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 4500.2
Gender and Bodies
This course invites you to go beyond typical understandings of the body to look deeper at how bodies are shaped by social norms. We will pay particular attention to the ways in which cultural ideas about the body affect our everyday, lived experiences. We will examine bodies that are pregnant, disabled, fat, tattooed, scarred, sick, diseased, surgically-modified, used for sport, used for personal profit, and used to sell products for others. How are individuals, institutions and social processes simultaneously embodied and gendered? What contemporary and historical body politics shape how different bodies are perceived, valued and controlled? How do these politics vary in different communities, societies and time periods? This course will study the body as the vessel and expression of the self, as the object and subject of shifting race, gender, class and sexual meanings and struggles, and as the product of complex social processes, including culture, science, medicalization, objectification, commodification and globalization. While primarily focusing on the U.S., it also has a strong comparative focus emphasizing transnational linkages and globalization.

Dana Berkowitz T/Th 1:30pm – 2:50pm

WGS 4500.3
Mother-Daughter Relations in Fiction, Film, and Theory
One of the most common portrayals of mother-daughter relations in western culture shows the daughter as her mother's reflection, as another version of the mother's self. Very often, then, when the daughter seeks to distinguish herself from her mother, this causes conflict and confusion for both mother and daughter. The readings and films in this course, chosen from several historical periods and cultural traditions, are designed to examine this relational pattern, explain its persistence, and consider options to it. Readings include novels, letters, and memoirs such as selections from Madame de Sévigné’s letters to her daughter; Amelia Opie's Adeline Mowbray; Amy Tan's The Joy Luck Club; Toni Morrison's Beloved. Films featured are "Now Voyager" and "White Oleander." Theoretical readings include Adrienne Rich's Of Woman Born and various articles by feminist critics on mother-daughter relations. Students will have the opportunity to choose their own novels or memoirs on mothers and daughters for their final paper.

Kate Jensen T 3:00pm – 5:50pm

WGS 7150.1
Seminar in Feminist and Gender Theory
Topics in recent and contemporary theory in a range of disciplines including the humanities, social sciences, natural and physical sciences, design, and education; students are encouraged to develop research projects relevant to their primary disciplines and to their research interests.

Pallavi Rastogi W 4:30pm – 7:20pm

WGS 7500.1
Transatlantic Queer: Literary and Cultural Hispanism
In this course we will study the deconstruction of hegemonic positions in literature, gender, sexualities and cultures, mainly in the Iberian Peninsula and Latin America context, but also with a focus on a Transatlantic approach to the topic. We will discuss the actual problematics of visibility and representations of the so-called “peripheral” or non-normative sexualities in Spain and elsewhere. To that effect, we will be in dialogue with queer theories developed in the Anglophone context, but also converse with the contributions made to the field by theorists from Spain and Latin America, while demonstrating at the same time how queer cultural and social theories may be put into practice within the literary and cultural text. We will also reflect on the role of the cultural representations and theorizations produced within these communities in order to advance both a social activism and the queer representation of themselves. In dialogue with the discourses of the so called postidentitarian feminist activisms, we will explore contemporary poetry, novels, short stories, films written in English and Spanish (in translation).

Elena Castro M 4:30pm – 7:20pm

WGS 7900
Independent Reading and Research

PERMISSION OF DEPARTMENT REQUIRED

SUGGESTED ELECTIVES

ENGL 4493.1
Women and Folklore (Communication Intensive)
This course explores how authors, poets, artists, filmmakers, tradition bearers, and folklorists use creative expression to represent gender, sexuality, and culture. 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 MWF 2:30pm – 3:20pm

HIST 4196.1
Women in Medieval Europe
This course will examine the history of women and gender from the waning years of the Roman Empire through the later Middle Ages. We will study famous women such as queens, mystics, and literary figures, and also explore the lives of ordinary women and their families. The course material will include medieval works by, for, and about women, as well as the work of modern historians. Grades will be based on two exams, a short paper, open-note quizzes and participation in discussions.

Sherri Johnson MWF 2:30pm – 3:20pm
HIST 4197.2  
History of Sexuality in the US  
This course is designed to give students an overview of the major topics in the history of sexuality in the US. We will explore how and why sexuality historically became so central to American identities, cultures, and politics. We will examine how dominant institutions—medicine, media, and the law—have intersected and interacted with this history. We will look at how people have organized around and responded to issues of sexuality. Course readings and discussions will include historical analyses of public concerns such as: abortion, birth control, prostitution, sexual violence, and GLBT sexualities. While the course is national in scope, several units will focus on the history of Louisiana, specifically New Orleans.

Cat Jacquet  
MW 10:00am – 11:20am

SOCL 7591.1  
Gender and Sexuality  
This course is a survey course of the sociology of gender, specifically as it intersects with sexualities studies as they are approached in the discipline of sociology. We will examine the various ways sociologists conceptualize, theorize and observe gender and sexuality. While the course is designed as an overview of gender and sexualities scholarship in sociology, we focus especially on key work in the last twenty-five years. Central to our seminar reading and discussion is a focus on theoretical work that has emerged as central in sociology of gender and to a lesser extent, sexualities. In this seminar we will challenge our sociological understandings of sex categories, sexualities and genders. To this end, we will examine ways in which categories of sex, gender, and sexuality have been created, maintained and contested in society. We will attempt to recognize moments where the boundaries between male and female, masculine and feminine, and homosexual and heterosexual have the potential to become blurred and/or unstable.

Dana Berkowitz  
T 1:30pm – 4:20pm

RELATED INTEREST

CMST 7966.1  
Rhetoric & Ideology  
In the final decades of the twentieth century, rhetorical critics became increasingly concerned with the relationship between rhetoric and ideology. This course explores the different theoretical conceptions of “ideology” and “hegemony” and their deployment as a resource in criticism and theory. We will contrast conceptions of ideology, hegemony, and human discursive agency within classical Marxist, structuralist, psychoanalytic, feminist, and post-structuralist theories. We will also discuss what the notion of ideology, as a mode of rhetorical influence, contributes to cultural theory and criticism.

Ashley Mack  
M 3:30pm – 6:20pm

TAM 7031.1  
Social-Psychological Theories of Dress, Appearance and Fashion  
Examination and analysis of interdisciplinary and theoretical approaches to dress, appearance and fashion as a social and economic force.

C. Stannard  
TBA