

WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

FALL 2011

COURSE BOOKLET



Reach us at: 305 284-2017

Women's and Gender Studies

MAJOR

A major in Women's and Gender Studies consists of at least 30 credits in Women's and Gender Studies courses (core, co-listed, and cross-listed) with a grade of C- or better in each course, with 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 must complete WGS 501: *Senior Research Project*, which will take 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. Candidates for departmental honors are responsible for finding a faculty member who is willing to serve as thesis adviser and then must complete a thesis proposal of approximately 400 words which must be approved by the thesis adviser and then the program director. The format and length of the thesis will vary according to the nature of the project. 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, with 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.

Women's and Gender Studies
NEW COURSE
Fall 2011

FSS 193: Freshman Seminar:
Same-Sex Love and Desire in U.S. History
Instructor: Richard Godbeer
Section 1R: T 2.00-4.30 P.M.

This seminar will introduce students to the history of sexual and romantic attraction between men and between women (what we might today describe as gay and lesbian history) as it unfolded in the British colonies established in North America, during the revolutionary period, and in the United States over the course of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

If we are going to understand that history, we need to recognize that the ways in which we understand same-sex love and sexual attraction today would have made little sense to people living in the past. Indeed, the notion of sexual orientation, along with our assumptions about homosexual and heterosexual identities, is a modern invention. One of the primary topics of this course will be the changing ways in which people have made sense of sexual desire and romantic love between women and between men over the past four hundred years. In addition, we will examine the ways in which men and women who craved intimacy with members of the same sex negotiated their desires in an often hostile world. And we will consider some of the ways in which the remarkable diversity of American society – racial, ethnic, and religious – has shaped this history of same-sex love and desire.

Our weekly meetings will be devoted to discussion of historical documents from the past and interpretive writings by recent historians. Each student will be expected to come to class (a) having read the assignments for that week and (b) ready to engage in class discussion. Each student will be required to write three papers engaging with the readings for the course. The grade will be based partly on those written assignments (25% per paper) and partly on participation in class (25% of the overall grade).

In addition to meeting in class, we will also be visiting the Stonewell Library and Archives in Fort Lauderdale, one of the largest repositories of material relating to

GLBTQ history and culture in the United States. This outing will take place on a Saturday on a date to be announced at the start of the semester.

Please note that this course is intended for freshmen and sophomores. Any junior or senior wishing to take this course should consult with Professor Godbeer via email(rgodbeer@miami.edu) before enrolling in the course.

Women's and Gender Studies
CORE COURSES
Fall 2011

WGS 201: INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

Instructor: Brenna Munro

Section D: M-W-F 11:15 AM-12:05 P.M.

Conceptions of masculinity and femininity; gender relations; gender inequalities; the intersections of gender with other categories of identity such as class, race, sexuality, and stages in the life cycle; and the broad impact of gender on society.

WGS 201: INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

Instructor: Belkys Torres

Section Q: T-R 12:30-1:45 P.M.

Conceptions of masculinity and femininity; gender relations; gender inequalities; the intersections of gender with other categories of identity such as class, race, sexuality, and stages in the life cycle; and the broad impact of gender on society.

WGS 210: POPULAR REPRESENTATIONS OF QUEER SEXUALITIES

Instructor: Giovanna Pompele

Section P: T-R 11:00 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.

In this class we will look at the ways in which the image of the queer subject is shaped by popular narratives in books, films, on television and the internet. The range of sources will be wide and will include novels, memoirs, poetry, films, documentaries, TV shows, reality TV, the news, websites and blogs. The issue of representation will be tackled in a three-pronged way. First we will look at how lesbians, gays, bisexuals and trans people are portrayed by others. Secondly we will look at how they portray themselves (questions of authenticity and influence will be raised). Thirdly we will discuss representation versus representativeness, raising questions of normativity, acceptance, identification, tolerance, integration, etc. We will look at texts in which queerness is negotiated between hetero fantasies, queer fantasies, voyeurism, genuine cultural exploration, and commercial viability, and try to understand how all these factors come into play and interact with one another.

WGS 301 FEMINIST INQUIRIES

Instructor: Sumita Dutt Chatterjee

Section O: T-R 9:30-10:45 A.M.

The history of feminist thought and the ways in which feminist inquiry transforms our understanding of key issues across the curriculum. Focusing on transnational trends will enable us to understand the historical intersections between different forms of feminist movements, and how political, social, and economic structures of race, sexuality, gender and class shape the rich and complex fabric of feminist inquiries. This course will critically study the relationship between woman and nation, between gender and globalization and between feminist theory and practice. 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. This is a writing credit course.

WGS 315: GENDER, RACE, CLASS

Instructor: Pamela Geller

Section P: T-R 11:00 -12:15 P.M.

Conceptions and intersections of gender, race, and class in historical and contemporary cultures; the impact of these experiences on individuals and society as a whole.

Nore: This course is co-listed with APY 418

WGS 320: COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES ON GENDER AND SEXUALITY

Gender and Development

Instructor: Sumita Dutt Chatterjee

Section E: M-W-F 12:20-1:10 P.M.

This course explores the complexities of development goals and challenges and the ways in which these have been shaped by discourses on gender and feminist activism. We critically examine the shifts in theory and practice in the past four decades as they relate to development paradigms in the regions of Latin America, Caribbean, and South Asia through the lens of interdisciplinary development and feminist scholarship and praxis. We will study the possibilities and limitations of the varied approaches that were, and often still are adopted by our particular regions such as “Women In Development” (WID), “Women And Development” (WAD), “Gender And Development” (GAD) as well as the more recent post-development feminist critiques of these approaches. Governmental, non-governmental, community-based policy initiatives and grass root actions that address pressing concerns such as the gender gap in key development aspirations such as poverty reduction, health, education, reproductive rights, rights in property and land, access to resources and credit will be studied through in-depth analyses of local case studies from Latin America, Caribbean and S. Asia.

Note: This course is co-listed with LAS 301

WGS 344: GENDER AND POLITICS

Instructor: Marsha Matson

Section E: M-W-F 12:20-1:10 P.M.

While the political systems of countries across the contemporary world differ in many respects, they all have one thing in common: women are under-represented in national government and men dominate politics. 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 examines public policy outcomes with significant gender-based effects. 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 class, race or 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 three areas including gender-based violence, sexuality and reproductive health, and access to education and the paid labor force.

Course Requirements: This class requires regular and punctual class attendance as well as constructive participation in class discussions. There will be two take-home mid-term exams in essay format and a take-home essay final exam. Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off and stowed for the duration of the class.

Note: This course is co-listed with POL 344

WGS 350: SPECIAL TOPICS IN WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

Current Issues in Reproductive Technologies

Instructor: Gina Maranto

Section R: T-R 2:00-3:15 P.M.

With the rise of new reproductive technologies—the ability to manipulate sperm, eggs, and embryos in the laboratory—has come a raft of ethical, political, and gender issues. This course will survey the history of the research that has enabled reproductive physicians to engineer pregnancy, and the range of legal, religious, and philosophical responses to reproductive medicine. Special emphasis will be placed on the ways in which this field commodifies women's bodies and human tissues, as well as the end product of the enterprise: infants. We will examine the global marketplace for birth mothers and eggs, and the colonialist implications thereof. We will also touch upon

some of the more controversial aspects of reproductive medicine, including embryonic stem cells and hybridized human-animal embryos. This course will earn “W” credit, and we will employ blogs and wikis as a means of writing about and investigating the field

WGS 350: Special Topics in Women's and Gender Studies
Telenovelas in/as Latina Literature

Instructor: Belkys Torres

Section S: T-R. 3:30-4:45 P.M.

When might one of the most denigrated forms of cultural production, the Latin American telenovela, become a catalyst for female empowerment and solidarity? Under what conditions can the “dirty discourse of gossip,” as Robert C. Allen has termed it, forge a common ground or bridge amongst women on both sides of the North and South American border? These are some of the queries that will guide our analysis of Latina/o fiction and visual culture this semester. Focusing particularly on theories of melodrama as a feminine discursive space, we will analyze several works of Latina/o literature which underscore women’s active interpretation and reappropriation of radio and televisual family melodramas. While this is a literature-based course, students will also examine how hybrid cultural products, such as telenovelas, produce a transnational imaginary that connects U.S. Latinas/os with Latin America and the Caribbean. We will read *Bitter Grounds* by Sandra Benitez, *Loving Pedro Infante* by Denise Chávez, *Woman Hollering Creek and Other Stories* by Sandra Cisneros and *Tomorrow They Will Kiss* by Eduardo Santiago as the literary frameworks that will guide our discussions and literary analysis.

WGS 361: GENDER AND LANGUAGE

Instructor: Caleb Everett

Section G: M-W-F 2:30–3:20 P.M.

Do women and men really speak differently? This and other questions will be considered in detail as we examine the various ways in which language is used in the constitution of one’s gender. The answers to such questions will be found by examining relevant linguistic studies, the results of which often conflict with popular ideas on the subject. Linguistic data from a variety of languages, including some spoken by small indigenous groups, will be considered. We will inspect phonetic (sound-based) data, as well as syntactic and discourse-based data. We will also consider experimental data on the ways in which the grammatical gender system of a language affects the perceptions of that language’s speakers.

Note: This course is co-listed with APY 361

WGS 499: INDEPENDENT STUDY

Section 01, arranged

By arrangement with instructor; content varies.

WGS 501: Senior Research Project

Section 01, arranged

WGS Major or Minor, Senior Status, and WGS 201 and 301

WGS 505: Senior Thesis

Section 01, arranged

WGS Major or Minor, Senior Status, WGS 201 and 301, and approval of the program director.

Women's and Gender Studies
CROSS-LISTED COURSES
Fall 2011

Please check myUM for room assignments

Anthropology

APY392: SEX AND CULTURE

Instructor: Ann Brittain

Section P, T-R 11:00 A.M.-12:15 P.M.

A cross-cultural examination of sex roles and sexuality; gender identity, division of labor, functions of marriage, sexual practices, reproductive control, and political relationships between the sexes.

English

ENG 210 LITERARY THEMES AND TOPICS:

War and Fashioning of Gender

Instructor: Elizabeth Oldman

Section D: M-W-F 11:15 A.M.-12:05 P.M.

This course examines war and retreat from war as gendering activities which serve 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 Davenant, Fanshawe, Vaughan, Marvell, Jonson, Brome, Cleveland, Owen, Sassoon, Rosenberg, Woolf, as well as the paintings, political manifestos, photography, films, collages and ready-made objects of Breton, Buñuel, Duchamp, Miró, Oppenheim, and Tanning.

Prerequisite: ENG 106 or equivalent.

ENG 210 LITERARY THEMES AND TOPICS:

War and Fashioning of Gender

Instructor: Elizabeth Oldman

Section E: M-W-F 12:20-1:10 P.M.

This course examines war and retreat from war as gendering activities which serve 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 Davenant, Fanshawe, Vaughan, Marvell, Jonson, Brome, Cleveland, Owen, Sassoon, Rosenberg, Woolf, as well as the paintings, political manifestos, photography, films, collages and ready-made objects of Breton, Buñuel, Duchamp, Miró, Oppenheim, and Tanning.

Prerequisite: ENG 106 or equivalent.

ENG 373; LITERARY REPRESENTATIONS OF WOMEN:

Imagining Elizabeth I

Instructor: Pamela Hammons

Section R: T-R 2:00-3:15 P.M.

History

HIS 374: History of American Women

Instructor: Sybil Lipschultz

Section Q: T-R 12:30-1:45 P.M.

This course covers the main themes in American Women's History from the Revolution to the present. The topics we consider will serve students with a general interest in this subject, as well as prepare students who seek a foundation for future classes in the field. Major questions raised by the course will revolve around the historical context of the following issues: domesticity versus public life; wage earning women; slavery and freedom; women in reform movements; women at war; childbirth and motherhood; the race and class of gender; gender stereotypes in the mass media; women and public policy. Readings will focus on both background materials by professional historians, and primary sources depicting the words, perspectives and ideas of the women who lived in various historical times.

There will be two short papers during the semester and one longer paper due at the end

of the term.

Main Text: THROUGH WOMEN'S EYES: An American History with Documents

[HIS 561: Studies in United States History](#)

Women's Political Culture

Instructor: Sybil Lipschultz

Section FY: W 2:00-4:30 P.M.

Women's Political Culture involves the history of an informal, sometimes hidden, but very powerful style of social activism that defined women's political involvement from the colonial period through the Twentieth Century. This course will examine women's political culture through several centuries, in a variety of political circumstances, including the eventual alternative movement, which put women's politics in clear public view. We will discuss the contributions of a variety of political styles, evaluating the effectiveness and significance of each. We will also put a great deal of emphasis on differences between in political style, especially those separated by social class, race and "marital status." Having teased apart the various strands of women's political cultures, students will ponder how to reweave them to create a cohesive and powerful political style for this century. Through discussion of weekly readings that build toward understanding the content of the field, the arguments within the literature and some documents historians have relied upon. This seminar-style class is open to history majors, American studies minors/majors, Women's studies minors/majors, graduate students, and others who obtain the permission of the instructor.

Philosophy

[PHI 236: Feminist Philosophy](#)

Instructor: Nicholas Wiltsher

Section J: M-W 5:00-6:15 P.M.

This course is an introduction to issues in feminist philosophy, including its critique of Western philosophy and its contributions to major areas of philosophy such as ethics, social philosophy, theories of human nature, and theories of knowledge. Theories of oppression introduced at the beginning of the course inform analyses of sexism, heterosexism, racism, classism and ableism, and philosophizing about their "isms" is aided by sociocultural research. The emphasis is not only on what is contained in these topics, but also on how to think critically about them.

Psychology

PSY 301-01 Psychology of Gender

FLP 536

Instructor: Jill Kaplan

Section 01: M-W 1:50-3:05 P.M.

Psychological theories and research related to understanding issues of gender a cross the lifespan.