What are the gendered beliefs that inform college “hook-up” culture? What explains the persistent wage gap between women and men? Why are U.S. politics so much more male-dominated than politics in many other Western countries? Why are unarmed Black men fifteen times more likely than unarmed White men to be killed by police? Why are transgendered persons often a source of fascination, yet also victims of hate crimes?

These are some of the questions that we explore in WGS courses. Join us to gain new perspectives on the world around us, as a major, a minor, or for a cognate!

Learn more by signing up for our list serve (email me) and joining our lunch colloquia.

Director: Dr. Merike Blofield
m.blofield@miami.edu or wgs@miami.edu
Phone: 305-284-6116

Jeny Acosta, Interdisciplinary Studies Program Coordinator
1300 Campo Sano, Suite 215
j.acosta@miami.edu
Phone: 305-284-2030
Welcome to Women’s and Gender Studies! We are an inter-disciplinary program, and we offer an undergraduate major in WGS, and a minor in both WGS and LGBTQ Studies. We also offer a variety of cognates, including Introduction to WGS/Introduction to LGBTQ Studies. Aside from our core courses, our course offerings span over 12 departments. We also hold monthly lunch colloquia that are open to everyone in the UM community. To find out more about our program or to sign up for our newsletter, please send me an email at m.blofield@miami.edu.

Best,
Merike Blofield Director.

MAJOR

A major in Women's and Gender Studies consists of at least 30 credits in Women's and Gender Studies courses (core or combined courses) with a grade of C- or better in each course and a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 in WGS courses. These credits must include at least 18 at the 300 level or above. All majors must complete WGS 201: Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies, WGS 301: Feminist Inquiries, and at least two other WGS core courses.

All majors also have the option of completing WGS 501: Senior Research Project, which takes the form of an individual research project with a faculty member of the student's choice. The student is responsible for finding an appropriate faculty member who is available to supervise the project and then must seek formal approval from the program director before proceeding with the project. The student must produce a substantial written report or research paper, the format of which will vary according to the nature of the project. Women's and Gender Studies majors with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5 in WGS courses and an overall GPA of at least 3.0 may earn departmental honors by completing WGS 505: Honors Thesis instead of the senior research project, following the same guidelines. Most students writing an honors thesis as part of their WGS major will take WGS 505 twice (for a total of 6 credits).

MINOR

A minor in Women's and Gender Studies consists of at least 15 credits in Women's and Gender Studies courses (core, co-listed, and cross-listed) with a grade of C- or better in each course and a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 in WGS courses. These credits must include at least 9 at the 300 level or above. All minors must complete WGS 201: Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies, WGS 301: Feminist Inquiries, and at least one other WGS core course. The student may not take more than 3 credit hours of individual studies without the approval of the program director.
The LGBTQ Studies minor is designed to allow students to explore sexuality and sexual minorities from a variety of perspectives. The minor will provide students with an introduction to a broad array of LGBTQ issues, including visual and performing arts, literature, languages, history, social science, various theories, public policy and the law, families and other types of intimate relationships, crime, popular culture, and LGBTQ identities and communities. This widely interdisciplinary field addresses work in a broad range of scholarly disciplines, including biological and cultural studies, literature and anthropology, the health sciences, history, and the visual arts. It ranges from archival research to the elaboration of queer theory, from the analysis of constitutional law to questions of public health, from the study of popular culture to investigations into the development and social construction of sexual identity.

A minor in LGBTQ Studies consists of at least 15 credits in LGBTQ Studies courses (requirements, core, and combined courses) with a grade of C- or better in each course and a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0 in LGBTQ courses. All minors must complete WGS 201: Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies and WGS 202: Introduction to LGBTQ Studies. The remaining course work must include at least 9 credit hours at the 300 level or above in LGBTQ themed courses and no more than 6 credit hours in any one department or program. The student may not take more than 3 credit hours of individual studies without the approval of the program director.

**COGNATES**

Women’s and Gender Studies also has several cognates, including “Women’s and Gender Studies” (people and society), “LGBTQ Studies” (people and society), A Cross-Cultural and Historic Examination of Sexuality (people and society), “Gender and Politics” (people and society), and “Gender, Literature and the Fine Arts” (arts and humanities).
When your mother announced that she was pregnant with you, the first question she was probably asked was, “Are you having a boy or a girl?” In this course, we will examine the local and global significance of gender as it intersects with class, race and ethnicity. We will ask many questions: Why is it women who do most of the world’s work, but who own little of the world’s wealth? Why are stay-at-home fathers ridiculed? Why, in a time of increased transgender visibility and celebrity, are U.S. transgender women so often the targets of violence? As we investigate the challenges that women politicians face, we will focus on the surge in women entering politics since the 2016 presidential election. We will assess gendered double standards, such as the fact that it is women who are often expected to avoid being raped, rather than men being expected not to rape. This course uses social science research to separate false perceptions from realities, in order to better understand why gender continues to shape our social institutions.

As an introduction to the LGBTQ Studies minor, this class will be multidisciplinary, and will require challenging reading, engaged discussion, and on-going written responses. We will examine how contemporary sexual and gender identities have been historically, culturally, and politically constructed, how other times and places have thought differently about these forms of human variation, and how these ideas continue to be in transformation. We will think through some key current questions in contemporary queer global politics: should states recognize and regulate gender, and if so, how? Is gay marriage about equality or assimilation? How should we nurture the autonomy and well-being of intersex people? How might the growing and vulnerable LGBTQQQIAA population in the global south best be supported by those of us in the global north—and what might we have to learn from them?

This course studies the ways in which feminist inquiry transforms our understanding of key issues across the curriculum. Reading classic and contemporary feminist scholarship from a diversity of disciplinary backgrounds we will address questions of rights, equality, nature of oppression and difference. We will discuss the dynamic, historical and changing nature of feminist contributions to the understanding of what constitutes work, inscriptions on the body, sex, sexualities, gender(s) and masculinities. Drawing on interdisciplinary feminist texts in history, anthropology, literary theory and literature, films, visuals, primary documents such as speeches and manifestos, the course will enable us to appreciate the diversity of feminist scholarship and activism that animate feminist inquiries.
WGS 315 Gender, Race and Class  
Section U: TR 6:25pm-7:40pm  
Instructor: Dr. Sumita Dutt

This course interrogates common sense thinking about gender, race and class drawing on readings, documentaries, blogs, memoirs and fiction from the social sciences and humanities. We will explore the ways in which intersections of gender, race, and class shape society and the lived experiences of individuals and groups within it. The focus of such critical readings will be the United States and its institutions such as family, education, economy, public policy, and the media. We will analyze how these categories intersect, as well as create inequities and build solidarities and resistance movements for change over historical time and in specific cultural contexts. Class readings, lectures and discussions will be from an intersectional and multidisciplinary perspective.

WGS 320 Comparative Perspectives on Gender and Sexuality: English and American Literature by Women  
Section H: M 3:35pm-4:50pm (Combined with ENG 215)  
Instructor: Dr. Tassie Gwilliam

A survey of women writers from the Middle Ages to the present; explores the female literary tradition and women's relationship to culture and society.

WGS 335 LGBTQ Communities  
Section O: TR 9:30am-10:45am (Combined with SOC 335)  
Instructor: Dr. Robert Johnson

Sociology of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Queer communities and identities. This course examines the history, methods, theory and concepts of social science research on these topics over the last half century and examines contemporary issues.

WGS 344: Gender and Politics  
Section O: TR 9:30am-10:45am (Combined with POL 344 and INS 344)  
Instructor: Dr. Louise K. Davidson-Schmich

While the political systems of countries across the modern world differ in many respects, they all have one thing in common: women are under-represented in national government and men dominate politics and public life. Over the past century, however, this entrenched disparity has begun to shift—considerably in some countries but only slightly, or not at all, in others. This course examines the different roles played by men and women in political systems around the world and compares some highly gendered public policy outcomes that these political systems produce. We will begin by introducing some key theoretical concepts for the study of gender and politics, including the concept of gender itself, the notion of gender inequality, and the intersection of gender with other relevant social divisions such as race, ethnicity, partisanship, and sexual orientation. The course will then trace the rise of feminist movements around the globe before going on to assess their political impact. The second part of the class will examine the two sexes’ political participation overall and in the various branches of government. The remainder of the semester will be devoted to comparing public policy outcomes in various areas including reproductive rights, LGBT issues, human trafficking, and issues of concern to women in the workforce.
WGS 350 Special Topics: Women’s America  
Section H: MWF 3:35pm-4:25pm (Combined with HIS 261)  
Instructor: Dr. Sybil Lipschultz

This course looks at the history of American women from the American Revolution to Reconstruction. We will examine mothers and daughters of the revolution, women and the law of slavery, abolition and women’s rights, the first independent women’s movement and the legal status of women throughout the period.

WGS 350 Special Topics: Sex and Culture  
Section Q: TR 12:30pm-1:45pm (Combined with APY 392)  
Instructor: Dr. Ann Brittain

A cross-cultural examination of sex roles and sexuality. Topics will include gender identity, division of labor, functions of marriage, sexual practices, reproductive control, and political relationships between the sexes. Causes for cross-cultural variation will be sought in biological and social factors, and students will be encouraged to evaluate existing theories and modern problems from a cross-cultural perspective.

WGS 350 Special Topics: Femmes Fatales of Hollywood Films 1940-1960  
Section T: TR 5:00pm-6:15pm (Combined with ENG 388 and AMS 327)  
Instructor: Dr. Catherine Judd

In this course we will study films featuring “dangerous women” or “femme fatales” of Classic American Film Noir. Our viewing list may include Fritz Lang’s Scarlet Street (1945); John M. Stahl’s Leave Her to Heaven (1945); Jacques Tourneur’s Out of the Past (1947); Joseph Lewis’ Gun Crazy (1949); Fritz Lang’s Rancho Notorious (1953); Henry Hathaway’s Niagara (1953); Sam Fuller’s Pickup on South Street (1953); Alfred Hitchcock’s Vertigo (1958); Raoul Walsh’s The Revolt of Mamie Stover (1956). Requirements: Class attendance and participation; completion of assignments, two 5-7-page papers, midterm, and final.

WGS 350 Special Topics: War and the Fashioning of Gender  
Section O: TR 9:30am-10:45am or Section R: TR 2:00pm-3:15pm (Combined with ENG 210)  
Instructor: Dr. Elizabeth Oldman

This course examines war and retreat from war as gendering activities, which serves to restructure male and female identity. Investigating psychological and social responses to the crisis of order brought on by battle, we explore arguments in favor of pacifism as well as efforts to limit armed strife by distinguishing between just and criminal warfare. We assess the role and representation of soldiers and non-combatants in literature, art, and film, as well as ambivalent attitudes toward aggression and crises of “manhood.” More specifically, we analyze retreat from battle in relation to such tropes as: pastoral escapism, stoical self-possession, self-dissolution/imagined body of colossus, shell-shock, drink-induced reverie and indifference, fantasies of topographical isolation and utopia. Authors and artists include Shakespeare,
Machiavelli, Marvell, Lovelace, Brome, Cleveland, Vaughan, Blunden, Graves, Millay, Owen, Rosenberg, Sassoon, West, Woolf, as well as the paintings, poems, political manifestos, photography, films, collages and ready-made objects of Dali, Tanguy, Ernst, Magritte, Miró, Aragon, Tzara, Eluard, Buñuel, Oppenheim, and Tanning.

**WGS 350 Special Topics: Gender and Creativity in Literature**  
*Section Q: TR 12:30pm-1:45pm (Combined with ENG 210)*  
*Instructor: Dr. Kathryn Freeman*

This course surveys writers from the Middle Ages to the present whose works bring together concerns of gender and creativity that may reflect or shape their historical contexts. Through the lens of poetry, fiction, criticism, autobiography, and the journal, we will examine a literary legacy that variously contributes to and challenges established historical categories.

**WGS 350 Advanced English Composition: Sista’ Soul Food: Black Women, Food and Power**  
*Section E: MWF 12:20pm-1:10pm (Combined with ENG 306/AAS 390/AMS 334)*  
*Instructor: Dr. Rachel Panton*

From slavery until today Black American women have not only served as herbalists and healers but have transmitted culture through food in the fields, in their homes, in their communities, in their churches and in other religious organizations. Through our readings and writings in this course, we will explore the historical, socio-economic and political spaces of Black American women and food, and how these contexts have helped to affect self-definition, black feminist social consciousness and personal identity.

**WGS 350 Special Topics: Religion and Gender**  
*Section F: MWF 1:25pm-2:15pm (Combined with REL 345)*  
*Instructor: Dr. Robyn Walsh*

This course examines what we know about the lives of women and men from the classical period through modernity, with an emphasis on sexuality and gender in ancient Greece and Rome. Using cross-cultural analysis and a variety of ancient literature, scholarship and material culture, together we will reconstruct and (re)examine the socio-cultural environments and practices that have fostered Western discourses on sexual difference and gender identity over time, paying particular attention to how religion and religious practices are integral to understandings of the natural world, natural law and the self. Some of the questions we will ask include: What does it mean to be male or female? What can we discover about ourselves from the way(s) we have sex? How are all these things related to life, love, power?

**WGS 350 Special Topics: Filming gender and queer sexuality issues in Sub-Sahara Africa, the Maghreb, France, the Caribbean and Quebec**  
*Section H: MWF 3:35pm-4:50pm (Combined with FRE 303, Entirely taught in French.)*  
*Instructor: Dr. Rudolf Heyndels*

In this course we will analyze and question cinematicographic representations of gender and queer sexuality issues in French language films from Sub-Sahara Africa, the Maghreb, “hexgonal” France, and Quebec. Films to be studied are from directors Mohamed Camara, Nouri Bouzid, Mehdi Ben Attia, Abdellah Taia, Nabil Ayouch, Raja Amari, Gael Morel, Sylvie Verheyde, Laurent Cantet / Dany Lafferiere, and Xavier Dolan. They will be critically contextualized in socio-gender-social terms and examined in queer theory perspectives.
WGS 405: Gender and Sexualities in the Middle East and North Africa (Writing credit)
Section P: TR 11:00am to 12:15pm (Combined with ARB 315 and APY 418)
Instructor: Dr. Claire Oueslati-Porter

This course offers an anthropological point of entry into the study of gender and sexuality in the contemporary Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Through ethnographic and sociological readings, we will analyze the social construction of gender and sexuality in the MENA. We will seek to answer many questions, including: How are Moroccan women workers challenging gender norms? How do transgender people in Oman maintain community acceptance? While women’s formal workforce participation is low in the MENA, what forms of hidden informal labor do women perform? How do gay men in Lebanon traverse class and ethnic boundaries? In what ways is motherhood a political act for Palestinian women? How are Middle Eastern and North African feminists using social media to combat sexual harassment? Through this course, students will learn the value of using anthropological theory and ethnographic method to better understand gender and sexuality in the often misunderstood Middle East and North Africa.

WGS 410 Gender, Sexuality and the Law
Section: Th 5:00pm-8:00pm (Tentative)
Instructor: Dr. Maria Sevilla

This course will explore the intersection between gender, sexuality, and the law, including how these come together in individuals’ private lives, workplace, educational settings, civic life, and the international arena. Using a combination of landmark supreme court cases, scholarly sources, personal narratives, and news articles, we will explore the ways in which legislation and cultural constructs affect individuals of all genders, and look at practical ways to face possible challenges ahead.

WGS 450 Special Topics: Black Feminist Theory
Section T: TR 5:00pm-6:15pm (Combined with APY 486)
Instructor: Dr. Jafari Allen

Black feminist theory, produced primarily by Black women scholars, artist and activists, throughout the diaspora, constitutes a distinctive and influential body of politics and thought. While one of its central innovations—‘intersectionality’—is now being widely discussed, one needs specific and contextual knowledge to understand, critique, and or deploy this concept. This seminar explores some Black feminist and womanist foundations, and key emerging works. We take a Great Thinkers/Great Works approach. After brief consideration of a few of the major streams of Black feminist and womanist work, we will concentrate on close readings of selected works of seven key thinkers—mapping their intellectual, political, and/or aesthetic genealogies. What streams do they follow? What new or emerging work follows them? What models do they offer to the world, and for our own work?
WGS INDEPENDENT STUDIES, THESES, INTERNSHIPS

WGS 501: Senior Research Project (Writing credit)
Instructor: As arranged by student.
Section: As arranged by student and instructor.

A student-initiated research project with a faculty member of the student’s choice and approved by the program director. Contact Merike Blofield, the WGS Program Director, at m.blofield@miami.edu for more information.

WGS 505: Senior Honors Thesis (Writing credit)
Instructor: As arranged by student.
Section: As arranged by student and instructor.

Women’s and Gender Studies majors with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5 in WGS courses and an overall GPA of at least 3.0 may earn departmental honors by completing an honors thesis instead of the senior research project. Candidates for departmental honors are responsible for finding a faculty member who is willing to serve as a thesis advisor and then must complete a thesis proposal of approximately 400 words, which must be approved by the thesis advisor and the program director. Most students will take this course twice, for a total of six credits. Contact Merike Blofield, the WGS Program Director, at m.blofield@miami.edu for more information.