

Women's and Gender Studies

Spring 2010 Undergraduate Courses

Required Courses

*To be a WGS *Major*, 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 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.

Section 1 with Sarah Becker	9:00-10:30 T/TH
Section 2 with Dana Berkowitz	10:30-12:00 T/TH
Section 3 with Laura Marks	3:30-4:30 M/W/F
<u>Spring Intersession</u> with Leigh Clemons	9 am – 12 pm, May 20 – June 1

WGS 2900-1

Gender, Race, and Nation

This course explores differing gendered experiences across racial, ethnic, cultural, and class divides. In the course, students will explore the question: What does it mean to think "globally" about the experiences of women? We will explore the similarities and differences among women's experiences across a variety of topics. Some of the topics considered in the course include body image across cultures, women's political participation across nations, women's experiences of war and conflict, women and economics, and women's activism across national and international contexts.

Section 1 with Wendy Braun	1:30-3:00 T/TH
Section 2 with Natasha Bingham	12:30-1:30 M/W/F
Section 3 with Natasha Bingham	2:30-3:30 M/W/F

WGS 4500-2

Global Feminist Activism

Though women's cross border organizing has clarified that not all women share the same experiences or concerns, women continue to find it useful to organize across all kinds of borders, including those of nation, race, class, and sexuality. The focus of this course is on this cross border organizing as it takes place in transnational contexts. This course takes both a historical as well as topical look at this feminist activism. Through a variety of readings, films, and classroom discussion, we will explore the following questions: What issues have women chosen to organize around? How have women made connections among their disparate experiences and interests? How do the inequalities among women shape the ways in which they view their connections and activism? What are the costs and benefits of working to create change at different levels of society i.e. global, regional, national, and local?

Challen Nicklen	9:00-12:00 W
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WGS 4500-1

Girls' and Women's Wellness

This course will focus on contemporary trends and issues related to girls' women's development, mental health, and wellness. We will also explore problems disproportionately affecting girls and women across the lifespan, including: relational aggression, relationship violence, sexual assault, work/family balance, and eating disorders. Further, we will discuss interventions designed to address these problems and to promote girls' and women's optimal mental health.

Laura Choate	9:00-10:30 T/TH
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Elective Courses: Humanities

CPLT 2202-1/ENGL 2202

Introduction to Modern World Literature

This World Literature course uses readings from a wide variety of geographic locations and time periods to examine issues of gender and power at the intersections of race, class, ethnicity, nationalism, religion, colonialism, and globalization. The course is designed to provide a context that enables students to critically analyze and engage ideas and images of the past and present through a gendered lens. The students are to become familiar with the multitude of narrative forms and traditions around the world from the Renaissance to the present.

Julie Berthoud 9-10:30 am T/TH

ENGL 2593-1

Images of Women: Women's Secrets

What secrets do women keep? We'll read about women's wisdom and secrets about love, crime, health, food, managing other people, passing, cross dressing, whistle blowing, and more, including gossip, scandal, and advice literature. Through fiction and non-fiction and popular culture, we'll look at what's funny, sad, and true about women's lives and women's writings.

Emily Toth 6 pm – 9 pm W

ENGL 2593-2

Images of Women in Popular Culture

Critical analysis of representations of women in popular culture, with particular focus on historical and contemporary images of and in the South. Our emphasis will be on developing textual and interpretive skills, and conveying these skills to others through an optional service learning component.

Katie Henninger 3-4:30 pm T/TH

ENGL 3593-1

Survey of Women and Literature: Strong Women in Literature

We'll be studying tough cookies--fighters who've overcome obstacles, righted wrongs, changed the world. We'll read novels, short stories, memoirs and essays about women who are smart, outspoken, eccentric, brave, and imaginative. We'll look at women's humor, mothers and daughters, serious and comical love affairs, education and mentoring, advice, ambition, peculiar careers, fighting for justice, and much more.

Emily Toth 6 pm – 9 pm T

ENGL 4173

Studies in Southern Literature: Southern Women Writers

Survey of southern women's writing from 1820 to the present, with special emphasis on the late 20th century and issues of gender and sexuality. Featured authors may include: Augusta Jane Evans Wilson, Hannah Crafts, Ellen Glasgow, Eudora Welty, Lillian Smith, Carson McCullers, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Alice Walker, Josephine Humphreys, Bobbie Ann Mason, Shay Youngblood, Ellen Douglas, and Natasha Tretheway.

Katie Henninger 1:30-3 pm T/TH

SPAN 4100

Women Writers in the Hispanic World

This course explores the work of women writers in the 19th and 20th century Spain. Its focus is on the cultural context in which these women wrote and their place (or absence) in the history of modern Spanish literature. Students will examine theoretical and critical approaches to the study of gender and the impact of Spanish feminism and feminist literary theory on Spanish women's writing. **The class will be taught in Spanish.**

Dorota Heneghan 1:40-2:30 M/W/F

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Elective Courses: Social Sciences

POLI 4000

Special Topics: Gender, Sexual Orientation and the Law (Service-Learning)

Courts play an important policy making role by defining the legal parameters for relationship recognition, equal employment opportunities, domestic violence, reproductive and sexual freedom, child custody, and educational equity. This course examines the ways that legal policy reflects and shapes norms related to gender and sexuality, and the implications of court decisions on public policy outcomes. To connect these themes to real-world scenarios, students will partner with a community organization through a semester-long service learning project.

Laura Moyer M/W/F Time TBA

HIST 3119-2

History of Sex in the United States: Sexual Reproduction & Social Equality

Students in this course will be introduced to the burgeoning scholarship on the history of sexuality in the US, especially as it regards the interrelated topics of sexuality, reproduction and social equality. In order to help students make the link between historical and contemporary issues we will continue an oral history project called "Listening to Louisiana Women: Sexuality, Reproduction & Social Equality." In pairs, students will identify or be partnered with a Louisiana woman with whom they will do at least one oral history interview.

Alecia P. Long 3 – 6 pm W

HIST 4079

Women in American History

This course explores the history of women in America from the colonial period to the present day. Students will read primary sources, scholarly articles, and monographs to examine how women have experienced, shaped, and understood the American past. We will look at this history through women's eyes, interrogating how gender, sex, and sexuality, as well as race, ethnicity, citizenship, class, region, or religion, framed the lives of American women.

Carolyn Lewis 10:40-11:30 am M/W/F

REL 4200: Special Topics in American Religions: Gender and Sexuality in the Black Church

As in many other religious traditions in America, the subjects of gender and sexuality in African American churches have often been contentious and controversial. This course will examine theories of gender and sexuality, the history, politics, demographics, and practices of black churches, as well as specific scholarly texts that feature particular issues regarding gender and sexuality in African American churches and communities. The desire is that students will be more able to engage the issues critically and look at diverse groups within these religious communities with much more openness and an eye toward a just and ethical engagement of difference and diversity.

Stephen Finley 910-1030 am T/TH

WGS 4028-1

Gender and American Politics

This class is designed as an overview of the field of gender and politics, specifically American politics. We will critically examine the role gender plays in shaping U.S. politics at the individual level and how gender shapes the institutions of the U.S. political system. We will discuss the three waves of the Women's Movement to understand how the relationship between gender, citizenship, and law has changed over time. In the second section of class we explore how gender structures the political participation of both men and women. In this section we ask how and why women's political participation differs from men's. The third section of the class addresses how gender shapes who runs and wins elective office in the United States. In this section we also explore the impact of gender on the various institutions of government: Executive, Legislative, Judicial and the federal bureaucracy.

Heather Ondercin 12:00-1:30 pm T/TH

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Elective Courses: Cross-Cultural Studies

CPLT 2202/ENGL 2202

Introduction to World Literature

This World Literature course uses readings from a wide variety of geographic locations and time periods to examine issues of gender and power at the intersections of race, class, ethnicity, nationalism, religion, colonialism, and globalization. The course is designed to provide a context that enables students to critically analyze and engage ideas and images of the past and present through a gendered lens. The students are to become familiar with the multitude of narrative forms and traditions around the world from the Renaissance to the present.

Julie Berthoud 9-10:30 am T/TH

HIST 3117

Gender and Sexuality in China

This course examines a wide range of gender issues in Chinese cultural tradition, including gender/role constructions and cultural perspectives on sexuality and sexual behavior. It also traces the changing roles of women and men from the the Late Imperial period to the the early women liberation movements in the Republican years (1911-1949) and finally turns to the Maoist regime (1949-1987) and the post-Mao period. This is not a lecture class. The course is based on class discussions.

Margherita Zanasi 3-6 pm T

GERM 4046

German Film: Strong Women in German Cinema

We will look at German films since 1945 with particular emphasis on directors from the New German Cinema, such as Margarethe von Trotta, Volker Schlöndorff, and Rainer Werner Fassbinder. Gender relations and images of women will be the thematic focus, for example among left-wing terrorists, Turkish-German immigrants, or successful professionals. Additionally, students will learn techniques in film analysis and interpretation. The course is taught in English and no knowledge of German is required.

Gundela Hachmann 3-4:30 pm T/TH

Of Related Interest

ENGL 2000 (sections listed below)

Writing for Action & Advocacy (service-learning)

Students in these English 2000 courses will partner with Connections for Life, a local grass roots agency representing marginalized women including ex-offenders, recovering substance abusers, and victims of domestic violence. Students will provide a minimum of 15 hours of support service to the agency throughout the semester, interact with the staff and residents, and produce a written project to benefit the agency, such as a grant proposal, letter of appeal for donations, or a newsletter.

Sharon Andrews	008	10:30-12:00pm T/TH
	013	1:30-3:30pm T/TH
	037	3:00-4:30pm T/TH
	051	9:00-10:30am T/TH

ENGL 2000-099 (service-learning)

English Composition: Femininity and Masculinity in American Culture

This course will use writing to explore and uncover beliefs about the appropriate roles and behavior for men and women in American society. Most students are unaware that they have been socialized to act or perform a specific gendered role based on whether they are male or female. Exploring gender-related issues to ENG 2000 will teach

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students how to become critical thinkers, readers, speakers, and writers who can analyze a variety of cultural "texts" (advertisements, films, literature, magazines, newspapers, television programs, video games, websites, etc.) in terms of the intersecting cultural factors of gender, race/ethnicity, social class, sexuality, education, age, disability, etc. This course will also contain a service-learning component in which students will serve as tutors or mentors at local primary and /or secondary schools, or students will work with the elderly at an assisted living center. These projects will provide context for students to explore these issues through writing and secondary research and the opportunity for secondary research.

Martha Pitts 10:30-12:00pm TTH

ENGL 2000-104

English Composition: Images of Women in Literature and Cinema

Since this section of ENGL 2000 is a special emphasis course, images of the witch in cinema, literature, and cultural productions will serve as the focal point of our discussions. We will begin looking at the witch figure in a bit of a "retrospective": first, by considering the ways in which we understand the witch figure today and introducing feminist inquiry (writers, concepts, and ideas), and moving to earlier representations of the witch (both literary and cinematic) and writings of feminist inquiry and theory.

Helana Brigman 10:40-11:30 M/W/F

ENGL 2000-119

English Composition: Conspicuous Consumption

This special emphasis course will use argumentative writing to explore our individual and social relationships to consumer advertising. Women's relationships to their bodies (and increasingly men's) are deeply impacted by media images and advertising. This course will have a strong gender component and will examine the ways in which media advertising impacts how we relate to ourselves and to each other.

Penelope Dane 3:00 - 4:30pm T/TH

ENGL 2000-131

English Composition: Sexual Literacy: Writing about LGBT Issues

The culture and society we all live within is a paradox. On the one hand, school administrators, parents, and government officials attempt to erase sex and sexuality issues out of the classroom while, on the other hand, the media is saturated with heated debates over the issue of sexuality. Our culture, politics, economics, and numerous other topics are intertwined with sexuality; yet, how many of us know or understand how to talk and write about these issues? This English 2000 course focuses on sexual literacy and researched writing. In this course, students are asked to undertake a researched writing project involving several process drafts that conclude in a well-documented academic essay that is centered on a LGBT issue that we've explored in the class and from course readings.

Brigitte McRay 9:00-10:30am T/TH

ENGL2000-148

English Composition: Dissecting Issues in Women's Health through Writing

In this course, we will explore various avenues in women's health ranging from reproductive issues, mental health, alternative therapies, nutrition, health care concerns, and body image through writing.

Cara Jones 10:40-12 T/TH