

**Women's and Gender Studies Program**  
**American University, College of Arts and Sciences**  
**Fall 2009 Course Offerings**

**\*\*If you have questions about declaring your major or minor, or about the WGS major/minor in general, please contact Professor Findlay or Professor Feder.**

**WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES**

**WGST-125/125G Gender in Society**

Young,G

TF 11:20AM-12:35PM

This course focuses on the social construction of gender along with other forms of social inequality; representations of gender that permeate all forms of cultural experience; and theoretical arguments regarding key issues such as equality, ethics and politics, as well as debates at the frontier of gender theory.

**WGST-350 Interpreting Gender in Culture**

**001 Hist of Modern LGBT Movemnt**

Connelly,R

M 8:10PM-10:40PM

This course follows the emergence and advancement of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) civil rights movement in the United States from World War II to the present day. Students study how mid-century homophile assimilationist methodologies generated activist protestations and the politicization of LGBT issues including same-sex marriage, gays in the military, and the evolving dialogue of gender identity.

**002 Gender and Violence**

Bendoraitis,S

MW 6:45PM-8:00PM

This course examines rape and domestic violence specifically, and intimate partner violence in general. The class examines theories about intimate partner violence,

frequency and prevalence of rape, and social and cultural contributors to domestic violence, rape, and sexual assault on college campuses, as well as what individuals and what society can do to end intimate partner violence.

**WGST-392 Cooperative Educational Field Experience**

Prerequisite: WGST-125 and permission of program director and Cooperative Education office. Varies by student. 3 credits.

**WGST-490 Independent Study**

Prerequisite: permission of instructor and program director. Varies by student. 1-6 credits

**WGST-491 Internship Women's & Gender Studies**

Prerequisite: WGST-125 and permission of instructor and program director. Varies by Student. 1-6 credits

**WGST-498 Senior Honors Project in WGS**

Prerequisite: WGST-500. 3 credits

**WGST-500 Current Issues & Research in WGS**

Young,G

W 11:20AM-2:00PM

Exploration of the philosophies, methods, and theories entailed in doing scholarly work in women's and gender studies. Close examination of selected current works in the discipline. Collaborative work developing bibliographies and designing course

activities; individual work in the field.  
Usually offered every fall. Prerequisite:  
permission of instructor or program director.

**AMERICAN STUDIES**  
**AMST-341 Research on City of  
Washington**

**001 Am Founding Fathers & Mothers**  
Smith,E  
MTH 12:45PM-2:00PM

This course examines the lives, talents, and tenacity of men and women such as Thomas Jefferson, John and Abigail Adams, James and Dolly Madison, Alexander Hamilton (who has been characterized as the founder from the future who journeyed to the past to lead us to the present), and numerous other powerful personalities who helped to form the America we are today.

**ANTHROPOLOGY**  
**ANTH-215/215G Sex, Gender & Culture**

**001 Leap,W**  
MTH 3:35PM-4:50PM  
**002**  
TF 12:45PM-2:00PM

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.

**ANTH-225/225G Language & Human  
Exper**

**001**  
MTH 8:30AM-9:45AM  
**002**  
MTH 2:10PM-3:25PM

Examines language and its contribution to creativity, and how knowledge of language

enriches human experience. Includes imagery and metaphor building through language; the effects of topic, speaking situation, and gender on creativity in tribal, state-level, and post-colonial contexts; and ways written language recasts and redefines human imagination.

**ANTH-431 Taboos**  
Williams,B  
MTH 2:10PM-3:25PM

Exploration of those persons, items, experiences, and acts which so frighten and repel humans that they try to prohibit them. Includes discussion of subjects rich in taboo and sensitivity including sexuality, witchcraft, cannibalism, human-animal relations, madness, and death. Why taboos emerge, how they are enforced, and when they are violated.

**ANTH-537 Topics in Language &  
Culture**

**002 Language, Sexuality, and  
Globalization**  
Leap,W  
W 5:30PM-8:00PM

This course considers how sexuality is shaped by multiple forms of global circulation, e.g., economic development projects, urban restructuring, travel and tourism, international human rights campaigns, militarist expansion and anti-terrorism programs, trajectories of displacement and diaspora, and new forms of electronic media. As a parallel theme, the course considers how constructions of sexuality, at local and broader levels, provide content and incentive for further enactments of these globalizing processes. Course discussions pay particular attention to spaces of globalization, using the new literature on "sexual cartography" to map instances of the language/sexual/global interface in the Washington, DC area.

## **ECONOMICS**

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

Grown,C

TF 2:10PM-3:25PM

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.

### **ECON-574 Gender Persp Econ Anlys: Micro**

Floro,M

W 5:30PM-8:00PM

This course provides an introduction to gender analysis in micro and labor economics. It explores theories of the household and household bargaining and empirical research; conceptualization and measurement of the reproductive economy, care work and unpaid work; women's participation in labor markets; assets and income distribution; gender, inequity, and poverty; and related social policy issues.

## **GOVERNMENT**

### **GOVT-484 Women & Political Leadership**

M 5:30PM-8:00PM

This course explores the historical evolution of women as leaders, the factors that have limited the number of women in leadership positions, and the differences in men's and women's leadership styles.

### **GOVT-486 Feminist Political Theory**

W 2:10PM-4:50PM

This course traces the major debates in feminist political theory and their roots in liberalism, communitarianism, Marxism, post-modernism, and other schools of

thought and examines the ways in which feminist political theory can inform current policy debates concerning women.

## **HEALTH & FITNESS**

### **HFIT-245/245G Gender, Culture and Health**

TF 12:45PM-2:00PM

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.

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

Rose,M

W 2:10PM-4:50PM

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.

## **INTERNATIONAL SERVICE**

### **SIS-319 Topics in Int'l Relations**

### **008 Gender in Int'l Development**

Samarasinghe,V

T 2:10PM-4:50PM

This course examines from an interdisciplinary and international perspective how development is gendered and creates different meanings, impacts, and processes for women around the world. The course explores the different theoretical approaches used in understanding women's

situation in developing societies and examines the impact of production and reproduction, politics, globalization, environment, and migration on women in different parts of the developing world. The course probes the success and failure of development strategies in incorporating women into the development process and explores new approaches to ensure women's empowerment and their agency to fully participate in development processes.

**JUSTICE, LAW & SOCIETY**  
**JLS-496 Selected Topics:Non-Recurring**  
**001 Human Trafficking & the Media**

Viano,E  
W 8:10PM-10:40PM

This course examines the economic, social, cultural, and legal issues related to the trafficking of persons from an international and comparative perspective. It includes forced labor, the exploitation of immigrant females for domestic and sex services, the sale of children and irregular inter-country adoption, and the sale of wives legalized by transnational marriages. Students consider the trafficking prohibitions of the various international conventions, analyze legislative texts of domestic trafficking laws of selected jurisdictions worldwide, and analyze the U.S. statutes prohibiting trafficking in human beings.

**JLS-535 Gender and the Law**  
MTH 3:35PM-4:50PM

Gender and criminal, civil, and regulatory law. Criminal issues include sexual assault, prostitution, and the criminalization of pornography and sexual trafficking in women, and gender relations in the criminal justice system. Civil issues include marital and divorce laws and laws regarding reproduction. Other issues include sexual harassment and discrimination in housing, credit, insurance, employment, and education.

**PSYCHOLOGY**  
**PSYC-430 Human Sexual Behavior**

McCarthy,B  
W 2:10PM-4:50PM

Basic physiological knowledge, sex education, sexual myths, premarital and marital sexual behavior, homosexuality, pornography, etc. Emphasis on psychological aspects of sex and sexuality.

**SOCIOLOGY**  
**SOCY-205/205G Families in Sociological Persp**

Brenner,A  
W 11:20AM-2:00PM

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.

**SOCY-354 White Privilege/Social Justice**  
Pascale,C

MTH 12:45PM 02:00PM

This course considers the social, legal, and media constructions of white racial identities in relation to issues of racial justice. It examines how white privilege intersects with gender, class, and sexuality. Students develop skills for multicultural alliances and strategies for antiracist activism.

**SOCY-570 Sociology of Gender and Family**

Young,G  
W 5:30PM-8:00PM

The study of gender and family as basic principles of the social order and primary social categories. Introduces students to the theories, data sources and applications of family structures and gender relationships in the United States and cross-culturally.