

# **Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program**

## **American University, College of Arts and Sciences**

### **Spring 2012 Course Offerings**

**\*\*If you have questions about declaring your major or minor, or about the WGSS major/minor in general, please contact Professor Gay Young at [gyoung@american.edu](mailto:gyoung@american.edu)**

#### **WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES**

##### **WGSS-150 Women's Voices Through Time**

**001MTH 01:10PM 02:25PM Scott, K. 03.00**

The distinctive contributions of women to Western artistic and intellectual traditions. Significant articulations of human experience expressed by women through literature, art, and history; how such traditions became established and how women, despite obstacles, have produced lasting works of ideas and imagination. Usually offered every fall.

##### **WGSS-240 Sexualities Studies**

**001TF 11:45AM 01:00PM Fulbright, Y. 03.00**

This course explores the history of the formation of categories of analysis, such as sex, gender, and sexuality/desire, in relationship to fields of knowledge production: from religious restrictions, the State's involvement in regulating sexuality, the legitimization of a sexological field, then psychiatry, psychology, and sociology. The course incorporates non-social scientific modes of knowledge production, while using a social science framework to think about research and inquiry. The course also reveals the assumptions in our social worlds about the significance of the field of sexuality studies emergent in the United States, and the relationship of sexuality, as

something commonly thought of as intimate, to the realm of the institutional, discursive, or policy making, that is, the social. Usually offered every spring.

##### **WGSS-300 Feminist and Gender Theory**

**001W 11:45AM 02:25PM Frank, K. 03.00**

(Meets with WGSS-600-001)

Examines theories of gender as constructed or problematic, not natural or immutable. Surveys the historic development of theories of women's inequality and strategies for changes. Probes contemporary issues and conflicts within feminist and gender theory. Theorizes gender relations in students' own lives. Forges understandings across divisions of race, class, nationality, ability, sexualities, and sexual orientation. Usually offered every spring. Prerequisite: WGSS-125 or permission of director.

##### **WGSS-350 Interpreting Gender in Culture:**

##### **Women in Sport**

**001 TF 08:55AM 10:10AM Jackson, T. 03.00**

This course centers on women in sports with discussion and debates in sport-centered issues affecting gender. The course explores a range of issues in sports media and careers in the sports industry. Course content is delivered using a variety of methods including lecture, online and class discussion, guest speakers, and film. Major

projects are active learning assignments such as The Seminar Apprentice, which is modeled after the reality television competition and requires students to develop the most relevant new or creative product or service to be marketed to the female consumer.

### **Gay and Lesbian Documentary**

**002** W 08:10PM 10:10PM Connelly,R  
03.00

This course follows the evolution of gay and lesbian-themed documentary within the historical context of the LGBT movement. Students examine the emerging voice of the gay documentarian, and discuss the topics of these films as they advance through themes of persecution, activism, and diversity within the gay and lesbian community.

### **LGBT Lives**

**003T** 05:30PM 08:00PM Bruno,M  
03.00

This course explores the lived experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people through the use of scholarly and popular reading, films, and guest speakers. With these materials, the course examines how identity and community are socially constructed and how LGBT experiences are located in larger U.S. society.

### **WGSS-490 Independent Study**

**000** Varies by Student  
01.00-06.00

Prerequisite: permission of instructor and program director.

### **WGSS-491 Internship**

**001**  
01.00-06.00  
Young,G

All students registered for this internship are required to meet on Tuesdays from 5:00-6:00pm in Battelle T-30.

### **WGSS-498 Senior Honors Project**

**001** Young,G  
03.00

### **WGSS-600 Feminist and Gender Theory**

**001W** 11:45AM 02:25PM Frank,K  
03.00

Prerequisite: permission of instructor  
(Meets with WGSS-300-001)

### **WGSS-691 Internship**

**001** Young,G  
01.00-06.00

All students registered for this internship are required to meet on Tuesdays from 5:00-6:00pm in Battelle T-30.

## **AMERICAN STUDIES**

### **AMST-334 Contemporary American Culture: Sexuality and Social Media**

**003** TF 02:35PM 03:50PM Woods, S.  
03.00

This course examines the interplay between sex, sexuality, and social media. The growth of online communication and social networks has encouraged sexual expression, sex education, and activism. However, social media has also increased fear, misinformation, prejudice, and harassment with respect to individual and group sexuality. The course explores the advantages and disadvantages of social media, and the impact of its rapid growth on sexuality, relationships, and identity forming.

## **ANTHROPOLOGY**

### **ANTH-215 Sex, Gender, & Culture**

**001MTH** 04:00PM 05:15PM Uzwiak,B  
03.00

**002TF** 08:55AM 10:10AM Hackman,M  
03.00

How economic systems, social structures, and values construct and redefine biological distinctions between women and men. Includes gender in egalitarian societies; origins and consequences of patriarchy; gay and lesbian cultures; gender, politics, and social change. Case studies from tribal, state-level, and post-colonial contexts. Usually offered every term.

### **ANTH-254 Language and Culture**

**001MTH** 11:45AM 01:00PM  
03.00

Examines connections between language, culture and society. Includes grammars as systems of knowledge; language and cognition; structure of everyday discourse; language diversity; speech communities; language change; literacy and language planning. Usually offered every spring.

### **ANTH-635 Race, Gender, & Social Justice**

**001TH** 05:30PM 08:00PM Watkins,R  
03.00

This seminar explores the disjunction between biological myths of race and gender and their social construction as credible institutions; the historical, economic, and political roots of inequalities; the institutions and ideologies that buttress and challenge power relations; and the implications of social science teaching and research for understanding social class, race, and gender discrimination. Issues of advocacy for social change are also explored. Usually offered

every spring. Prerequisite: permission of instructor.

### **ANTH-640 Power, Subjectivity, Embodiment**

**003M** 08:10PM 10:10PM Prince,S  
03.00

The effects of inequality and domination are felt by affected populations based on the specifics and peculiarities of time and place. In recognition of this fact, this course looks at the personal in oppression. With a focus on classism, heterosexism, nativism, racism, sexism, and other forms of hierarchy, the class looks at how groups around the world conceptualize, talk about, and respond to myriad generators of disparities. This exploration leads to a diverse range of discussions including those pertaining to the ways women of color have used feminism to specific case studies on domestic workers in the global economy. Topics such as racism in the United States, global anti-immigration policies, and the dangerous impacts of homophobia in countries around the world are also explored, with the result of a keener understanding of the range of experiential and interpretive possibilities when subjectivity bumps up against the imperatives of power.

### **ART HISTORY**

#### **ARTH-396/696 Selected Topics – non recurring:**

#### **Gender and Sexuality in Northern Renaissance Art**

**001TF** 02:35PM 03:50PM Pearson,A  
03.00

This course investigates the contours of gender and sexuality in Northern European (the Low Countries, France, England, and Germany) art of the later Middle Ages and

Renaissance. It includes images of women and men across court, urban, and monastic contexts, pictorial constructions of femininity and masculinity, relationships between the sexes, hetro- and homosexuality, and gendered artistic expressions and formats. Various possibilities for understanding images via feminist, gay, and lesbian perspectives are raised; and issues of identity, agency, compliance, and transgression are interrogated across the artistic media. Meets with ARTH-696 001.

### **Women and the Avant-Garde**

**002 TH 05:30PM 08:00PM Bellow,J**  
03.00

The late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries witnessed increasing professional opportunities for women artists. However, women's status within such avant-garde movements as Impressionism, Fauvism, Expressionism, Cubism, Constructivism, and Surrealism remained contradictory and ambivalent. This course explores the complexity of women's experiences as members of the avant-garde, focusing on the careers of artists including Berthe Morisot, Mary Cassatt, Julia Margaret Cameron, Camille Claudel, Sonia Delaunay, Varvara Stepanova, Lubov Popova, and Hannah Hoch. Meets with ARTH-696 001.

### **ECONOMICS**

#### **ECON-374 Gender Roles in the Economy**

**001TF 11:45AM 01:00PM Hillesland,M**  
03.00

Explores the gender dimensions of economic life. For economics majors, an in-depth look at the different roles of men and women in the community, the market, and within the household, and how these are affected by economic and social change. For

women's studies and other social sciences majors, the discipline of economics is brought to bear on the study of women's and men's well-being and status in society. Prerequisite: ECON-100 and ECON-200.

### **EDUCATION**

#### **EDU-619 Child Lit: Crit Literacy Persp**

**001W 08:10PM 10:40PM Vasquez,V**  
03.00

This class will meet in Room 312 of the University Library (Curriculum Materials Center).

Exploration and analysis of children's literature from a critical literacy perspective, including an explanation of social issues such as marginalization, racism, and censorship, as reflected in different genre.

### **GOVERNMENT**

#### **GOVT-482 Women and Politics**

**001T 08:10PM 10:40PM O'Connor,K**  
03.00

This course examines the evolutionary role of women in politics - as voters, citizens, candidates, and leaders - from the Seneca Falls Convention to the present. The role of women's organizations and movements in the expansion of political and legal rights are also explored. Usually offered every term. Meets with GOVT-682. Prerequisite: GOVT-110.

#### **GOVT-483 Women, Politics and Public Policy**

**001W 05:30PM 08:00PM Sherman,E**  
03.00

A wide variety of issues of concern to women, including healthcare, welfare, educational equity, employment discrimination, and reproductive rights are

examined through the lens of the formal policy-making process. Meets with GOVT-683. Prerequisite: GOVT-110.

**GOVT-485 Topics in Women and Politics: Political Skill Building**

**001SSU** 09:00AM 05:00PM Timmons, 01.00

This course helps build political skills that can translate to jobs and other leadership roles in the political arena in Washington, DC or at the local level. It includes speakers from major polling firms, consulting firms, elected officials, representatives from Capitol Hill, K Street, and the media. The course addresses public presentation skills as well as public policy and issue advocacy. Meets with GOVT-685 001.

**HEALTH & FITNESS**

**HFIT-245 Gender, Culture, and Health**

**001TH** 11:45AM 02:25PM Bloom,S 03.00

Provides basic understanding of gender and cultural issues affecting health. Emphasis is placed on male/female and ethnic disparities in health status and how these gender and cultural indicators affect behavioral risk factors. The relationship between health and other factors such as religion, social class/socioeconomic status, acculturation, migration, and globalization are also studied. Usually offered every term.

**HFIT-323 Issues in Women's Health**

**001T** 11:45AM 02:25PM Richardson,A 03.00

Provides basic understanding of gynecologic anatomy and physiology as well as female health conditions. Emphasis placed on current health research areas such as female cancers, menopause, infertility, lesbian

health, minority health, sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy, and sexual dysfunctions. Students develop a personal health plan based upon an extensive family history and personal lifestyle. Usually offered every term.

**HISTORY**

**HIST-220 Women in America**

**001MTH** 08:55AM 10:10AM Curtin,M 03.00

Incorporating a multidisciplinary perspective; both primary and secondary readings, this course examines change and continuity in the experience of American women from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. Focuses on social and political movements of special concern to women, including suffrage, birth control, women's liberation, and contemporary antifeminism. Usually offered every spring.

**HIST-500 Studies in History**

**History of American Sexuality**

**005M** 08:10PM 10:40PM Kuznick, P 03.00

This colloquium explores recent historical interpretations of the social, cultural, and political history of sexuality in the United States, a field that has flourished in recent decades inspired by the women's, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender movements' challenge to male-dominated, middle class, heterosexual standards. The course moves chronologically through U.S. history, from pre-European settlement Native American practices through contemporary concerns. It approaches sexuality not as universal, natural, unchanging, instinctual behavior, but as a politically, socioeconomically, ideologically, and culturally contested and evolving domain of meanings and behaviors.

It pays particular attention to sexual politics in the broadest sense, exploring the relation of sexuality to the institutional and power structures of American capitalism, and assesses the success of efforts to regulate sexuality by the state and other authorities, including physicians and clergymen. It also considers the impact of sexuality on racial, class, and gender identities and interactions, and vice versa. (Meets with HIST-500-006)

### **History of American Sexuality**

**006 M** 08:10PM 10:40PM Kuznick, P  
03.00  
(Meets with HIST-500-005)

## **HONORS COLLOQUIA**

### **HNRS 300-002H Advanced Writing: Beyond Fundamentals**

MTH 8:55-10:10 a.m. John Hyman

If you want to expand and refine your essay writing skills, this course will allow you to create essays that transcend the straitjacket of the average academic writing assignment. We will take an interdisciplinary approach, looking at the essay not as a group of related genres—academic, journalistic, autobiographic, for instance—but as an epistemological tool for uncovering knowledge about the self and world. We will explore short and long forms, and will examine some classic essays as well as contemporary hybrid forms that combine the fictional with reportage, dramatic techniques with argument, and prose with multi-media presentation. We will also examine current trends in creative nonfiction and academic writing. The course will operate as a workshop, with students spending the majority of our class time developing ideas, processing drafts, and discussing outside readings. The course presupposes that students will desire to build on their skills and will be open to experimenting with

essay forms in order to explore, explain, and interrogate subjects of their choosing that may or may not relate to their major course of study. While this course is suitable for any student, from freshman to senior, it can also help those who are looking to develop a topic and approach for the Honors Capstone.

### **HNRS 302-004H Media and the American Mind**

MTH 10:20AM 11:35AM Streitmatter,R  
03.00

Movies, TV shows, newspapers, and advertising all influence who we vote for, how we define America's role in global politics, and where we stand on such major issues as same-sex marriage and stem-cell research, while at the same time helping to shape our moral values and to determine how we dress, how we spend our leisure time, and what kind of sexual activities we engage in. This course explores the vital role that the various media genres play--historically as well as in contemporary times--in affecting American society writ large and simultaneously influencing the individual attitudes and actions of those who make up that society.

### **HNRS 302-012H Dirty Harry Meet Superman: An Introduction to Disability Studies**

T 5:30-8 p.m. Sarah Irvine Belson

03.00

This course examines media portrayals and cultural stereotypes of people with disabilities, the social construction of disability, the history of disability, international perspectives on disability, public policy and developmental disabilities, school inclusion, and the experiences of people with disabilities and their families in the community. The interdisciplinary course,

grounded in work in education, social work, and in the law, will be based on readings from the popular press, and on quantitative, qualitative and ethnographic research.

### **HNRS 302-013H The Story of Human Rights**

M 5:30-8 p.m. Susan Benesch  
03.00

This course will explore how human rights are born, how they become law, and how those laws are enforced. During the semester each student will research the life story of one particular human right (such as the right to food, to freedom of expression, to health) and will present that narrative as a paper, a film, a website, or in another medium approved by the professor. Students will emerge from the course with solid knowledge of mechanisms for human rights enforcement, and with useful advocacy skills.

### **JUSTICE, LAW, & SOCIETY**

#### **JLS-526 Domestic Violence**

001TH 05:30PM 08:00PM Viano,E  
03.00

A survey of domestic violence; spouse, sibling, and elder abuse; and sexual or other violence among intimates in its broader context and from a multidisciplinary perspective. Policies, laws, court decisions, and short and long term intervention strategies are considered. Usually offered every spring.

### **PHILOSOPHY**

#### **PHIL-316 Feminist Philosophy**

001T 05:30PM 08:00PM Oliver,A  
03.00

Explores some of the challenges posed by feminist philosophers to traditional constructions of subjectivity through interrogation of one or more areas of philosophical thought: ethics, political theory, epistemology, philosophy of mind, philosophy of science, or philosophy of language. Meets with PHIL-616. Usually offered every spring. Prerequisite: two courses in philosophy.

### **PSYCHOLOGY**

#### **PSYC-320 Women and Mental Health**

001W 11:45AM 02:25PM Enchautegui-de-Jesus,N  
03.00

This course focuses on women's functioning. Includes theories of the personality of women, common adjustment problems faced by women, and emotional problems prevalent in women. Usually offered alternate springs. Prerequisite: PSYC-105.

#### **PSYC-345 Community Psychology**

001 TF 10:20AM 11:35AM  
Enchautegui-de-Jesus,N  
03.00

The community rather than the individual is the subject and client in community psychology. Psychological techniques are combined with flexible research designs and concrete measures to find and document effective and cost-effective solutions to socio-political problems such as energy conservation, delinquency, homelessness, traffic safety, health promotion, and unemployment. Usually offered alternate springs. Prerequisite: one introductory and two additional psychology courses.

### **SCHOOL OF INT'L SERVICE**

#### **SIS-400 Senior Sem in Int'l Relations**

### **007 Gender and Poverty**

F 11:45AM 02:25PM Handrahan,L  
03.00

This course explores gender dimensions of poverty. It reviews leading feminist, post-feminist, and gender scholars' work on what gender is and means and why and how it is related to poverty. Standard indices on gender, poverty, and inequality and how effective these measurements are, as well as the growing recognition of the so-called global "feminization of poverty" are considered. The history of development and anti-poverty agendas with the notable absence of gender within that body of work is also reviewed, as well as masculinities and engaging men and boys in a gender and poverty agenda, particularly aspects of nationalism and violence and the relationship to and impact of large groups of adolescent men mired in poverty.

Prerequisite: SIS-308 or SIS-337 or SIS-382 or SIS-385 or SIS-388, and senior standing in SIS.

### **SIS-517 Gender, Human Rights, and Conflict**

001T 11:45AM 02:25PM Mertus, J  
03.00

This seminar examines the gender dimensions of human wrongs associated with violent conflict. Students are encouraged to ask questions about the complexity of human rights problems and consider aspects of human rights problems made invisible to the outside world by silencing or obscuring the victims. Students also explore how each aspect of conflict is gendered. Of primary concern is gendered forms of resistance to and cooperation with agents of war and peace, the role gender plays in the militaries and militarization, the impact of militarization on the lives of men and women in both war and peace time, and recent legal and political attempts to address

gender-based violence in human rights. Usually offered every spring. Prerequisite: SIS-322.

## **SOCIOLOGY**

### **SOCY-205 Diverse and Changing Families**

001MTH 08:55AM 10:10AM Fulbright,Y  
03.00

The family as a social institution in a changing society. Social inequalities of class, race, ethnicity, and gender as key factors in shaping diverse forms and experiences in family life. Theoretical and actual alternatives to family patterns as well as the future of the American family. Usually offered every term.

### **SOCY-235 Gender in Transnational Persp**

001MTH 10:20AM 11:35AM Fulbright,Y  
03.00

Focusing on Third World women and social change in different cultural contexts and in the global political-economic system, this course emphasizes the centrality of women in the rapidly changing world, particularly in terms of work, distributive justice, development policy, democratization, and the environment. Usually offered every spring.

### **SOCY-352 Women, Men & Social Change**

001TF 02:35PM 03:50PM Young,G  
03.00

Focuses on gender as a basic organizational principle of social life in order to study the social construction of gender and how gender relationships are transformed in the process of social change. The course examines how race, class, and gender

interact with culture in shaping the lives,  
social positions and relationships of diverse  
kinds of women and men in a changing  
world. Usually offered every spring.