racialized and classed. This unit also explores modes of “oppositional” or “resistant” reading/viewing practices, including queer reading practices. (SUPA)

Interdisciplinary Connections and Career Readiness: This unit is designed to be part of a developmental progression across grade levels and make interdisciplinary connections across content areas including physical and social sciences, technology, career readiness, cultural awareness, and global citizenship. During this course, students are provided with opportunities to develop skills that pertain to a variety of careers. When completing this course, students can make informed choices and pursue electives that further their study and contribute toward the formation of career interest.

Revision: July 2026

Standards

NJ Diversity and Inclusion: In accordance with New Jersey's Chapter 32 Diversity and Inclusion Law, this unit includes instructional materials that highlight and promote diversity, including: economic diversity, equity, inclusion, tolerance, and belonging in connection with gender and sexual orientation, race and ethnicity, disabilities, and religious tolerance.

Information Literacy: This unit challenges students to locate, evaluate, and use information effectively. Information literacy includes, but is not limited to, digital, visual, media, textual, and technological literacy. Lessons may include the research process and how information is created and produced; critical thinking and using information resources; research methods, including the difference between primary and secondary sources; the difference between facts, points of view, and opinions, accessing peer-reviewed print and digital library resources; the economic, legal, social, and ethical issues surrounding the use of information.

The identified standards reflect a developmental progression across grades/ levels and make interdisciplinary connections across content areas including social sciences, technology, career readiness, cultural awareness and global citizenship. The standards that follow are relevant to this course in addition to the associated content-based standards listed below.

LA.RL.11-12.1	Cite strong and thorough textual evidence and make relevant connections to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text, including determining where the text leaves matters uncertain.
LA.RL.11-12.2	Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text.
LA.RL.11-12.3	Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama (e.g., where a story is set, how the action is ordered, how the characters are introduced and developed).
LA.RL.11-12.4	Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including words with multiple meanings or language that is particularly fresh, engaging, or beautiful. (e.g., Shakespeare as well as other authors.)
LA.RL.11-12.5	Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text (e.g., the choice of where to begin or end a story, the choice to provide a comedic or tragic resolution) contribute to its overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.
LA.RL.11-12.6	Analyze a case in which grasping a point of view requires distinguishing what is directly stated in a text from what is really meant (e.g., satire, sarcasm, irony, or understatement).
LA.RL.11-12.7	Analyze multiple interpretations of a story, drama, or poem (e.g., recorded or live production of a play or recorded novel or poetry), evaluating how each version interprets the source text. (e.g., Shakespeare and other authors.)

LA.RL.11-12.9	Demonstrate knowledge of and reflect on (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) eighteenth-, nineteenth- and early twentieth-century foundational works of literature, including how two or more texts from the same period treat similar themes or topics.
LA.RL.11-12.10b	By the end of grade 12, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, at grade level or above.
LA.RI.11-12.9	Analyze and reflect on (e.g., practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) documents of historical and literary significance for their themes, purposes and rhetorical features, including primary source documents relevant to U.S. and/or global history.
LA.RI.11-12.10b	By the end of grade 12, read and comprehend literary nonfiction at grade level text-complexity or above.
LA.W.11-12.1	Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
LA.W.11-12.1.A	Introduce precise, knowledgeable claim(s), establish the significance of the claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that logically sequences claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.
LA.W.11-12.2	Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
LA.W.11-12.9.A	Apply grades 11–12 Reading standards to literature (e.g., “Demonstrate knowledge of eighteenth-, nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century foundational works, including how two or more texts from the same period treat similar themes or topics”).
LA.SL.11-12.1	Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with peers on grades 11–12 topics, texts, and issues, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
LA.SL.11-12.2	Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, qualitatively, orally) evaluating the credibility and accuracy of each source.
LA.SL.11-12.3	Evaluate a speaker’s point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric, assessing the stance, premises, links among ideas, word choice, points of emphasis, and tone used.
LA.SL.11-12.6	Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating a command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.
LA.L.11-12.4.A	Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence, paragraph, or text; a word’s position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
LA.L.11-12.4.B	Identify and correctly use patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or parts of speech (e.g., conceive, conception, conceivable).
LA.L.11-12.4.C	Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning, its part of speech, its etymology, or its standard usage.
LA.L.11-12.4.D	Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).

Essential Questions/Enduring Understandings

- How do we develop standards and values?
- How is gender constructed socially and what effect does it have?

- What is the patriarchy and how does it function?
- What is feminism and how have the feminist ideas developed and changed over time?
- How does gender affect both men and women, what expectations are put on gender identity?
- How is patriarchy and misogyny internalized?
- How is gender subconsciously conveyed through media and advertisements?
- What is intersectionality and how can it be used to analyze our world?

Students Will Know/Students Will Be Skilled At . . .

- Develop skills in close reading, textual analysis, and effective historical and cultural contextualization of claims
- Recognize how meanings are created through acts of critical reading
- Analyze the ways texts construct categories of difference, particularly differences of gender but also those of race, ethnicity, nationality, sexuality, and class
- Formulate sustained interpretive, analytical, or conceptual arguments based on evidence drawn from texts
- Organize ideas in writing
- Use clear and appropriate prose
- Express ideas and information orally
- Engage in analytical and critical dialogue orally
- Evaluate arguments
- Identify and question assumptions

Evidence/Performance Tasks

Developmental progression across years in both reading and writing is evidenced by multiple benchmark

assessment screeners, administered two times per year. Follow up diagnostic assessments are used to target skill remediation. Student proficiency allows for additional or alternative assessment based on demonstration or absence of skill.

Students demonstrate differentiated proficiency through both formative and summative assessments in the classroom. Based on individual student readiness and performance, assessments can be implemented as formative and/or summative.

The performance tasks listed below are examples of the types of assessments teachers may use in the classroom and the data collected by the district to track student progress.

Formative:

- Teacher Observations
- Accountable Talk, Socratic Seminars/Fish Bowls
- Analysis of multimodal text sets
- Analysis of critical commentary, literary criticism
- Writers Notebook (quick writes/drafts/prewrites), emphasizing author's craft
- Close reading analysis of text using evidence as substantiation
- Conferences: Individual and small group, accompanying conference notes
- Reflective exercises and assessments
- Oral Reading and Interpretation
- Peer and self-evaluations of learning
- Entrance and Exit Tickets
- Open-Ended Responses in Journals, Focused Free Writes
- Textual Analysis Reading Responses
- Dialectical Journal
- Rhetorical Precis
- SOAPSTone Analysis

Summative, including Alternative Assessments:

- On-demand Writing Assessments, timed and untimed
- Researched Presentations
- Performance Assessments
- Project-based Learning
- Problem-based Learning
- Personalized Learning
- Visual Literacy Prompts
- Digital Portfolios
- Online Discussion Forums
- Analytical and Expository Essay

Benchmark:

- Benchmark reading and writing assessments, scored using rubrics, district-created and standards-aligned; based on NJSLA, reported twice per year
- Engage in text set analysis using visual literacy and close reading analysis strategies to compose a claim and use evidence as support
- Grade-level Standards-based Rubrics
- Common Lit Reading Benchmark Assessment
- SAT (grades 11-12)
- Final Exam
- IXL

Learning Plan

Instructional time for reading will be divided into thirds; one third of the time will be dedicated to whole class text instruction; one third will include literature circles; one third, independent reading. The intent is for student-readers to have clear modelling through whole-class instruction. These strategies are practiced through literature circles in a group setting of peers and through independent practice monitored through teacher conferencing with students. An emphasis will be based on the transfer of skills instruction, teaching the reader, not merely the content of the text. The text complexity and rigor of reading will be appropriate for grade 12; materials selection for whole-class and literature circles will be from the book list approved by the Board of Education. Classrooms will house rich and diverse independent reading libraries of both contemporary and canonical works.

The reading of text during the twelfth grade targets not only comprehension, but also analysis. Students will read both long-and short-form, excerpted and full-length, print and electronic literature. Study will include the analysis of visual texts including film clips, art, and graphic novels. Technique and terminology specific to a genre of reading is examined. Vocabulary instruction will be chosen from the reading material.

Students write in response to the reading of literature. Various forms of writing including digital writing are emphasized as well. Grammar instruction is embedded in writing instruction through mini-lessons, holding students accountable for skills taught and practiced; modelling is done through mentor texts, both published and student-crafted. Teachers may focus on process in addition to product with an emphasis on synthesizing texts with nuanced understanding. High-and low-stakes, timed and untimed pieces are all important.

Teachers may personalize instruction during this unit and address the distinct learning needs, interests, aspirations, or cultural backgrounds of individual students.

Students will be taught how to speak and listen in addition to being assessed on these skills.

This unit of study focuses on "De/constructing Gender: Bodies, Institutions, Representations" and is centered on the quotation by Beauvoir: "One is not born a woman, but, rather, becomes one."

To prepare for this particular unit, teachers should . . .

- Build a text set for discussion, writing, and synthesis
- Select common reading and literature circle texts
- Prepare for conferences with students
- Generate a list of skills students will master throughout the unit (focusing specifically on a few in each area)
- Create a summative assessment (backwards design)
- Find mulitmodal mentor texts for reading and writing mini lessons
- Create scaffolds for student reading and writing
- Create formative assessments (reading checks, exit slips, etc.)
- Reflect on previous teaching practices and pedagogy to inform planning
- Review student modifications and accommodations

Potential Lessons/Activities

DAILY LESSON PLANS - SAMPLE

WEEKLY COURSE OUTLINE - SAMPLE

- Analyze author's purpose and evaluate an author's style of writing to influence different audiences
- Analyze the point of view of a text
- Analyze the author's purpose for including details, characters, etc.
- Cite textual evidence to support claims and arguments
- Analyze the author's purposeful use of literary devices and rhetorical strategies
- Connect characters to contemporary political figures, celebrities, etc.
- Connect ideas in the text to the overall unit quote/ideas
- Connect ideas within the text to students' lives
- Connect texts to diverse disciplines (such as science, business, psychology)
- Connect themes and big ideas to current events
- Develop close reading skills by reviewing annotation, paying attention to diction, etc.
- Point to claim and counterclaims within a text
- Reiterate the main idea of a text using the student's own language and ideas
- Review background on author and historical period in order to better understand the content of the text
- Synthesize two texts together to create new ideas and meaning
- Trace symbols throughout the novel using a reading notebook
- Trace themes and motifs throughout texts
- Understand the difference between static and dynamic characters
- Utilize close reading skills to make inferences about characters, setting, etc.
- Watch Barbie and discuss how the gender roles are constructed, reinforced, and rejected in the films. Connect with hooks and Lorbher. Construct a well written response using at least one theorist to analyse the role of gender in the film.

Materials

The materials used in this course integrate a variety of leveled instructional, enrichment, and intervention materials that support student learners at all levels in the school and home environments. Associated web content and media sources are infused into the unit as applicable and available.

It is expected that materials endorsed by Syracuse University as part of the SUPA program will be used in this course as part of the concurrent enrollment agreement. In that way, both the academic rigor and topical content of these pieces will be appropriate for a freshman undergraduate student. Students can anticipate that reading material is relevant, timely, thought-provoking, mature, and rigorous. (Statements such as these will be included on the course syllabus).

In addition, teachers will refer to the district-approved Core Book List while selecting whole-class or small-group leveled resources that are not driven by the Syracuse University course.

Instructional Materials

Instructional Materials (as designed by SUPA)

Suggested Theoretical and Literary Readings and Films

(choose at least 2 theoretical texts and at least 2 of the literary/visual texts from the following list or substitute equivalents):

Theoretical/Historical Texts

- GLAAD Media Reference Guide https://www.glaad.org/reference/lgbtq
- Jack Halberstam, "Gender," Keywords for American Cultural Studies
- bell hooks – "Understanding Patriarchy"
- Judith Lorber – "'Night to His Day': The Social Construction of Gender"
- Judith Lorber—The New Gender Paradox (2022) excerpts
- Sojourner Truth – "Ain't I a Woman"
- Lois Gould – "The Story of X"
- Judith Butler – "Imitation and Gender Insubordination" (excerpts)
- Pamela Aronson – "Feminists or 'Post Feminists?' Young Women's Attitudes Toward Feminism and

Gender Relations”

- Michael Lassell – “How to Watch Your Brother Die”
- Allan Johnson – “Patriarchy”
- Jonathan Culler – “Reading As a Woman”
- bell hooks – “The Oppositional Gaze: Black Female Spectators”
- Judith Fetterley – “On the Politics of Literature” & Rip Van Winkle excerpts
- Susan Bordo – “The Body and the Reproduction of Femininity” OR “Beauty (Re)Discovers the Male Body”
- J. Halberstam – Female Masculinity (excerpts)
- Selected poetry
- Selected graphic novels

Literary Texts/Media:

- Christina Rossetti – “Goblin Market”; with Ruskin – “Of Queen’s Gardens” excerpts
- Charlotte Perkins Gilman – The Yellow Wallpaper
- Coventry Patmore – “The Angel in the House”
- Mary Wollstonecraft – A Vindication of the Rights of Woman
- Maia Kobabe—Gender Queer: A Memoir
- Raymond Carver – “Tell the Women We’re Going,” and “Bicycles, Muscles, Cigarettes”
- Alison Bechdel – Fun Home
- Alison Bechdel – “The Rule,” a.k.a., “The Bechdel Test”
- Susan Glaspell – Trifles
- Jean Kilbourne – Killing Us Softly 4: Advertising’s Image of Women (clips)
- Marlon Riggs – Color Adjustment (clips)
- Raised Without Gender –https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4sPj8HhbwHs&feature=youtu.be
- Growing up Trans – https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/growing-up-trans/

https://www.glaad.org/reference/lgbtq

- Leslie Feinberg – Stone Butch Blues

- Marge Piercy – “Barbie Doll”
- Shakespeare – As You Like It
- Virginia Woolf – Orlando: A Biography
- Jeanette Winterson – Sexing the Cherry
- Dar Williams – “When I Was a Boy”
- Mary Shelley – Frankenstein
- Jeffrey Eugenides – Middlesex
- Bram Stoker – Dracula
- Kate Chopin – The Awakening
- Oscar Wilde – The Importance of Being Earnest
- Shakespeare: Hamlet

Films

- Ma Vie en Rose (My Life in Pink) movie
- L.A. Confidential
- Fight Club
- The Crying Game
- Priscilla, Queen of the Desert
- Bound
- The Matrix
- Killing Us Softly IV
- Barbie
- Hair Love

Additional Student Resources:

Teachers may utilize a variety of instructional resources, including print and digital materials, multimedia, visual and audio supports, interactive technologies, authentic texts, assistive technologies, and other district-

approved resources. Any teacher-selected ancillary instructional materials must receive prior approval from the Department Supervisor and should provide multiple means of engagement, representation, and expression to support diverse learner needs.

Teacher Resources

- *Shakespeare Set Free: Sourcebook for Classroom Teachers*, Folger Shakespeare Library
- *Readicide*, Kelly Gallagher
- *A Novel Approach*, Kate Roberts
- *When Kids Can't Read*, Kylene Beers
- *Beyond Literary Analysis,* Allison Marchetti & Rebekah O'Dell
- *Writing with Mentors*, Allison Marchetti & Rebekah O'Dell
- *Argument in the Real World*, Kristen Hawley Turner and Troy Hicks
- *Writing Instruction that Works: Proven Methods for Middle and High School Classrooms*, Arthur Applebee and Judith Langer
- *Teaching Adolescent Writers*, Kelly Gallagher
- *Write Like This,* Kelly Gallagher
- *Book Love*, Penny Kittle
- *The Journey is Everything*, Katherine Bomer
- *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*, Thomas C. Foster
- *The Digital Writing Workshop*, Troy Hicks
- *Crafting Original Writing*, Troy Hicks
- *Fearless Writing: Multigenre to Motivate and Inspire*, Tom Romano
- *Understanding Comics, Scott McCloud*
- *Making Comics*, Scott McCloud
- *The Art of Styling Sentences*, Ann Longknife and K.D. Sullivan
- *The Well-Crafted Sentence*, Nora Bacon

Strategies for Accommodation and Modification

Content specific accommodations and modifications as well as Career Ready Practices are listed here for all students, including: Special Education, English Language Learners, At Risk of School Failure, Gifted and Talented, Students with 504.

Possible accommodations include:

- Access speech-to-text function on computer
- Use visual presentations of all materials to include organizers, charts

- Allow students to set individual goals for writing/reading
- Offer graphic organizaers, note-taking models, strategies for summarizing, and questioning techniques
- Offer oral assessments
- Supply study guide questions and access to class notes
- Work in partnerships
- Give responses in a form (verbal or written) that is easier for the student
- Take additional time to compete a task or project
- Scaffold by chunking material and texts
- Individualize reading choices based on ability and level
- Take frequent breaks
- Use an alarm to help with time management
- Small group and one on one assessment
- Mark text with a highlighter or other manipulative such as a post-it
- Receive help coordinating assignments
- Answering fewer questions or completing shorter tasks
- Modify the length and quantity of assignments to fit individual
- Differentiate roles in discussion groups
- Use digital technology, eBooks,, audio version of printed text
- Create alternate assignments or homework
- Provide distinct steps in a process; elminate unnecessary steps, as needed
- Use art, music, and film to convey alternate interpretation of literature and assessment
- Manage executive function by scaffolding process and amending deadlines

Adhere to all modifications and accommodations as prescribed in IEP and 504 plan.