

[Spring 2018 Courses]

Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies in the Social Sciences (WST 102) - Theresa Tiso

Tu/Th 10:00 - 11:20 am OR

Tu/Th 11:30 - 12:50 pm

This course is an introductory and interdisciplinary survey that will familiarize students with gender and sexuality theories, histories of women's and feminist movements, and current debates within Women's and Gender Studies. We draw on sources from across the social sciences to understand how gender and sex is explained with respect to specific physical bodies; formulates identities within gendered institutions; and influences our everyday personal and political interactions. Critically thinking of these issues can only occur when we include the intersection of racial, class, age, ableist and national identities within our analysis. The overarching theme of power, hierarchy, and privilege in structured(ing) institutions will always guide our study.

Women, Culture, Difference (WST 103)

Nancy Hiemstra - Lecture: Mon/Wed 12:00 - 12:53 pm & Recitation: Friday 12:00 - 12:53 pm
OR

Melis Umut - Lecture: Tu/Th 2:30 - 3:23 pm & Recitation: Tu/Th 3:24 - 3:50 pm

An introductory humanities survey focusing on women's traditional association with the home and men's association with public life and how writers, artists, philosophers, and religious thinkers have reflected upon those relationships over the past 150 years. Through lectures and critical analyses of novels, poetry, art, philosophy, and religious texts, the course explores how changing intellectual, artistic, and religious precepts have affected gender identity and different genres in the humanities.

Introduction to Queer Studies (WST 111) - Tara Holmes

Tu/Th 2:30 - 3:50 pm

This course will provide students with a broad overview of queer studies and major theorists and thinkers within the field. Beginning with Foucault before turning to more contemporary theorists, this course will be an interdisciplinary approach to American queer studies. Through the examination of visual culture, literature, and theory, students will learn to read critically through the lenses of queer theory, critical ethnic studies, disability studies, and feminist theory.

Contemp. Issues in WaGS- "Gender Identity Constructions" (WST 210) - Stephanie Bonvissuto

Tu/Th 4:00 - 5:20 pm

This course is an interdisciplinary examination of the construction of contemporary gendered social actors in Western culture, tracing the genealogy and political impacts from the essentialist-based binary formation of Woman and Man through to current understandings of Transgender, Genderqueer and Non-Binary identities. We will explore the conversations and debates of non-normative gender profiles and bodies in the social realm by calling upon upon Feminist and Cultural Studies theory, critical academic research, popular/social media platforms and especially first person trans/genderqueer/non-binary narratives. Through these assemblages we will trace the intersections of gender and other social identity indexes to locate larger structures of oppression, and therefore potential sites of solidarity work, resistance and liberation.

Sociology of Gender (WST 247) - Linda Wicks

Mon/Wed/Fri 10:00 - 10:53 am

The historical and contemporary roles of women and men in American society; changing relations between the sexes; women's liberation and related movements. Themes are situated within the context of historical developments in the U.S. This course is offered as both SOC 247 and WST 247.

Introduction to Feminist Theory (WST 291) - Alexandra Novitskaya

Tu/Th 11:30 - 12:50 pm

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This course provides an introductory survey of historical and contemporary interdisciplinary feminist theory. The class is designed to introduce you to a wide variety of feminist theories from different perspectives and areas of knowledge production. One of our goals for the semester will be to create a “theory toolbox” through our engagement with a range of theoretical perspectives on questions of sex, gender, sexuality, race, class, knowledge, discourse, and representation as they effect and shape social and economic forms of power including, nationalism, capitalism, imperialism, and war. The emphasis of the course will remain focused on the theories produced by feminists to help explain and resist dominant or exploitative forms of power. We will also pay attention to the variety of theories produced and the contradictions and conflicts that may arise between feminists as a result. There has never been just one way of being a feminist, nor has there been only one feminist theory. A primary aim of the course is to map the diversity of feminist theoretical interests and solutions from different times and places. This course will provide a strong theoretical foundation for further studies in Women’s and Gender Studies.

Histories of Feminism (WST 301) - Ritch Calvin

Tu/Th 10:00 - 11:20 am

This course offers a historical study of the theoretical and practical developments that form contemporary feminism. Although the course will concentrate primarily on feminist histories in the United States, it will also place those histories within a global context, paying close attention to class and race as well as gender. To that end, we will examine a variety of materials including historical studies, theoretical essays, literature, and film. The course will follow a roughly chronological order beginning with the emergence of the idea of “Women’s Rights” during the late 18th century, and ending with the emergence of the concepts of global and third wave feminisms in the 1990s and beyond. We will consider the questions: How do we know a feminist when we see/read one? What makes something feminist?

Feminist Theories in Context (WST 305) - Liz Montegary

Mon/Wed 2:30 - 3:50 pm

This course offers students an introduction to major traditions in critical and cultural theory while focusing specifically on how feminist scholars have pushed these theories in new directions. The aim of this class is not to provide a comprehensive survey of modern theoretical traditions; instead, we will examine several key theoretical terms that have become central to feminist thought during the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. In addition to unpacking the ways in which liberalism and neoliberalism have shaped contemporary debates about sex, gender, and sexuality, we will also look at how feminist perspectives have challenged and complicated theories of nationalism and citizenship, labor and consumption, and representation and circulation. In doing so, we will gain insight into how feminist theories inform and are informed by other interdisciplinary fields, such as queer studies, disability studies, transgender studies, postcolonial studies, and critical race and ethnic studies.

Japanese Literature in the Feminine Domain (WST 331) - Mary Diaz/Darlene Prowse

Tu/Th 4:00 - 5:20 pm

This course examines both writings of Japanese women and writings about Japanese women. It will challenge the application of current Western feminist standards to Japanese culture through the analysis of Japanese literary works. We will begin with Japanese mythology focusing on the stories of the creator goddess and Amaterasu, the sun goddess, from whom the imperial line was descended. We will consider the great Heian Era women writers and their culture, examining the difference between men’s and women’s writing. From the Heian era we will move to the Meiji Era, when Japan’s isolationist period had ended and centuries’ worth of Western literature was

introduced to Japan. We will concentrate on the writings of Higuchi Ichiyo, noting how the position of women had changed by her day and how it affected her literary style. The course will close with a focus how literature treats Japanese women in our own time. This course is offered as AAS 331 and WST 331.

Sociology of Human Reproduction (WST 340) - Catherine Marrone

Wed 7:00 - 9:50 pm

A study of the links between biological reproduction and the socioeconomic and cultural processes that affect and are affected by it. The history of the transition from high levels of fertility and mortality to low levels of both; different kinship, gender, and family systems around the world and their links to human reproduction; the value of children in different social contexts; and the social implications of new reproductive technologies. This course is offered as both SOC 340 and WST 340.

Women and Gender in Pre-Modern European History (WST 360) - Mary Cooper

Mon/Wed 4:00 - 5:20 pm

An examination of the position of women in European society from ancient Greece through the Italian Renaissance. The course examines women's roles in the family and political life; women's economic activities; women and the Christian church; cultural attitudes concerning women; and women's own writing and creativity. This course is offered as both HIS 334 and WST 360. Formerly offered as HIS 360.

Gender and Work (WST 371) - Catherine Marrone

Tu/Th 1:00 - 2:20 pm

Gender differences in workforce participation and occupational attainment as they have changed throughout U.S. history. Covers such topics as historical changes in workforce participation; economic, legal, and social factors affecting employment; career options; and pay equity. Readings and lectures focus on the historical and contemporary experience of American men and women, including differences by ethnicity and class. This course is offered as both SOC 371 and WST 371.

Special Topics in WaGS in the Humanities - "Graphic Cultures" (WST 390) - Lisa Diedrich

Mon/Wed 2:30 - 3:50 pm

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In recent years, comics and graphic narratives have become a popular and innovative form for telling auto/biographical stories in a medium that artfully combines—co-mixes—words and images. The touchstone text of the form is *Maus*, Art Spiegelman's graphic narrative of his parents' experience of the Holocaust and his own transgenerational trauma. Other key texts in the hybrid genre include Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis* and Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home: A Family Tragicomic*, which, like *Maus*, have reached a wide readership, garnered popular and critical acclaim, as well as scholarly attention. These texts all share a preoccupation with exploring how subjects come into being in relation to experiences and events that are both ordinary and extraordinary—e.g., childhood, sexuality, war, illness, trauma, shame, stigma, love, hope. Our class will take a multi-faceted and interdisciplinary approach to graphic cultures. We will begin with questions about form, exploring how lines, panels, pages, texts, etc. are drawn, read, and interpreted. We will then turn to many examples of the genre, focusing in particular on graphic family histories of war and migration, graphic activism and politics, and graphic medicine and bodies.

Special Topics in WaGS in the Humanities - "See Me Through You: Images of Italian Women in Contemporary Theatre and Popular Culture" (WST 390) - Francesca Spedalieri

Mon/Wed 5:30 - 6:50 pm

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What is, then, an “Italian Woman”? This class attempts to answer this question by utilizing the plays of Palermitan author Emma Dante as a starting point to explore contemporary images of Italian women on stage and in popular culture in Italian and American film, TV series, and dramatic literature. As we analyze these works through feminist and performance studies lenses in both an Italian and an American context, we will uncover the role of religion, class, sexuality, race, and geography in constructing (and deconstructing) the notion of a monolithic and romanticized “Italian Woman.” Further, we will investigate what synergies, tensions, and questions these images might conjure when they are superimposed to our “here and now.”

[Topics in Global Feminism - "Immigration, Borders, and Identity in the Americas" \(WST 395\) - Nancy Hiemstra](#)

[Mon/Wed 2:30 - 3:50 pm](#)

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Through in-depth study of Latin America, the Caribbean, and the United States, this course will explore both reasons for and consequences of human mobility. We will draw on case studies of specific countries and groups of people to stitch together a broad picture of immigration and borders throughout the Americas. The course will begin with an overview of how outside influences have shaped modern day Latin America, from postcolonial legacies to contemporary economic, political, and military influences. We will explore the drivers behind contemporary immigration in the Americas. Then, we trace migration decisions and journeys of Latin American and Caribbean immigrants. We will examine immigration and border enforcement policies and the rationales behind them, with a focus on current events in the United States, and consider the relationship between government enforcement and policing practices, and illicit economies of drug and human smuggling. Finally, we will explore repercussions of particular policies in immigrant origin and destination countries throughout the Americas. The borders we will think about are not just territorial borders; we will also consider how categories such as gender, race, sexuality, ethnicity, legal status can work as boundaries in individuals' lives, as well as how they contribute to the conceptual bordering of national identity. The course takes an interdisciplinary approach, employing postcolonial, poststructural, and feminist theoretical frames to critically examine realities, trends, and possible futures of human mobility.

[Social Science Topics in WaGS - "The Global Game: Soccer & the Politics of Sports" \(WST 397\) - Melissa Forbis](#)

[Tu/Th 11:30 - 12:50 pm](#)

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Soccer – better known as football outside of the United States – is the single most popular sport in the world. This seminar will explore the complexities of globalization using soccer as a cultural window through a gender studies and anthropological lens. More generally, the seminar will direct students to think critically about the political implications of sport in contemporary societies. The course explores the ways soccer and sports broadly constitute and disrupt social understandings of race, gender, and sexuality within specific national contexts and across borders. We will consider the impact of sports “beyond the playing field.” Topics include: the political economy and “big business” of competitive sports; the connections between soccer and the shaping of national and migrant identities; the manipulation of soccer by the state; the race, gender, and sexual dynamics behind soccer as a practice and a spectacle; and the place of sport in movements for social justice. We will organize a field trip to watch an MLS professional league soccer game.

[Topics in Gender, Race, and Ethnicity - "Sporting Bodies" \(WST 398\) - Theresa Tiso](#) [Wed 10:00 - 12:50 pm](#)

Past topics include 20th-Century Latina Literature; Race and Gender in Opera; and Gender, Ethnicity, and Capitalism. May be repeated as the topic changes.

Topics in Gender, Race, and Ethnicity - "Transnational Feminism" (WST 398) - Shruti Mukherjee

Tu/Th 1:00 - 2:20 pm

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In this undergraduate seminar, students will engage with - what is transnational feminist theory, and problematize doing transnational praxis. Can works of scholars and activists which are translatable in U.S. universities be considered transnational feminism? Or is there more to transnational feminisms beyond Euro-American contexts? Some of the concepts taught in this seminar in relation to gender and sexuality will be: neoliberal development, nation-state, grassroots activism, borders, militarism, occupation, and formation of subjectivities in the process of decolonization. (No textbooks required, all readings will be made available in PDF format through

Topics in Gender and Sexuality - "Sex, Politics, Families" (WST 399) - Liz Montegary

Mon/Wed 4:00 - 5:20 pm

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This course invites students to think critically about the relationship between sex and the family in the United States today. On the one hand, families are imagined to revolve around sexual relationships: the two-parent nuclear family is supposed to begin with an erotic partnership that yields children who are then encouraged to aspire toward their own reproductive futures. On the other hand, sex has no place within families (except, perhaps, in parents' bedrooms): children must be shielded from all things sexual, and the erotics of family life must be disavowed at all costs. In this course, we will try to make historical sense of these seemingly contradictory conceptions of the family, and we will ask what happens to debates about sex and sexual politics if we start thinking about families as dynamic sites of sociality and sexuality. To this end, we will draw on the insights of feminist and queer cultural studies to theorize the family not as a private or personal realm cordoned off from the political and the economic but as a cultural institution entangled with the nation-state, racialized bodily norms, and transnational forms of capital. In addition to tackling canonical theories of gender and sexuality and classic studies of family and kinship, students will read cutting-edge work emerging at the nexus of disability studies, critical race and ethnic studies, and feminist, queer, and trans studies.

Senior Research Seminar for Women's and Gender Studies Minors (WST 407) - Ritch Calvin

Thursday 1:00 - 4:00 pm

An exploration of significant feminist scholarship in various disciplines designed for students who are majoring in disciplines other than women's and gender studies.

Seminar participants present and discuss reports on reading and research.

Senior Research Seminar for Women's and Gender Studies Majors (WST 408) - Lisa Diedrich

Monday 4:00 - 6:50 pm

An exploration of significant feminist scholarship in various disciplines, designed for senior women's and gender studies majors. Seminar participants present and discuss reports on their reading and research.