

Gender and Women's Studies

MAJOR, MINOR

PROFESSOR: LeeRay Costa (director, anthropology and gender and women's studies)

AFFILIATED FACULTY: Courtney Chenette (political science), Kelly Derrick (adjunct, religious studies), Amy Gerber-Stroh (film), Michael Gettings (philosophy), Genevieve Hendricks (art history), Lori Joseph (communication studies), Pauline Kaldas (English), Andrew Matzner (adjunct, gender and women's studies), Rachel Nelson (adjunct, theatre), Kathleen Nolan (art), Rachel Nuñez (history), Julie Pfeiffer (English), Rebecca Rosen (English), Darla Schumm (John P. Wheeler Professor of Religious Studies), Jennifer Turner (Sociology)

VISITING LECTURER: Maggie Nanney

Gender and women's studies is an interdisciplinary program that examines how systems of oppression/resistance and privilege operate. It is designed to provide students with an understanding of the importance of gender as a category of analysis, as it intersects with race/ethnicity, class, age, sexual identity, citizenship, and (dis)ability. People's lives today are increasingly shaped by global transformations in work, technology, politics, and popular culture resulting in profound changes in gender roles and expectations. Gender and women's studies explores these issues in both national and global contexts.

The gender and women's studies faculty is dedicated to creating an environment that fosters critical thinking, supports student activism, and emphasizes faculty/student and peer mentoring. Students are encouraged to question conventional wisdom and to participate actively in their education.

Gender and women's studies helps prepare students for a variety of careers. Students interested in law, education, politics, business, and the arts will be well prepared by the gender and women's studies major. Understanding the importance of gender in society helps students to have successful careers and lives and to promote social justice and gender equity.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A MAJOR IN GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES:

8 courses (32 credits) and one 4-credit internship

Working closely with an advisor from the gender and women's studies program, each major will complete four core courses in gender and women's studies, supplemented by four additional courses from the list of gender and women's studies courses. At least two of the eight courses must be at the 300 level. Each major will complete at least one internship in gender and women's studies, and this internship may be completed during the Short Term.

CORE COURSES IN GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES (16):

- GWS 141: Introduction to Gender and Women's Studies (4)
- Two theory courses from the following:
 - GWS 209: Feminist Philosophies (4)
 - GWS 219: Food, Culture, and Social Justice (4)
 - GWS 242: Anthropology of Gender and Sexuality (4)
 - GWS 250: Whiteness (4)
 - GWS 250: Black Feminist Thought (4)
 - GWS 250: LGBTQ+ Literature (4)
 - GWS 250: Transing Transgender Studies (4)
 - GWS 310: The Body and Sexuality in European History (4)
 - GWS 318: Sexual Ethics (4)
 - GWS 347: Girlhood Studies (4)
 - GWS 362: Spiritual Activism (4)
 - GWS 372: Images of Women in Film (4)
 (additional courses may be approved by the GWS Director)
- GWS 470: Seminar in Gender and Women's Studies (4)

Four ADDITIONAL COURSES (16):

- Four additional courses from the list of gender and women's studies courses

GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES COURSES

- GWS 117: Childbirth and Women's Writing (4)
- GWS 174: International Women's Voices (4)
- GWS 197F: bell hooks: rage, love and creating beloved community (4)
- GWS 197F: Supreme! America's Highest Court (4)
- GWS 197F: Women/Bodies/Voices (4)

- GWS 203: Gender and The Law (4)
- GWS 209: Feminist Philosophies (4)
- GWS 211: Multicultural Women Writers (4)
- GWS 215: Constructing Gender (4)
- GWS 216: Women in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam (4)
- GWS 219: Food, Culture, and Social Justice (4)
- GWS 222: Women in Ancient and Medieval Europe (4)
- GWS 223: Women in Buddhism (4)
- GWS 225: Gender and Women's History in Early Modern Europe (4)
- GWS 226: Gender and Women's History in Modern Europe (4)
- GWS 242: Anthropology of Gender and Sexuality (4)
- GWS 250: LGBTQ+ Literature (4)
- GWS 250: Transing Transgender Studies (4)
- GWS 250: Naturing Community/Nurturing Connection (4)
- GWS 250: Families in a Social Context (4)
- GWS 250: Voting Rights and Election Law (4)
- GWS 250: Women Watching Work (4)
- GWS 252: Gender and Globalization (4)
- GWS 260: Race, Class, Gender (4)
- GWS 290: Independent Study (2, 4)
- GWS 310: The Body and Sexuality in European History (4)
- GWS 314: Women and Art (4)
- GWS 317: Dress, Gender, and Social Identity (4)
- GWS 318: Sexual Ethics (4)
- GWS 324: Feminism and Contemporary Art (4)
- GWS 328: 19th Century Women Writers (4)
- GWS 334: Sex and Race in the Age of Empire (4)
- GWS 338: Survey of Feminist Thought (4)
- GWS 345: Arab Women Writers (4)
- GWS 347: Girlhood Studies (4)
- GWS 354: Marriage, Childbirth, and Death in the Italian Renaissance (4)
- GWS 362: Spiritual Activism (4)
- GWS 372: Images of Women in Film (4)
- GWS 390: Independent Study (2, 4)
- GWS 399: Internship (4)
- GWS 470: Seminar in Gender and Women's Studies (4)
- GWS 480, 490: Senior Thesis (4-8) or (4/4, 4)

INTERNSHIP

An experiential component will also be required of each major. This consists of an internship or service project (4 credits or one Short Term) carried out while a student in the program. The experiential component is an integral part of the program. Students will work under the sponsorship of a faculty member of the gender and women's studies program to design an experience that will augment their course work and provide valuable experience that may lead to further career or educational opportunities. Short Term interns may also be expected to participate in a biweekly discussion group with other gender and women's studies interns. At the end of the placement, the student will submit a paper analyzing their field experience.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A MINOR IN GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES:

5 courses (20 credits) and a 4-credit internship

Core Courses in Gender and Women's Studies (12)

- GWS 141: Introduction to Gender and Women's Studies (4)
- One GWS Theory designated course (4)
- GWS 470: Seminar in Gender and Women's Studies (4)

Two additional courses from the list of gender and women's studies courses (8)

An internship in gender and women's studies (4)

In designing their programs, minors work closely with an advisor in gender and women's studies to select elective courses (8 credits) from the list in the catalog, which allow them to develop critical perspective in one area of interest without losing the interdisciplinary focus of the program.

COURSES IN GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES:

GWS 117: CHILDBIRTH AND WOMEN'S WRITING (4)

Pfeiffer

Also listed and described as ENG 117. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2020-21. (f, w, x)

GWS 141: INTRODUCTION TO GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES (4)

Nanney

This course includes topics such as origins of patriarchy, history of women's rights movements, theories of women's oppression, the social construction of gender, literary representations of women, women and industrialization, family and sexuality, feminist approaches to science, and the female experience as a force for social change. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Offered Term 2. (DIV)

GWS 174: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S VOICES (4)

Kaldas

Also listed and described as ENG 174. Not offered in 2020-21. (f, w, x, AES, GLO)

GWS 197F: FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR - BELL HOOKS: RAGE, LOVE, AND CREATING BELOVED COMMUNITY (4)

Costa

This course explores the life and work of feminist author, cultural critic, public intellectual, and social justice activist bell hooks. From *Ain't I a Woman: Black women and feminism*, written when hooks was 19, to *Writing Beyond Race: living theory and practice*, hooks has published nearly 40 books that speak to the pressing issues of our times: race, white supremacy, sexism, intersectionality, homophobia, capitalism, and spirituality in movements for social justice. Students will participate in an inclusive, feminist classroom that challenges each of us to think deeply about and to practice social justice and beloved community in our everyday lives. Open to first-year students only. Offered Term 1. Placement to be determined during the summer. (o, r, DIV)

GWS 197F: FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR - SUPREME! AMERICA'S HIGHEST COURT (4)

Chenette

Notorious RBG to signature Scalia snark, Supreme Court justices interrupted and disrupted, crafted and reflected the country, pushed one another to the brink and even lived together just like college! This seminar explores the fundamental structure, judicial and political philosophies, intersectional identities, and bold personalities that make and continue to shape the top of the judicial branch. Students examine this government institution through founding documents, significant opinions, oral arguments, and films. Also listed as POLS 197F. Open to first-year students only. Offered Term 1. Placement to be determined during the summer. (r)

GWS 197F: FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR - WOMEN/BODIES/VOICES (4)

Pfeiffer

This class works from the premise that "knowledge is power" to the conclusion that self-knowledge leads to personal and community empowerment. Reading from a feminist perspective, we'll think about how literature helps us better understand ourselves and our communities. Course texts include stories, essays, and novels by authors such as Louisa May Alcott, bell hooks, Guadalupe Garcia McCall, Robin McKinley, and Anne Sexton. Also listed as ENG 197F. Open to first-year students only. Placement to be determined during the summer. Offered Term 1. (f, w, x, r, AES)

GWS 203: GENDER AND THE LAW (4)

Chenette

This course examines how women have been treated by wielders of the power of the law. Using constitutional and statutory case law, the course investigates women's reproductive rights, sexuality and family law, equal employment, woman battering, pornography, hate speech, and sexual exploitation. Also listed as POLS 203. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2020-21. (DIV)

GWS 206: THEATRE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE (4)

Nelson

Also listed and described as THEA 206. Open to first-years. No Prerequisite. Not offered in 2020-21. (DIV)

GWS 209: FEMINIST PHILOSOPHIES (4)

Department

Also listed and described as PHIL 208. Open to first-year students with permission. Not offered in 2020-21.

GWS 211: MULTICULTURAL WOMEN WRITERS (4)

Kaldas

Also listed and described as ENG 211. Offered Term 1. (w, x, AES, DIV)

GWS 215: CONSTRUCTING GENDER (4)

Joseph

Also listed and described as COMM 215. Offered Term 2. (r, DIV, MOD)

GWS 216: WOMEN IN JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY, AND ISLAM (4)**Derrick**

Also listed and described as REL 215. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Not offered in 2020-21. (DIV, MOD)

GWS 217: RHETORICAL THEORY - FROM ANCIENT GREECE TO THE RENAISSANCE (4) Department

Also listed and described as COMM 217. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission. Not offered in 2020-21. (o, r, PRE)

GWS 219: FOOD, CULTURE, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (4)**Costa**

Also listed and described as ANTH/ES 219. Not offered in 2020-21. (DIV)

GWS 220: LIFE HISTORIES/SELF-NARRATIVES (4)**Costa**

Also listed and described as ANTH 220. Prerequisite: ANTH 145, GWS 141 or SOC 110. Not offered in 2020-21. (r, DIV)

GWS 222: WOMEN IN ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL EUROPE (4)**Nuñez**

Also listed and described as HIST 222. Not offered in 2020-21. (w, x, PRE)

GWS 223: WOMEN IN BUDDHISM (4)**Schumm**

Also listed and described as REL 223. Not offered in 2020-21. (r, GLO)

GWS 225: WOMEN IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE - WITCHES, QUEENS, AND COURTESANS (4) Nuñez

Open to first-year students. Also listed and described as HIST 225. Not offered in 2020-21. (w, x, PRE)

GWS 226: WOMEN AND GENDER IN MODERN EUROPE (4)**Nuñez**

Open to first-year students. Also listed and described as HIST 226S. Not offered in 2020-21. (w, x, r, MOD)

GWS 242: ANTHROPOLOGY OF GENDER AND SEXUALITY (4)**Costa**

Also listed and described as ANTH 242. Not offered in 2020-21. (DIV)

GWS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: LGTBQ LITERATURE: AN INTRODUCTION (4)**Rosen**

This course is an introduction to Anglophone LGBTQ literature from the late nineteenth century to the present. Our aim is to analyze the generic range and political messages of texts by queer writers during this period. Authors include Gertrude Stein, Patricia Highsmith, James Baldwin, Audre Lorde, Alison Bechdel, Carmen Maria Machado, Natalie Diaz, Ocean Vuong, and Danez Smith. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission. Also listed as ENG 250. Offered Term 1. (AES, DIV)

GWS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: TRANSING TRANSGENDER STUDIES (4)**Nanney**

This discussion-based course maps the terrain trans studies has and continues to face as it is incorporated into the academy as an academic discipline. Rather than surveying the history and demographic trends of transgender people as the object of study, this course challenges us to analyze the conditions upon which certain identities--and not others--fall under the rubric under which we consider trans. In other words, this course employs trans as a method of inquiry, investigating the formations of personhood that must transcend law, medicine, and society that make it possible for certain populations to live. Through these 13 weeks, we will examine the creation of fixed, binary identity categories to deconstruct, and perhaps trans, how they are imagined and materialized through a sociological framework. As such, this course introduces us to new and emergent literature in the field and related social science disciplines. Also listed as SOC 250. Offered Term 1.

GWS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: NATURING COMMUNITY/NURTURING CONNECTION (4) Costa, Godard

In this special topics course we will take a transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary approach to examine the relationships between human beings and the natural world. Recent research suggests that a connection to nature fosters the mental and physical well-being of individuals, the health of communities, and conservation of the earth support systems. Through readings, films, the close study of nature, and contemplative exercises we will explore the ways that we are interconnected with and dependent upon nature, and the ways that our social, environmental, and spiritual practices and beliefs both reinforce and dismantle such relationships. We will consider what it means to be in right relationship with the living world, how we can better cultivate connection to the earth, and how we can become more accountable for climate crisis in order to ensure a healthy planet and future for all beings. Beyond the scheduled classes, we will have a couple field trips during the semester to explore diverse Appalachian ecosystems. Also listed as ES 250. Offered Term 2.

GWS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: FAMILIES IN A SOCIAL CONTEXT (4)**Turner**

This course explores families through a feminist sociological lens, including how the institution of the family is socially constructed, and how the intersection of race, class, and gender shapes the treatment of various family formations in society. Students will learn about and apply sociological theories and concepts of the family to U.S. and global societies. Also listed as SOC 250. Offered Term 2.

GWS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: ELECTION LAW AND VOTING RIGHTS (4)**Chenette**

Where do voting and election regulations come from and how do they shape and reflect relationships of power, division, identity, and inclusion in the United States? This course will look to Supreme Court cases, federal statutes, state laws, and the Constitution to explore the who, when, where, and how of voting in America. Major themes include the political and legal trajectory of access to the vote at the intersection of race, gender, national origin, citizenship, poverty, and other categories of identity; the duality of voter protection and suppression; electoral design and representation in district drawing; revocation and felony disenfranchisement; historic and contemporary challenges to racial and partisan gerrymandering; the administration of elections; and campaign finance and money in electoral politics. Also listed as POLS 250. Offered Term 1.

GWS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: WHITENESS: RACE, POWER, AND PRIVILEGE (4)**Costa**

What does it mean to be white? In this course, we will examine the construction of whiteness as both an identity category that attaches to privilege and as a system of racial power in the context of the United States. We will explore issues such as white supremacy, white fragility, white guilt, and the intersection of whiteness with gender, class, and sexuality. Students will reflect on their own experiences of and with whiteness, and consider the potentialities of ethical whiteness and anti-racism. Not open to first-year students. Also listed as SOC 250. Offered Term 1.

GWS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC: WOMEN WATCHING WORK (4)**Joseph**

This course will explore how popular culture constructs and represents women's work through examination of films, television shows, photography, and other cultural symbols. Issues such as gender, conflict, work-life balance, and leadership will be examined. Students will compare media representations to the "real" world of work through various research methods. A final project will include a campus exhibition of student work depicting their view and understanding of women's work. Also listed as COMM 250. Open to first-year students. Offered Term 2.

GWS 260: RACE, CLASS, GENDER: A REFLEXIVE APPROACH (4)**Turner**

Also listed and described as SOC 260. No prerequisite. Offered in Term 2. (DIV, MOD)

GWS 281: RELIGION AND DISABILITY (4)**Schumm**

Also listed and described as REL 281. Not offered in 2020-21. (w, x, MOD, DIV)

GWS 290: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 or 4)**Department**

Independent study conducted below the advanced level. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. Offered any term.

GWS 310: THE BODY AND SEXUALITY IN EUROPEAN HISTORY (4)**Nuñez**

Also listed and described as HIST 310. Offered Term 2. (w, x, MOD)

GWS 314: WOMEN AND ART (4)**Nolan**

Also listed and described as ART 314. Not offered in 2020-21. (w, x, AES)

GWS 317: DRESS, GENDER, AND SOCIAL IDENTITY (4)**Nolan**

Also listed and described as ART 317. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing or permission. Not offered in 2020-21. (AES, GLO)

GWS 318: SEXUAL ETHICS (4)**Schumm**

Also listed and described as REL 318. Not offered in 2020-21. (o, DIV)

GWS 324: FEMINISM AND CONTEMPORARY ART (4)**Hendricks**

Also listed and described as ART 324. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission. Not offered in 2020-21. (DIV, MOD)

GWS 328: 19TH-CENTURY WOMEN WRITERS (4)**Pfeiffer**

Also listed and described as ENG 328. Prerequisite: sophomore standing; English majors must have completed at least one 100-level or 200-level literature course in English. Not offered in 2020-21. (w, x, AES)

GWS 334: SEX AND RACE IN THE AGE OF EMPIRE (4)**Nuñez**

Also listed and described as HIST 334. Prerequisite: sophomore standing. Not offered in 2020-21. (w, x, GLO, MOD)

GWS 338: SURVEY OF FEMINIST THOUGHT (4)**Costa**

This course provides an intensive study of the various theories which form the conceptual base for feminism (among these are liberal, radical, Marxist, and postmodern—to name a few). It provides a critique of traditional intellectual and research frameworks that have omitted women's perspectives and experiences and looks in detail at the intersections of gender with race, class, sexuality, and culture. Prerequisite: GWS 141 and one other 200-level gender and women's studies course. Not offered in 2020-21. (o, DIV)

GWS 345: ARAB WOMEN WRITERS (4)**Kaldas**

Also listed and described as ENG 345. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission. Not offered in 2020-21. (AES, GLO)

GWS 347: GIRLHOOD STUDIES (4)**Costa**

This course will explore the interdisciplinary field of girlhood studies. We will consider the cultural representations and productions of girls and girl cultures, both academic and popular. Themes of investigation may include: gender socialization, racialization, sexuality, self-esteem, identity formation, media, consumption, international development, empowerment, agency & activism. Discussions will be grounded in feminist intersectional approaches that investigate the diversities and commonalities of girls' experiences as well as the larger structures of power that shape girls experiences. Students will have the opportunity to learn about girls' experiences and organizations at the local, national, and global levels. Not offered in 2020-21.

GWS 354: MARRIAGE, CHILDBIRTH AND DEATH IN THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE (4)**Nolan**

Also listed and described as ART 354. Offered Term 2. (AES, PRE)

GWS 362: SPIRITUAL ACTIVISM (4)**Costa**

This course explores the role of spirituality for individuals and collectivities engaged in transformative social justice work. In particular, we focus on the work of contemporary feminist, womanist and women of color scholars and activists such as Gloria Anzaldúa, Audre Lorde, Layli Maparyan, Jaqui Alexander, and AnaLouise Keating. We also explore the writings and practices of contemplatives from a range of spiritual traditions. Students in this special topics seminar will be expected to engage in experiential learning, leading class discussion, sustained personal reflection, cultural analysis and critique, and rethinking epistemology and social change. Also listed as REL 362. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission. Not offered in 2020-21. (DIV)

GWS 372: IMAGES OF WOMEN IN FILM (4)**Gerber-Stroh**

Also listed and described as FILM 372. Prerequisite: prior film course or permission. Not offered in 2020-21. (AES, MOD)

GWS 379: FEMINIST THEORY (4)**Department**

Also listed and described as ENG 379. Not offered in 2020-21.

GWS 390: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 or 4)**Department**

Independent study conducted at the advanced level. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. Offered any term.

GWS 399: INTERNSHIP (4)**Department**

Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. May be proposed any term.

GWS 470: SEMINAR IN GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES (4)**Costa**

"Feminist journeys" is the theme of this capstone course. Students examine feminism as a journey, both historically and politically, and in their own lives as feminists and gender and women's studies majors/minors through the method of autoethnography. The course goal is to integrate the personal and political in innovative and creative ways. Students play a significant role in shaping the class and complete a major final creative project in the medium of their choice. Prerequisites: GWS 141, GWS 338, and senior standing. Offered Term 2.

GWS 480: SENIOR THESIS (4)**Department**

A research paper based upon inquiry into a specific issue within gender and women's studies. Students must consult with GWS advisor in the spring semester of junior year. Research begins during Fall Term and ends Short Term.

GWS 490: SENIOR HONORS THESIS (4, 4)

Department

Offered to qualified gender and women's studies majors. Students must consult with GWS advisor in the spring semester of junior year. Research is completed over Fall, Short, and Spring Terms.