

Women's and Gender Studies

Spring 2016 Graduate Courses

118 Himes Hall • 578-4807 • wgs@lsu.edu • lsu.edu/wgs

To get a **WGS Graduate Minor**, you need to take WGS 7150, 7900 and 6 hours of approved 4000/7000 level courses.

WGS COURSE OFFERINGS

WGS 4028.1

Gender & American Politics

This course investigates and discusses the ways in which women shape and are shaped by the political process and policy. We will examine racial and gender dynamics in several areas of the American Political system including but not limited to elections, policy making, social movements and activism, and public opinion.

B. Gabriela Vitela

MWF 1:30pm – 2:20pm

WGS 4500.1

The Literature of Sexology

Necrophilia. Nymphomania. Zooerasty. Homosexuality. These are just a few of the terms created by the discourse of sexology which produced many of our modes of thinking about sexuality. This course will explore this fascinating archive through medical texts written by sexologists and the works of literary fiction which imaginatively explore sexology's contours. Modernist studies and sexuality studies have all but ignored sexology, in part, because of the prominence of psychoanalysis (sexology's descendent and cousin). We will recover this important discourse. Examining the revolving door between literature and sexology, we will explore how "thinking sexologically" might revise the ways in which we understand both modernism and the history of sexuality.

Benjamin Kahan

T/Th 12:00pm – 1:30pm

WGS 4500.2

Feminist Science Studies

In this seminar we will explore the intersection of feminist theory and science and technology studies (STS). Science and technology studies (STS) conceive science as a *social* process, and scientific knowledge in terms of cultural and institutional practices. STS does not just focus on *what* science knows, but *how* scientific research works and *how* science both reinforces and transforms social relations (and cultural hierarchies). From a critical perspective, STS asks which epistemic ideals are apt once we conceive scientific practice as essentially social and how we ought to reconceive scientific practice to increase its social benefit. This sort of examination of science is critical for contemporary feminist theory because scientific expertise has immense political authority and cultural prestige. In this course we will emphasize the issue of *scientific categories*. How do we arrive at the categories of scientific analysis? Are they "natural" or "constructed"? How and when do seemingly essential categories (e.g. sex/race) get (re)drawn? While there are no pre-requisites for this course, familiarity with feminist theory and/or philosophy of science/epistemology will be beneficial.

Debbie Goldgaber

T/Th 1:30pm – 3:00pm

WGS 4500.3

Radical Women in the US

Laurel Thatcher Ulrich famously wrote, "Well-behaved women seldom make history." The focus of this course, then, are those women who did make history. Radical women, such as Emma Goldman, Lucy Parsons, Susan Stern, Angela Davis, Bernardine Dohrn, Audre Lorde, Yuri Kochiyama, and many others, had their own vision of feminist justice, and they worked to enact their visions (with varying levels of effectiveness). Some of these women were anarchists, some were Marxists, some were radical, but they were all feminists and they were all active to bring about real change! This course is designed to engage you in a feminist and historical discussion where gender, sexuality, class, and race intersect (part of the course will explore the women who argued for this intersectionality from the beginning). In the end, you will better understand how various women aimed to refashion a more empowered notion of womanhood, one that was responsive to all kinds of oppressions—and they often did it by breaking men's rules and doing their best to smash the patriarchy!

Mona Rocha

MWF 2:30pm – 3:30pm

WGS 7900

Independent Reading and Research

PERMISSION OF DEPARTMENT REQUIRED

SUGGESTED ELECTIVES

ANTH 4050.1

Black Music in America

Cultural and historical survey of musical genres created and developed by black Americans.

Joyce Jackson

M 4:00pm – 6:50pm

ANTH 4909.2

Special Topics: Doing Oral History

The class will include a strong gender component as it involves feminist methodologies and discussion of theory, method and ethics of doing oral history to document the voices and experiences of under-represented groups including women, racial and cultural minorities, and members of oppressed or marginalized communities. For more information, please contact Helen Regis hregis1@lsu.edu.

Helen Regis

T/Th 3:00pm – 4:20pm

ANTH/ENGL 4475.1

American Folklore

Folklore of the U.S., including regional, racial, ethnic and occupational groups; relation of folklore to other aspects of American vernacular culture and to American literature.

Carolyn Ware

T/Th 1:30pm – 2:50pm

CMST 7966.1

Feminist & Queer Criticism

The purpose of this course is two-fold. First, we will survey the modern variants of feminist and queer political theories. We will critically interrogate the commitments of the different "strands" of feminist theory and understand how the critically queer perspective emerged from a crisis in feminisms. Second, we undertake the task of the theoretical survey in order to enable you to read rhetorical texts from a feminist or critically queer orientation. We will emphasize how one might use feminist and/or queer political theories as the basis for productive and rigorous rhetorical criticism, discuss how to recognize implicit rhetorical theories in feminist and queer discourses, and finally to determine which feminist and/or queer approaches are appropriate to various kinds of texts. The course assumes a basic sympathy but welcomes critical engagement with the feminist goals of gender equity, self-determination of women, and sex/gender freedom. We will also critically engage how these aims are complicated and challenged in the contexts of racism, nationalism, and class-based exploitation.

Ashley Mack

Th 3:00pm – 5:50pm

EDCI 4800.1

Teaching in the Multicultural Classroom

Strategies and resources for teaching students of cultural diversity in the classroom; development of units and activities of cultural variety.

TBA

T/Th 9:00am – 10:20am

ELRC 5300.1

Girls' and Women's Wellness

This course will focus on issues related to girls' women's development, mental health, and wellness. We will also explore problems disproportionately affecting girls and women, including: depression, eating disorders, relational aggression, relationship violence, sexual assault, work/family balance, and midlife issues. Further, we will discuss counseling approaches designed to reflect women's experiences and perspectives.

Laura Choate

100% Web-based

ENGL 4493.1

Women and Folklore

This course explores how authors, poets, artists, filmmakers, tradition bearers, and folklorists use creative expression to represent gender, sexuality, and culture. We will come across differences of ethnicity, class, region, age, language, race, society, and nation in how authors, artists, and performers negotiate the concepts of gender and sexuality in their work. Folklore, as narrative, material culture, and social practices, will also illuminate how gendered spaces, languages, and experiences provide a unique way of expressing the everyday. Lastly, the range in nationality and ethnicity of the communities explored in the course allows us to question the parameters of the notion of gender in terms of its difference and stability worldwide. Some subjects explored include body image, fairy tales, Chicana traditions, Chinese immigrant women's lives and folklore, Cuban-American literature and religion, post-colonial African women's experiences, the role of traditional narrative in creating gender roles in society, as well as other topics.

Solimar Otero

T/Th 9:00am – 10:20am

ENGL 4674.1

Studies in African-American Literature

Authors such as Douglass, Hurston, Wright, Morrison; topics such as "Slave Narratives," "The Harlem Renaissance," "The

Black Arts Movement," "The Black Diaspora," "African Survivals."

I. Lavender

T/Th 9:00am – 10:20am

ENGL 7423.1

Topics in Folklore: Global Queer Cultures

This graduate course will explore transnational manifestations of queer culture in literature, film, folklore, and performance. One of the goals of the course is to trouble monolithic notions of queerness in an international context. Our cross-cultural exploration will necessarily challenge us to re-think notions of the self and community in regards to performing gender and sexuality. Social, historical, and environmental specificities also help us to resist universalizing queer geo-political realities and movements. We will look at writers, artists, activists, filmmakers, theorists and performers like: Reinaldo Arenas, Carmelita Tropicana, David Kato, Yukio Mashima, Deepa Mehta, Thomas Glave, Sherman Alexie, James Baldwin, Gloria Anzaldúa, Judith Butler, Beatriz Preciado, Eve Sedgwick, Joseph Massad, Jack Halberstam, José Estaban Muñoz, among others. Works explored will emphasize both

the challenge and opportunity of globally situating queer practices and theories.

Solimar Otero

T 3:00pm – 6:00pm

ENGL 7541

Rhetoric in the Flesh

Rhetoric in the Flesh will explore the body in both images and texts with the major emphasis on visual rhetoric and material culture. To explore some of the visual rhetoric bodily artifacts, we will visit an unusual and little known national museum in a small Louisiana town. Bodies are represented in a multitude of ways, including in sexualized, gendered, artistically rendered, medicalized and diseased forms, all of which we will consider.

Barbara Heifferon

W 3:30pm – 6:20pm

SOCL 4091.1

Special Topics: Environmental Sociology

Environmental sociology is the study of the interactions between society and the environment. We cover topics related to causes and consequences of environmental problems through a sociological lens. This includes discussions of how stratification by gender, race, income, nationality, ability, etc. affect: climate change perceptions, environmental movement participation, disaster impacts, water and air pollution, consumption, public health, and many more. The course is structured to discuss 1) problems and solutions and how they affect populations differently, 2) disaster as an environmental issue and differential impacts, and 3) environmental justice related to race, gender, and income. After this class, you will have a better understanding of the social construction, physical basis, debate, and critique of environmental problems and solutions. You will understand how our social structures are at the heart of environmental problems and solutions to better understand inequities in access to healthy places to live, work, and play.

Michelle Meyer

T/Th 9:00am – 10:20am

SOCL 4091.2

Special Topics: The Cultural Construction of Whiteness

This course is an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of critical whiteness studies. We will explore the history of whiteness as a social category that carries material benefits in everyday life in the United States: learn to assess how whiteness is maintained and experienced as a norm rather

than a racial category; and examine how whiteness intersects with other aspects of social status like gender, class, and sexuality. In addition, we will read scholarship on strategies for challenging white privilege and the role it plays in maintaining social inequality.

Sarah Becker

T/Th 10:30am – 11:50am

SW 7406.1

Social Work with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People

The purpose of this course is to enhance students' professional competence with lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people. Content explores social work practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels and across social, political, and economic realms.

Elaine Maccio

100% Web-based