

[Winter 2018 Courses]

Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies in the Social Sciences (WST 102) - CER & SBS

Andy Eicher

ONLINE

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 interdisciplinary fields 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) - CER & HUM

Melis Umut

ONLINE

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 Feminist Theory (WST 291) - ESI & HFA+

Shruti Mukherjee

ONLINE

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.