

## IDH 2930: The Nowhere Girls

**Instructor:** Brittany Adams  
Ph.D. Candidate  
College of Education

**Email:** [b.adams@ufl.edu](mailto:b.adams@ufl.edu)  
**Office:** 2-209 Norman Hall  
**Phone:** 352-425-3897 (cell)

### Course Description

This course will use Amy Reed's *The Nowhere Girls* to analyze how sexism, misogyny, and rape culture shape schooling experiences in the United States. We will discuss both the content of the novel and the form, as the book uses first-person narration for multiple characters. We will also investigate how our own identities and perspective reflect our experiences in school, both K-12 and postsecondary. This course counts as one credit.

### Course Objectives

- Students will explore the gendered dimensions of violence and inequality, focusing particularly on harmful power structures and social practices in K-12 schooling.
- Students will develop a greater recognition and understanding of how intersectional oppressions, based upon structural inequality and biases such as sexism, racism, classism, and heterosexism, impact individuals and communities in different ways.
- Students will identify and understand the various social and legal challenges that survivors of gender-based violence face.
- Students will explore their own feelings about gender and violence and investigate how their own identities and perspectives reflect their experiences in school, both K-12 and postsecondary.

**Central Texts** (other minor readings will be made available on Canvas)

- Reed, A. (2017). *The nowhere girls*. New York: Simon & Schuster.
- Solnit, R. (2015). *Men explain things to me* (updated ed.). Chicago: Haymarket Books.

### Assignments

Class Participation (50%): Students are expected to attend class and complete the required reading for each meeting. Students will leave each class by posing a question or wondering that arose during class discussion. Each subsequent class session will begin by addressing those questions.

Journals (30%): Students will submit a weekly journal entry to Canvas that reflects on and responds to that week's assigned reading, connecting the reading to other literature or your own experiences. Journal entries will be due at midnight on the day before class meets each week.

Final Project (20%): Students will complete a final project relevant to their academic or personal interests. The project can take many forms. Details about the project will be discussed during class as the semester progresses.

## Grading

94.0 – 100 A	74.0 – 76.9 C
90.0 – 93.9 A-	70.0 – 73.9 C-
87.0 – 89.9 B+	67.0 – 69.9 D+
84.0 – 86.9 B	64.0 – 66.9 D
80.0 – 83.9 B-	60.0 – 63.9 D-
77.0 – 79.9 C+	

Percentages will determine the final grade according to the following scale. Please note that grades are not rounded up at the .5 decimal place. Please visit the UF undergraduate catalogue for more information on UF Grading Policies at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>.

## Class schedule

Please note that this is a tentative schedule. Any changes made will be announced in class and via email.

Date	Schedule
8/23	Willing to Be Disturbed (Wheatley, 2002)
8/30	<i>The Nowhere Girls</i> pp 1-47 <i>Men Explain Things to Me</i> pp 1-15
9/6	<i>The Nowhere Girls</i> pp 48-88 <i>Men Explain Things to Me</i> pp 19-36
9/13	<i>The Nowhere Girls</i> pp 89-135 <i>Men Explain Things to Me</i> pp 39-52
9/20	<i>The Nowhere Girls</i> pp 136-186 <i>Men Explain Things to Me</i> pp 55-60
9/27	<i>The Nowhere Girls</i> pp 187-228 <i>Men Explain Things to Me</i> pp 63-75
10/4	<i>The Nowhere Girls</i> pp 229-270 <i>Men Explain Things to Me</i> pp 79-99
10/11	<i>The Nowhere Girls</i> pp 271-316 <i>Men Explain Things to Me</i> pp 103-117
10/18	<i>The Nowhere Girls</i> pp 317-361 <i>Men Explain Things to Me</i> pp 121-136
10/25	<i>The Nowhere Girls</i> pp 362-404 <i>Men Explain Things to Me</i> pp 139-154

11/1	4A's Response (readings TBA)
11/8	Reminders Activity (readings TBA)
11/15	Brainstorm/peer editing
11/22	NO CLASS
11/29	Party!

**Attendance:** Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

**Accommodations:** Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/)) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.”

**Student Health, Counseling and Wellness Services:** If you have academic concerns related to this course, you should contact the instructor in person or via email. You also may occasionally have personal issues that arise in the course of pursuing higher education or that may interfere with your academic performance. If you find yourself facing problems affecting your coursework, you are encouraged to talk with an instructor and to seek confidential assistance at the UF Counseling and Wellness Center, 352-392-1575. Visit the website for more information: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/>. Also, crisis intervention is always available 24/7 from: Alachua County Crisis Center: 352-264-6789.

**Evaluations:** Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results/>.