

# Women's and Gender Studies

## Spring 2016 Undergraduate Courses

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

To earn the **WGS Concentration**, you have to take WGS 2500, 2900, 3150, and 2 sections of 4500. To be a **WGS Minor**, you have to take WGS 2500 and 4500.

### WGS COURSE OFFERINGS

#### WGS 2500

##### Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies

This course is an interdisciplinary introduction to how ideas about gender and sexuality affect our lives as women and men, family-members and co-workers, students and citizens. Questions of identity, ethics, economics, education, and social change are explored in a gendered frame. This course meets general education course requirements for Humanities.

Section 1 (Communication Intensive):

Liam Lair T/Th 7:30am – 8:50am

Section 2 (Communication Intensive):

Liam Lair T/Th 9:00am – 10:20am

Section 3:

Mona Rocha MWF 10:30am – 11:20am

Section 4:

Mona Rocha MWF 11:30am – 12:20pm

Section 5:

Mona Rocha MWF 1:30pm – 2:20pm

Section 6:

Catherine Jacquet T/Th 3:00pm – 4:20pm

Section 7:

Amandine Fauchoux MWF 8:30am – 9:20am

Section 8:

TBA T/Th 12:00pm – 1:20pm

Section 9:

Sarah Becker 100% Web-based

#### WGS 2501.1

##### Intro to Women's & Gender Studies (Honors)

This course focuses on gender as a fundamental principle organizing contemporary society. In the course we will use an intersectional, feminist framework to: interrogate how gender shapes and is shaped by various social contexts and social institutions; explore power, privilege, and the social construction of gender; examine how gender interacts with other systems of stratification such as race/ethnicity, class, and sexuality; analyze how expectations and definitions of gender function to advance, limit, and define people's lives. Throughout the semester, students will read and engage with contemporary feminist social commentary and critique. This course meets general education course requirements for Humanities and credit will not be given for this course and WGS 2500.

Catherine Jacquet T/Th 12:00pm – 1:20pm

#### WGS 3150.1

##### Survey of Feminist Theory

This is an introductory course in feminist theory. The aim of this course is to provide students with a broad introduction to a wide array of feminist thinkers and feminist theories. We will explore a variety of topics including feminist theories related to bodies, reproduction, sexuality, feminist perspectives on science, intersectionality, global feminisms, and numerous other topics. In addition to simply learning about different theories, the goal is for students to begin to think, write and speak about these theories in a critical manner. Lastly, this course asks to students to consider the connections and disconnections between these theories and their own experiences as gendered beings.

Challen Nicklen

MWF 12:30pm – 1:20pm

#### 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 – 1:20pm

#### 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 – 2:50pm

### **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 – 3:20pm

### **WGS 4900**

#### **Readings in Women’s and Gender Studies**

*PERMISSION OF DEPARTMENT REQUIRED*

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## ***ELECTIVES***

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### **Social Sciences & Humanities**

#### **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](mailto:hregis1@lsu.edu).

Helen Regis

T/Th 3:00pm – 4:20pm

#### **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 2593.1**

##### **Images of Women**

Critical analysis of women’s representations, addressing a range of traditional and/or popular genres, historical periods and/or critical approaches; emphasis on developing textual and interpretive skills.

Stacey Amo

T/Th 12:00pm – 1:20pm

#### **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

#### **HIST 2014.1**

##### **Goddesses to Witches: Women in Premodern Europe**

This course traces women’s social, religious and political roles in societies of the West during the Classical Era, Middle Ages, and the age of Reformation and Exploration. Lectures explore the context of women’s lives and the nature of the evidence through which we attempt to reconstruct women’s experiences. Students have the opportunity to read and discuss primary historical sources on a weekly basis, and thereby to improve their understanding of historical methods as well as women’s history.

Leslie Tuttle

T/Th 9:00am – 10:20pm

#### **REL 3300.1**

##### **Women and Religion**

It has often been observed that women tend to be more religious than men. They observe religious holidays in greater numbers; they prepare festival foods; they instruct their children in religious values; they volunteer for church duties; and they are the more faithful attendees of church services and rituals. In many ways they are the backbone of organized religion. And yet, the textual traditions of all of the major world religions (written by men) consistently have negative things to say about women—that they are weak, foolish, inherently sinful, and the downfall of religious men. How can we make sense of these contradictory facts? In this class, we aim to do just that, demonstrating the many ways in which religion has been both a vehicle for women’s creativity and self expression and also a major source of suppression and misogyny. Sometimes it is both at the same time!

Maria Rethelyi

T/Th 9:00am – 10:20am

#### **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

**Cross-Cultural**

**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/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

**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

**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

**SPAN 3074.1**  
**Advanced Readings on Hispanic-American Civilization**

Ethnological, geographical, historical, political, economic and sociological factors necessary for understanding Hispanic-American countries.

A. Cortazar

MWF 12:30pm – 1:20pm

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***RELATED INTEREST***

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**ANTH 3997.1**  
**Special Topics: Anthropology and the Media**

This course prepares you to apply anthropological knowledge to interpreting the media, with a focus on news media and contemporary issues. How do you find reliable information on a topic of public interest? How do you differentiate between stereotypes and good ideas? How does scientific knowledge come to be authoritative and socially accepted, and why should we trust experts? The course will present a variety of theoretical tools to understand and analyze a range of media sources, including mainstream news outlets, alternative/independent media, foreign media, academic sources, social media, and pop culture.

Micha Rahder

T/Th 1:30pm – 2:50pm

**CMST 4162.1**  
**Crime, Communication & Culture**

Explores rhetorical dimensions of crime and incarceration in the United States; special attention to historical and contemporary expressions of race, class, gender, sexuality, national identity, etc. in and around criminal justice system.

Bryan McCann

T/Th 10:30am – 11:50am