

WOMEN'S STUDIES

FALL 2009

UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OFFERINGS

The Women's Studies Department's curriculum explores how institutionalized sexism, racism, classism, and heterosexism limit human achievement and dignity--and examines the changes necessary for society to eliminate these limitations. A major goal of the Department of Women's Studies is the reexamination and reevaluation of traditional disciplines in the light of insights provided by feminist thought. Students and faculty engage in an analysis of the extent to which a sexist perspective has determined the content, subject matter, research and theory of various disciplines. Participants in the program are, however, equally committed to moving outside the confines of traditional disciplines to develop new methodologies, new subjects and new theories based on a multidisciplinary approach to the study of women. Finally, the program seeks to encourage students to engage in a reexamination of their own lives and of the world around them. The B.A. in Women's Studies and a minor are available to undergraduates. Graduate opportunities include an M.A. in Women's Studies, a dual B.A./M.A. degree for qualified students, and a Graduate Certificate in Women and Public Policy. Other discipline-based concentrations in Women's Studies are also available. For more information, contact the Chair of Women's Studies, SS 341, at 442-4220.

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AWSS 202 (25570) (3 crs)
Introduction to Lesbian and Gay Studies
Reese C. Kelly
MW 5:45-7:05
HU 123

Topics may include the history of lesbian and gay culture(s) in the U.S., lesbian and gay civil rights movements, questions of sexual identity formation in historical and cultural contexts, lesbian and gay literature, and how these communities have responded to societal issues such as racism, classism, sexism, healthcare crises, and anti-gay violence.

AWSS 220 (26492) (3 crs)
Introduction to Feminist Theory
Maia Boswell-Penc
MWF 10:25-11:25
HU 132

Offers multidisciplinary, introductory perspectives on intersectional feminist theory and considers the range of frameworks for analysis from the beginnings of "second wave" feminism to the present, including liberal, lesbian/radical, socialist/materialist, women of color, psychoanalytic, standpoint, and ecofeminist perspectives.

AWSS 240/AAAS 240/LCS 240 (31881/31140/26244) (3 crs)

Classism, Racism, and Sexism

Janell Hobson

TTH 4:15-5:35

LC 6

This interdisciplinary course will define the terms classism, racism, and sexism and explore how they intersect to shape systems of dominance. Through historical, political and global consciousness, we will assess different social and cultural forces. We will also examine social constructions of race, gender, and class and how they create worldviews that discourage us from challenging the status quo. In the end, our goal is to dismantle our various "isms" and envision social change for social justice.

AWSS 262/SOC 262 (21304/20682) (3 crs)

Sociology of Gender

Anna Ryan

MWF 1:40-2:35

LC 21

This course examines how gender is socially constructed in contemporary U.S. society. We will examine how gender orders our everyday lives: our sense of self, our friendships, romances, conversations, clothing, body image, entertainment, work, sexuality, and parenthood. We will learn how conceptions about gender create and enforce a system of gender difference and inequality. We will examine the lives, experiences and representations of heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and queer (LGBTQ) persons. We will reveal the "common sense" world of gender that surrounds us by exposing the workings of institutions such as family, the classroom, the workplace, and the media. Throughout the course we will emphasize the ways in which people experience gender opportunities and constraints differently according to their race, gender, class and sexuality. [DP, SS]

AWSS 262/SOC 262 (31130/30470) (3 crs)

Sociology of Gender

Suzanne Pennington

TTH 11:45-1:05

LC 22

This course examines how gender is socially constructed in contemporary U.S. society. We will examine how gender orders our everyday lives: our sense of self, our friendships, romances, conversations, clothing, body image, entertainment, work, sexuality, and parenthood. We will learn how conceptions about gender create and enforce a system of gender difference and inequality. We will examine the lives, experiences and representations of heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and queer (LGBTQ) persons. We will reveal the "common sense" world of gender that surrounds us by exposing the workings of institutions such as family, the classroom, the workplace, and the media. Throughout the course we will emphasize the ways in which people experience gender opportunities and constraints differently according to their race, gender, class and sexuality. [DP, SS]

AWSS 262/SOC 262 (32231/32235) (3 crs)

Sociology of Gender

Cassandra Carter

M 5:45-8:35

LC 2

This course examines how gender is socially constructed in contemporary U.S. society. We will examine how gender orders our everyday lives: our sense of self, our friendships, romances, conversations, clothing, body image, entertainment, work, sexuality, and parenthood. We will learn how conceptions about gender create and enforce a system of gender difference and inequality. We will examine the lives, experiences and representations of heterosexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and queer (LGBTQ) persons. We will reveal the "common sense" world of gender that surrounds us by exposing the workings of institutions such as family, the classroom, the workplace, and the media. Throughout the course we will emphasize the ways in which people experience gender opportunities and constraints differently according to their race, gender, class and sexuality. [DP, SS]

AWSS 281 (32470) (3 crs)

Women and the Media

MW 2:45-4:05

SS 134

This course will explore how intersections of race, gender, class, nationality, sexuality, age, and (dis)ability shape representations of women in mass media and popular culture. We will also learn to research and analyze various media sources, as well as engage in creative projects to examine such representations and challenge issues of sexual objectification and societal dominance. Recommended (as opposed to required) courses prior to or during enrollment: AWSS 101, AWSS 220, or AWSS/AAAS/ALCS 240.

AWSS 310 (21306) (4 crs)

Introduction to Feminist Pedagogy

Maia Boswell-Penc

M 2:45-5:35

HU 123

In-depth study of issues central to contemporary feminism, with special emphasis on group process, self-motivated learning and social change through education. For students who wish to prepare to co-facilitate AWSS 101 or 101Z as members of the Women's Studies Teaching Internship. Prerequisite(s): AWSS 101 or 101Z, and either AWSS 220 or AWSS 240, and AWSS 360 (which may be taken concurrently with AWSS 310), and permission of Chair of the Women's Studies Department. Course available only to students who are members of the Women's Studies Teaching Collective. S/U graded.

AWSS 311Z/ACLC 310Z (30824/18100) (3 crs)

Women in Antiquity

Sylvia Barnard

MWF 10:25-11:20

HU 123

Survey of the literary, historical, and archaeological evidence concerning the lives and roles of women in Egyptian, Greek, and Roman society. Meets cultural and historical perspectives and writing intensive general education requirements. [WI, CH]

AWSS 333/RPOS 333 (32439/32421) (3 crs)

Women and the Law

Natalie Kapur

MWF 9:20-10:15

ES 242

This course surveys the relationship between women and the law, looking at the way that women have been defined as legal subjects over time and through intersections of gender, sexual orientation, race, and class. The course focuses on the United States, but may also include discussion of women's status in international law and cross-national comparisons of legal policies. Only one of AWSS 333 & R Pos 333 may be taken for credit. Prerequisite(s): R Pos 101 and junior or senior class standing, or permission of instructor.

AWSS 342X (31880) (3 crs)

Electronic Publishing in Women's Studies

Vivien Ng and Janell Hobson

TTH 11:45-1:05

SL-G12

In our daily lives, we process thousands of messages: ads, TV, radio, movies, and websites; in other words, we live in an information-rich, digital media-driven society. In this course, we will edit and publish an e-journal. Additionally, we will study the impact of information technology on our daily lives. In the first part of the course, we study the impact of digital media on how we read, write, and access information. In part two, we edit and publish the fifth (Spring 2008) issue of *transcending silence...* (www.albany.edu/ws/journal).

AWSS 360 (21308) (3 crs)

Feminist Social and Political Thought

Barbara Sutton

TTH 10:15-11:35

AS 14

What do contemporary social and political matters look like when seen through the lenses of feminist theories? How have different women theorized significant political issues? What tensions, conflicts, and contradictions emerge from this theorizing vis-à-vis the mainstream political establishment and among different groups of women? In this course, we will join feminist scholars and activists as they engage with institutions such as the media, the state, and a globalized capitalist economy; redefine relationships in families and communities; challenge multi-sited violence; denounce environmental degradation, and organize political movements for social change. We will pay attention not only to topics that have been traditionally construed as "women's issues" (e.g., reproduction, family), but also to those commonly seen as men's domain (e.g., militarization, tax policies). Through interdisciplinary readings and a variety of activities, this course explores what women, particularly those in marginalized positions, have to say about these issues and how they craft visions for a more inclusive feminism and political praxis. In doing so, we will advance feminist perspectives that grapple with inequalities related to class, gender, race-ethnicity, sexuality, bodily ability, and nation and that contribute to global justice efforts.

AWSS 368/ENG 368 (32435/18574) (3 crs)**Women Writers****Staff****MWF 10:25-11:20****PH 123**

This course will examine the difficult, peculiar and brilliant poetry of five American women poets of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, paying particular attention to the relationship between poetics and social constructions of gender and sexuality. Poets under consideration will include Emily Dickinson, Gertrude Stein, Mina Loy, H.D. and Djuna Barnes, and students will read selected works from each poet and several critical and theoretical works. Course assignments will include a substantive critical essay as well as other, more peculiar writing assignments.

AWSS 397 (1-4 crs)**Independent Study****Staff**

! Permission of Department Chair is required.

! See Department secretary for section key number and permission process.

A student may initiate an individually designed course of study on a topic relevant to women's studies. May be a reading course, small discussion group, community service, or other academic work. Prearrangement with a Women's Studies faculty member starts with the student's list of proposed readings and assignments. A-E grading. Faculty available for independent study are: Christine Bose, Maia Boswell-Penc, Virginia Eubanks, Janell Hobson, Vivien Ng, Marjorie Pryse, and Barbara Sutton.

AWSS 399/AENG 343 (31704/26604) (1-3 crs)**Toni Morrison & August Wilson****Lisa Thompson****TTH 1:15-2:35****HU 124**

The Nobel Laureate Toni Morrison and Tony award-winning playwright August Wilson are two of the most honored and prolific African American writers of the 20th century. Both Morrison's novels and Wilson's plays chronicle the black experience in the United States from the antebellum period to the Post-Civil Rights era. During the semester we will chart the artistic development of these two writers and compare their use of themes such as migration, identity, violence, redemption, memory, and family. We will assess African American cultural influences such as folktales, blues and jazz in their writing. By reading their essays, interviews and speeches we will also measure the reach and authority of Morrison and Wilson as public intellectuals.

AWSS 399/ATHR 248 (3 crs)**Political Text in Performance****Jackie Roberts****MW 10:25-11:45****PAC 53**

We will focus on the analysis of performance texts as they are interpreted in contemporary production. Students engage in close readings of play texts and then examine the political ramifications by acting in works of playwrights who deal with issues like myth, identity, gender and ownership. There is also an emphasis on mastering physical relaxation as an important facet of the Discipline of Acting. This course does not require previous theatre experience.

AWSS 399/ATHR 319 (3 crs)
Performing Women and Political Text in Performance
Eszter Szalczer
TTH 11:45-1:05
PAC 355

AWSS 412 (31874) (3 crs)
Race, Gender, and Cultural Politics in the Asian Diaspora
Vivien Ng
TH 5:45-8:35
ES 242

With an emphasis on historical perspectives, this course covers the transnational context of Asian diaspora. The course will also include analysis of the social constructions of gender, sexuality, and race. Contemporary experience and issues will also be covered, especially in relation to issues of identity and identity politics, the media, and the politics of representation. Special focus will be placed on films made for, by, and about Asians in America.

AWSS 416Y/AENG 416Y (32434/30718) (3 crs)
On or About 1969: Stonewall, Second Wave Feminism and Radical Literature
Eric Keenaghan
TTH 4:15-5:35
BA 212

Usually 1968 is singled out as the epicenter of Leftist political and cultural radicalism in the United States. However, this class will push back that date to the year of the New York City Stonewall riots, which started the gay liberation movement. We will examine how gay, lesbian, and transgender activists and artists were both influenced and discouraged by the predominant modes of Leftism during the 1960s and early 1970s. How did Stonewall-era literature, cultural, and political writing draw on, and diverge from, the New Left's imaginings of democracy and the political subject? How did eroticism, sexual awakening, gender difference, and community building interface with anti-racist, anti-imperialist, and anti-war ideals to create a new kind of "total revolution"? To answer these questions, we will devote the last two-thirds of the semester to a study of Stonewall and resulting queer cultural production (manifestos, autobiography, poetry, film, fiction, visual arts, erotica). To better contextualize ourselves, however, we will preface that examination with a month-long investigation of key texts from or responding to the homophile movement (the assimilationist gay and lesbian movement in the 1950s and early 1960s), second wave feminism, the civil rights movement, black nationalism, the free speech and student movements, the anti-war/anti-imperialism movement. *Note that we will be reading and analyzing many primary historical documents (ranging from manifestoes to government documents) and secondary political histories, in addition to "literature" (film, autobiography and memoir, novels, poetry).* Possible authors and texts: Frank Kameny; Del Martin; *The Port Huron Statement*; Betty Friedan; Stokely Carmichael; Malcolm X; Martin Luther King, Jr.; Eldridge Cleaver; Bayard Rustin; Carl Davidson; Mario Savio; Bettina Aptheker; Jerry Rubin; Abbie Hoffman; Angela Davis; Huey Newton; Norman Mailer; Hannah Arendt; Paul Goodman; Herbert Marcuse; R. Buckminster Fuller; Murray Bookchin; Noam Chomsky; Committee on Internal Security (U.S. House of Representatives); Rita Mae Brown; Ann Bannon; James Baldwin; Robert Duncan; Valerie Solanas; Andy Warhol/Paul Morrison; John Waters; Samuel R. Delany; Christopher Isherwood; Allen Ginsberg; Karla Jay and Allen Young; Marilyn Frye; Charlotte Bunch; Kenneth Anger; Charley Shively; Martha Shelly; Carl Wittman; Harvey Milk; Touko Laaksonen (Tom of Finland); Leslie Feinberg; Adrienne Rich; Tennessee Williams; Audre Lorde; Edmund White; Martin Duberman.

Requirements: Regular participation in seminar-style discussions; ERes discussion board posts (1 per week, 250 words); group presentation (5-10 minutes each, plus 1-page handout); critical essay (mid-term, 5-6 pages); researched final project (10-15 pages, developed in stages including an individual 5-10 minute presentation on your in-progress research).

AWSS 461/AARH 461 (32409) (3 crs)

Women in Cinema

Audrey Kuperfberg

W 5:45-8:35

FA 126

A multi-dimensional examination of women in cinema—as they are seen in films, as they make films, as they see films. Addresses the contributions of women through the first one hundred years of cinema and analyzes various genres. Women studied include: Dorothy Arzner, Marilyn Monroe, Bette Davis, Joan Crawford, Anita Loos, Frances Marion, Ida Lupino, Verna Fields, Barbra Streisand, Lillian Gish, Lenore Coffee, and others. Prerequisite(s): A Arh 260.

AWSS 475/AARH 475 (31876) (3 crs)

Women in Art

Sarah Cohen

MW 2:45-4:05

FA 114

This course examines representations of women in European and North American art from the Renaissance through the present day. We pay special attention to works made by women, considering how women artists negotiated their position as both subjects and objects of artistic depiction.

Undergraduate students will take quizzes and exams. Graduate students in Women's Studies will write research papers. Graduate students in Fine Arts will have the option of writing research papers or creating artwork that engages issues addressed in the class.

AWSS 490Z (21330)

Research Seminar in Women's Studies

Vivien Ng

T 5:45-8:30

SL-G02

Seminar in the theory and practice of women's studies research to examine what distinguishes women's studies from other disciplines; the relationship between feminist research and community/political activism; how feminist research is changing the traditional disciplines and the methods used in research. Prerequisite(s): senior standing or permission of instructor.

AWSS 495 (26288) (3 crs)

Honors Project

Barbara Sutton

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Independent research project required for successful completion of Women's Studies Honors. In order to register for the course, students must present a written prospectus of their project to the

Director of the Women's Studies Honors Program. Students complete their Honors Project under the supervision of the Director of the Honors Program and an Honors Project Advisor. Honors students may present their projects to Women's Studies faculty and students upon completion of their work.