

Women's and Gender Studies Department

Course Offerings (2018)

WGS 200 Intro to Women's and Gender Studies (3)

Explores social, political, and cultural dimensions of gender in society and culture. This course foregrounds intersectional feminist analyses: how gender is co-constituted with race, sexuality, nation, ability, economy, and other forms of social power. Students learn about the field of WGS, feminist analysis, interdisciplinary methods, and social justice.

Satisfies GE Area E.

WGS 255 Introduction to Queer Studies (4)

This interdisciplinary course offers an introduction to the field of Queer Studies by analyzing the role of race, gender, sexuality, and nationalism in the social construction of modern gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer (GLBTQ) identities. Students also learn of queer theoretical approaches to politics, culture, and society. Satisfies GE Area D1.

WGS 285 Men and Masculinity (4)

This course examines construction of masculinity across axes of race, sexuality, class, nation, and ability. Utilizing a multidisciplinary perspective, this course addresses various theories of masculinity and masculinity's impact on people's lives in areas such as relationships, media representation, work, culture, development, and health. Satisfies GE Area E.

WGS 300 Gender, Race and Representation (3)

This course uses feminist cultural studies, arts, and media studies methods to explore how intersections of gender and race structure contemporary society. Tracing the production of difference through culture, we foreground the study of race, gender, and representation as a method through which to understand and transform the social world. Satisfies GE Area C1, Ethnic Studies.

WGS 301 Feminist Studies Lecture Series (1-4)

A weekly lecture series (or occasional workshops) offering presentations and discussions of current issues from feminist and/or queer perspectives. There is usually a semester-long focus on a particular topic. The lectures are open to the community. May be repeated for credit.

WGS 302 Queer Studies Lecture Series (1)

A weekly lecture series offering presentations and discussions of ethical, literary, activist, intellectual, and artistic approaches to society and culture from lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer perspectives. The lectures are open to the community. May be repeated for credit. Satisfies GE Area C2.

WGS 305 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer U.S. History

Historical development of institutions, ideals, social and cultural transformations, and economic and political processes in the U.S. since colonization with a focus on the evolution of sexual and gender diversity. Satisfies GE category D3, and the state history requirement.

WGS 311 Special Topics in Women and Gender Studies (1 - 4)

A variable-topics seminar focusing upon intensive study of issues related to WGS in society. May be repeated for credit with different topic.

WGS 325 Youth: Gender Perspectives (3-4)

This course examines youth, focusing on the complex interconnections of gender, race/ethnicity, social class, sexuality, and other factors in understanding the experiences and social conditions of youth in the U.S., as well as the methodological issues that arise in conducting research on youth. This course requires community service learning.

WGS 335 Reproductive Justice (4)

Interdisciplinary examination of theoretical, historical, political, and popular discourse about reproduction and sexuality. Focuses on how feminist movements, cultural representations, public policies, and laws regarding reproduction have shaped gender norms and racial knowledge. Highlights the role of women, people of color, and LGBTQ people in shaping reproductive and sexual justice.

WGS 360 Gender, Race and Performance (3)

This course explores how contemporary theater artists construct cultural identity, with a particular focus on gender, sexuality, race, and ethnicity. Students engage in both written analysis and performance work. Topics covered include culturally specific modes of ritual, belief, and performance; representation of mixed-race identities; and oppressive and resistant strategies in casting and production. Originates in Theater. Cross-listed as THAR 375.

WGS 370. Gender in Asian America (3 - 4 units)

This interdisciplinary course examines gender, race, class, and sexuality in Asian America. We consider how Asian American women and men fit into debates about sexism and racism in the United States - historically and contemporarily. Topics include Asian American participation in women's/civil right movements as well as popular culture representations. Cross - listed with AMCS 370.

WGS 375. Gender, Race and Class (3 units)

An exploration of the intersection of gender, race, and class in the lives of U.S. women and men through a historical approach to the formations of social and political movements, the construction and policing of identity categories, and demands for equality and justice. Satisfies GE Area D1, Ethnic Studies.

WGS 385. Transnational Feminisms (4 units)

Through feminist analytical lenses, examines transnational movement of goods, bodies, practices, ideologies, and culture. Explores connections between lives and cultures of people in diverse places with those in the U.S. Topics may include labor, migration, cultural production, diasporic literature and art, activism, and state violence.

WGS 390. Gender and Work (4 units)

This course explores intersections of gender, race, class, immigration, and nation within the U.S. labor market. We examine situations facing workers across economic sectors ranging from professionals to service sector labor. Topics may include: juggling work and family, discrimination/harassment, welfare reform, globalization, and activism/resistance to workplace challenges. Prerequisite: WGS 200, 255, 285, 300, 375 or instructor consent.

395. Community Involvement Program (1 - 4 units)

The purpose of CIP is to encourage student involvement in the community. Units may be earned for work related to WGS. Cr/NC only. May be repeated for credit.

WGS 399. Student Instructed Course (1 - 4 units)

An introductory or advanced course designed by a senior or graduate student and taught under the supervision of faculty sponsor(s). Cr/NC only.

WGS 405. Psychology Of Gender (4 units)

Explores gender through a social psychological perspective. Topics include gender socialization, the structural function of gender stereotypes, masculinity, and gender discrimination. Course originates in the Psychology Department. Cross - listed as PSY 405.

WGS425. Feminist Research Methods (4 units)

A feminist critique of traditional methods of constructing knowledge & research practices and a discussion of gender-inclusive research strategies. Students will be given instruction in library and electronic information retrieval. Students will design, execute and report on a research project. Prerequisite: WGS 200, 255, 285, 300, 375 or instructor consent.

WGS 430. Women and Crime (4 units)

An in-depth analysis of women/girls and crime in the field of criminology and criminal justice. The class examines the significance of gender in pathways to crime as well as the nature and extent of female offending, victimization, and incarceration. The course focuses on feminist theory and methodology. Prerequisites: course restricted to WGS Majors and Minors. Course originates in CCJS. Cross-listed as CCJS 430.

WGS 440. Sociology of Reproduction (3 - 4 units)

An exploration of sociological perspectives on human reproduction. Topics include reproduction and gender identity, the social implications of reproductive technologies, historical and contemporary perspectives on normal pregnancy and childbirth, the cultural context for breastfeeding, and the politics of reproductive rights and choices in the United States. Course originates in Sociology. Cross-listed as Soci 440.

WGS 449. Gender and Sexuality In Latin America (4 units)

This course examines changing definitions, institutions, and behaviors related to gender, sexuality, and the family in Latin America from indigenous civilizations to contemporary societies. Topics include the transition from European colonies to nation - states, and the social, economic, and political changes in Latin America. Course originates in History. Cross-listed as HIST 449.

WGS 450 Woman of Color Feminisms (4 units)

Taking an interdisciplinary approach centering theory, writing, and literature by women of color, we examine intersections of race, class, ethnicity, sexuality and other categories of power for U.S. women of color. Key themes include: politics of representation, stigmatization, state and interpersonal violence, economic justice, reproductive justice, queerness/sexuality, and strategies of empowerment and resistance.

WGS 451. Feminist Perspectives in Literature (4 units)

Feminist Perspectives is an advanced course in reading, writing, and research that will engage feminist perspectives in literature. This course is interdisciplinary in approach and is conducted in a seminar format. May be repeatable once for credit. This course originates in English. Cross-listed as ENGL 451

WGS 455. Queer Theory, Queer Lives (4 units)

This interdisciplinary course offers advanced work in queer studies by looking at the production of theories about same - sex sexualities in history, culture, and politics. The course presents queer theory in conjunction with critical race theory, feminist theory, and post - colonial studies.

WGS 474. Foundations of Feminist Thought (4 units)

Exploration of concepts and authors in diverse feminist theory and praxis from the past three centuries. Building a base of the foundational strands and tensions, students will develop an engagement in key feminist analytical concepts, terms, and thinkers. WGS majors/minors must take either WGS 474 or 475. Prerequisite: WGS 200.

WGS 475. Contemporary Feminist Theory (4 units)

This course examines both historical and contemporary trends in feminist theory. Students examine how feminist theory might address the complex relationship between race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class, and nation as they relate to the production of knowledge, the implementation of theory and practice, and social change/activism. Prerequisite: WGS 200.

WGS 485. Senior Seminar (4 units)

This course provides WGS students an opportunity for advanced study on a special topic each semester (determined by instructor). The seminar format allows students an intensive experience and heightened responsibility for course content. The course should be taken during the student's senior year. Restricted to WGS majors. Prerequisite: completed or concurrent enrollments in either WGS 474 or WGS 475.

WGS 492. Syllabus Design (1 unit)

Students work on an individual basis with a faculty member to develop reading materials, lecture and discussion topics, and assignments appropriate to the teaching of a specific student - taught course in women's and gender studies. Student - taught courses must be approved by the chair, and students must follow established procedural guidelines for teaching in the WGS Department. Most student teachers are required to take WGS 492 before teaching, and WGS 493 while teaching. May be repeated for credit.

WGS 493. Teaching Supervision (1 unit)

Students acting as teaching assistants or student - teachers enroll in this to gain professional skills development with a faculty member.

WGS 495. Special Studies (1 - 4 units)

Upper - division students may elect to do an independent research or action project under the direction of a WGS faculty member. May be repeated for credit.

WGS 498. Careers in WGS (1 unit)

Learn about many WGS career paths, strategize about maximizing coursework, service, and internship experience to prepare for careers, and grapple with some of the gendered challenges and opportunities of the world of work. WGS majors should take alongside internship units. Prerequisite: WGS 200.

WGS 499. Internship (1 - 4 units)

Supervised training and experience for advanced students in community agencies concerned with gender issues and social justice. Student teaching of a student-taught University course is another form of internship. At present we offer credit (and not a grade) for student teaching and off - campus projects. Internships may be paid.

WGS 500. Seminar in Feminist Theory and Research in Social Sciences (3 units)

A survey of feminist critiques of social science theory and research in various disciplines (depending on student interest) -- anthropology, history, political science, psychology, and sociology. A survey of feminist attempts to reformulate and transform social science theory and methods, including debates and disagreements among feminist scholars. Requirements will include an individual research project and analysis. Prerequisite: at least one course in a social science and at least one course that focuses on women or gender (course may be at graduate or undergraduate level).