

# SEX! GENDER! + FAMILY! in the classroom ○○○○○○○○○○ Syllabus + Language Strategies

*Special thanks to Sarah Doherty, LGBTQ+ Resource Center Coordinator at Ferris State U., and Stefanie Snider, Art History Professor at Kendall College of Art + Design of Ferris State U.<sup>1</sup>, for their language and expertise around gender and pronouns. Allison Hopgood, English and WGS Professor at Willamette U.<sup>2</sup>, generously shared language about Positive Sexual Ethics. The Policy on Children in Class was modified from an unattributed meme written by a smart and kind educator.<sup>3</sup> All other language and editing by Cayla Skillin-Brauchle, who is solely responsible for any errors.*

## SUGGESTED SYLLABUS LANGUAGE

### Commitment to Positive Sexual Ethics<sup>2</sup>

Our University is a community committed to fostering safe, productive learning environments, and we value ethical sexual behaviors and standards. Title IX and our school policy prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, which regards sexual misconduct—including discrimination, harassment, domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. We understand that sexual violence can undermine students' academic success, and we encourage affected students to talk to someone about their experiences and get the support they need. Please be aware that as a mandatory reporter I am required to report any instances you disclose to our University's Title IX Coordinator. Our confidential advocate's number is XXXX. In case of immediate danger, call campus safety.

Recommended Resource: *HANDBOOK: Supporting Queer and Trans Students in Art and Design Education* edited by Anthea Black and Shamina Chherawala

### FIRST-DAY STRATEGIES

Ask students to make a name tent or tag with their names and pronouns. Do this, too. Use them for the first several weeks of class.

For a more private option, ask students to write their names, pronouns, a few things they want you to know about them on notecards or in an email before the semester starts.<sup>1</sup>

### THROUGHOUT THE SEMESTER

Show and champion a diverse group of artists!

Never surprise students with sensitive images, but instead give your class a heads-up. For example: "This next artist makes work about human sexuality and occasionally uses violent imagery." This allows students to prepare or leave the classroom if necessary.

If a student has publically stated their correct name, help others use their correct name & pronouns, and interrupt subtle or overt misgendering or deadnaming.\*<sup>1</sup>

Having a hard time using someone's correct name and/or pronouns? Practice! Practicing names and pronouns outloud makes it easier.<sup>1</sup>

If you mess it up, apologize, fix your language, and move on. We're all human, keep trying.<sup>1</sup>

Live up to the promises you make on the first day by being an advocate, including getting help from campus resources when necessary.

*\*using someone's legal and/or former name instead of their chosen name*

### Commitment to Gender-Affirming Environment

This instructor and course affirms people of all gender expressions and gender identities. If your correct name and/or pronouns differ from what is on the class roster, please let me know. Gender-inclusive restrooms are available on the 1st, 3rd, and 4th floors of the Art Building.

### Policy on Children in Class<sup>3</sup>

Most Universities do not have policies regarding children in class. These are suggested policies to support student, staff, and faculty parents which can be modified to be appropriate for your studio:

- 1) Exclusively breastfeeding babies are welcome in class whenever necessary.
- 2) Older babies & children are welcome in class when there is an unforeseen gap in childcare.
- 3) If you bring your child to class please sit near the door in case your child needs special attention, requiring you to briefly leave the room.
- 4) I ask that all students work with me to create a welcoming environment for families.

THIS LIST SPECIFICALLY  
ADDRESSES ACADEMIC SETTINGS.  
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