

Women's and Gender Studies

Spring 2015 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:
Dana Berkowitz T/Th 10:30am – 11:50am

Section 2:
Sarah Becker T/Th 12:00pm – 1:20pm

Section 3:
Liam Lair T/Th 3:00pm – 4:20pm

Section 4:
Liam Lair T/Th 4:30pm – 6:00pm

Section 5:
Mona Rocha MWF 10:30am – 11:20am

Section 6:
Mona Rocha MWF 11:30am – 12:20pm

Section 7:
Mona Rocha MWF 1:30pm – 2:20pm

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. This course meets general education course requirements for Social Sciences.

Kate Bratton MWF 8:30am – 9:20am

WGS 4500.1

Feminism and Foucault

Contemporary feminist theory maintains a remarkably lively critical engagement with the work of French philosopher Michel Foucault. While not explicitly a feminist (Foucault makes few references to women or gender in his work), feminist philosophers have found his exploration of the relations between power, the body and sexuality particularly productive. Foucault's work has contributed to feminist critiques of gender essentialism and to accounts of gendered

embodiment even as some theorists point to the limitations of Foucauldian theory for emancipatory political projects. Most recently, Foucault's account of the neoliberal mutation of power—biopolitics—has attracted significant critical attention. The final third of the course will be focused on the uptake of biopower in post-Foucauldian feminist theory.

Debbie Goldgaber

T/Th 12:00pm – 1:20pm

WGS 4500.2

Radical Feminism and Consciousness Raising: From the Redstockings to Dworkin and McKinnon

Radical feminists are perhaps best known for claiming that "all sex is rape." Of course, they didn't really mean that, and none of the most famous radical feminists even claimed it. As happens to many political movements, radical feminists have largely been defined by their opposition. Yet, oppositional narratives lead to a biased historical perspective that loses the essential and empowering work done by radical feminists. This course aims to excavate the history and viewpoints that derived from radical feminists who took a leading role in defining the second wave movement. The course will examine radical feminism's main theoretical writers, such as Catherine MacKinnon and Andrea Dworkin, activist groups, such as Redstockings and Bread & Roses, and ideological positions, such as that the personal is political, sexual harassment is sexual discrimination, porn plays an essential role in the maintenance of the patriarchy, and rape is ubiquitous and not taken seriously enough (though that doesn't mean, that all sex is rape, as we will see!). These viewpoints may remain controversial today, but they also provide the foundation of much of feminist theory. Thus, to truly understand feminism today, we must take a closer look at the voluminous contributions of the radical feminists.

Mona Rocha

MWF 2:30PM – 3:20PM

WGS 4900

Readings in Women's and Gender Studies

PERMISSION OF DEPARTMENT REQUIRED

ELECTIVES

Humanities

ARTH 4499

Art History Capstone. Art and Sex

Sex, eroticism and desire are fundamental parts of our private and public lives. As such, it is not surprising that depictions of sex and erotic desire can be found in art across time and cultures. Sexual imagery is seen in the earliest cave painting, on Greek vases, on the walls of Roman houses, on medieval buildings, in Japanese prints, Persian manuscripts, Buddhist temple sculpture, painting since the Renaissance, in modern media such as video, anime and digitally created arts, on apps such as Tumblr and Instagram. This course explores the issue of sex in art by examining the topic from a variety of times and places. We will begin by examining art and sex in our time and place, with attention given to theory, history and politics of sex and art in our own society. From there, we will take a cross-cultural and case-study approach, examining

sex and its relationship to art in a variety of cultures across history. Issues addressed will include: ideals of beauty, taboos, masculinity and femininity, homosexuality, sexual practices, gender issues, asexuality, fantasy and pornography. The format will be a mixture of lecture and seminar sessions with student presentations and a research paper required. Students from all disciplines are welcome. The course is permission of Instructor. Please email msavage@lsu.edu with a short description of your interest in participating in the course.

Matt Savage

Th 3:00pm – 5:50pm

ENGL 2593

Images of Women

This course is designed for General Education and English majors. It presents an opportunity to explore the rhetoric around constructions of our concepts of "woman," "women". Students will define and deconstruct various images of women in their critical readings of texts and culture. This is offered as a Communication-Intensive (C-I) Course "and will be identified as such on transcripts if students meet all of the requirements for a C-I Course."

Christine Jeansonne

T/Th 12:00pm – 1:20pm

ENGL 4104-1

Literature Capstone. Stories to Live By: Gender, Age, and the Novel of Development

The novel of formation, also known as the apprenticeship novel, novel of development, or the *Bildungsroman*, is one of the most common narrative forms we use to weave fictions about what identity means. In showing how character develops, these novels often also trace the shift from innocence to experience as characters figure out the meanings of life, love, and work. In this course, we're going to look at the differences sex and age can make, not only in the stories we choose to tell ourselves, but perhaps also in how we tell them. Reading will include novels such as Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*, Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, D. H. Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers*, Nella Larsen's *Quicksand*, Doris Lessing's *The Summer before the Dark*, Paule Marshall's *Praisesong for the Widow* and Marilyn Robinson's *Gilead*. The class format will be discussion, and required work will include a journal entry for each class, two short essays, a longer final essay, and a class presentation.

Michelle Massé

T/Th 12:00pm – 1:30pm

REL 4010

Religion, Food and Culture

In this class, we will examine the often-overlooked relationship between social and religious practices and the production, preparation, and consumption of food. This examination is informed by a consideration of material culture, especially as it overlaps with gender studies. Food is an invaluable element of our social relationships and religious observances and yet, the production and preparation of it is rarely accorded high status. Part of our study will analyze why that is the case. We will strive in this class to give food the attention and respect it richly deserves. Our course of study will be loosely divided into three components: The Cultural-Linguistic Symbolism and Applications of Food; The Significance of Food in Various Religious Traditions; and The Politics and Ethics of Food Production and Consumption.

Gail Sutherland

T/Th 3:00pm – 4:20pm

Social Sciences

ANTH 4909

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

HIST 4197.1

History of Sexuality in the US

Over the last three decades, historians have produced an exciting body of scholarship that looks at sexuality as a historical topic – that is, something embedded in time, place, culture, and social arrangements. This scholarship has shown us that sex and sexuality are constructed, defined, and regulated – and those constructions, definitions, and regulations change over time and within varying historical contexts. 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. Course readings and discussions will include historical analyses of public concerns such as: abortion, birth control, prostitution, sexual violence, and GLBT sexualities. The course employs an intersectional approach and will examine the relationship between sexuality and social categories such as race, gender, class, ethnicity, etc.

Catherine Jacquet

T/Th 12:00pm – 1:20pm

SOCL 4463

Gender and Crime

Courses titled "Gender and Crime" often end up being courses on women and crime. This is highly appropriate, since most criminological research and theory are devoted to male offenders. However, the "gender gap in offending" merits explanation. And that can't be done by focusing totally on women. This course will be a combination of these two imperatives, then—sometimes focusing more heavily on female offenders and victims who have been relegated to the sidelines of criminology and sometimes focusing on theoretical challenges that the gender gap in offending raises.

Sarah Becker

T/Th 9:00am – 10:20pm

Cross-Cultural

AAAS/REL 4124

Studies in African Diaspora Religions: Constructing Gender, Sexuality and Race in the Americas

This cross-listed course explores African and African Diaspora religions in a comparative context. We look at how traditional African religions inspired new and lasting religious cultures in especially the Caribbean, North America, and Latin America. We deal with how African Diaspora religions construct gender, sexuality, and race in specific historical and geographical contexts. As these traditions exist in transnationally, cultural and religious mixing is an important focus of the course.

Solimar Otero

T/Th 10:30am – 11:50pm

AAAS/ENGL 4323**Studies in Caribbean Literature**

Angeletta Gourdine

T/Th 9:00am – 10:20am

ANTH 4051**Africa**

People and cultures of Africa; emphasis on cultural transformation and contemporary societies. Topics include: kinship, gender, economics, religion, healing, politics, urbanism, post-colonialism, and transnationalism.

Helen Regis

W 4:00pm – 6:50pm

ANTH 4053**African American Cultures**

Cultures of African-Americans in the western hemisphere; their origins, development and present distinctiveness.

Joyce Jackson

MWF 10:30am – 11:20am

ANTH/ENGL 2423**Introduction to Folklore**

Folklore genres of the world; sources of folklore; literary, psychological, sociological, anthropological and historical approaches to folk material; relationships between folklore and written literature.

Carolyn Ware

T/Th 10:30am – 11:50am

ANTH/ENGL 4475**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

ENGL 2674**Intro to African-American Literature**

Major figures and popular texts of black American literature, including writers of fiction, poetry, drama and essays; influence of genre on the articulation of common political and social themes.

Angeletta Gourdine

T/Th 12:00pm – 1:20pm

INTL 2000**Contemporary Global Issues**

Survey of current world issues from an interdisciplinary perspective. Communication Intensive Learning.

Section 1:

Challen Nicklen

MWF 12:30pm – 1:20pm

Section 2 (Serving Learning):

Touria Khannous

T/Th 10:30am – 11:50am

REL 2027**Asian Religions**

Survey of the history, beliefs and practices of the major religions of Southern and Eastern Asia, focusing on Hinduism, Buddhism and the religions of China and Japan.

Section 1:

Madhuri Yadlapati

MWF 9:30am – 10:20am

Section 2:

Madhuri Yadlapati

MWF 10:30am – 11:20am

Section 3:

Madhuri Yadlapati

MWF 12:30pm – 1:20pm

Section 4:

Gail Sutherland

T/Th 12:00pm – 1:20pm

SPAN 3074**Advanced Readings on Hispanic-American Civilization**

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

Christian Fernandez

MWF 1:30pm – 2:20pm