

**Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program
American University, College of Arts and Sciences
Fall 2011 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**

WOMENS AND GENDER STUDIES

WGST-125 Gender in Society

TF 11:45AM 1:00PM Young,G

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.

WGSS-225 Gender, Politics & Power

MTH 11:45AM 01:00PM TBA

This course explores the ways in which the social and cultural construction of sexual difference influences the nature and practice of political life in a variety of countries. It examines the ways in which power is gendered and studies how gender has served as a basis for political organization and a critique of public life.

WGSS-350 Interpreting Gender in Culture

001 History of the LGBT Movement

W 08:10PM 10:40PM Connelly,R

This course examines current issues of importance to the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) communities within their historical, sociological, and political contexts. From the origins of the LGBT movement to its contemporary cultural impact, students study the derivations, development, and intersection of these issues as they are advanced and sustained by

the LGBT communities' strategies and activism.

002 Gender and Violence

W 05:30PM 08:00PM TBA

This course addresses gender-based violence including sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and stalking from a historical, sociological, and legal perspective. Readings emphasize current issues and responses and include an analysis of the dynamics of gender-based violence within diverse racial, ethnic, socioeconomic backgrounds, sexual orientations, and immigrant statuses.

003 History and Traditions in Feminist Economic Thought

MTH 10:20AM 11:35AM Hillesland, M.

This class explores Western economic thought through the lens of four distinctions in feminist thought: (1) Liberal Feminism; (2) Communitarian and Care Feminism; (3) Socialism and Emancipatory Framework; (4) Post-structuralist Approaches in Feminism. By tracing the lineage of these four distinctions, the class highlights the similarities and differences between the distinctions and uncovers the normative underpinnings that support and/or limit more dominant schools of thought in economics from a feminist perspective.

WGSS-500 Current Issues & Research

W 11:45AM 02:25PM Findlay, E

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.

AMERICAN STUDIES

AMST-321 American Decades

001 Food, Media and Culture

T 02:35PM 05:15PM Vester, K

This course investigates the intersection of food, ideology, identity, and media in American history. Cookbooks, memoirs, magazines, radio and TV-shows as well as feature films have traditionally used food to discuss national, ethnic, and class identity, while simultaneously promoting norms on citizenship, gender and sexuality. The sources discussed in the course reach from the first American cookbook in the late eighteenth century to food centered videogames in the twenty-first century. Students work with theoretical texts and do independent research.

AMST-334 Contemporary American Culture

001 Men's Lives in a Global World

F 02:35PM 05:15PM Gill,H

This course examines the diverse experience of men around the world, along with cross-cultural notions of manhood and masculinities. The class addresses how boys learn to be men under the conditions of globalization, how masculinity is defined in popular culture, such as film and literature, and within religious and political institutions and movements. Further, the course examines the relationship of gender inequality with respect to power, and the link between male dominance and sexual and structural violence. Above all, students learn how our culture's construction of masculinity affects our relationships with

the people in our lives. By questioning prior teachings about what it means to be a man (or a woman), the class examines masculinity and femininity, identifies what problems exist in how our society defines these constructs, and redefines them, both in our individual and collective lives.

ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTH-215 Sex, Gender & Culture

001 MTH 11:45AM 01:00PM TBA
002 MTH 04:00PM 05:15PM Pine, A
003 TF 08:55AM 10:10AM TBA

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-230 India: Living Traditions

TF 04:00PM 05:15PM Nambiar,K

The rich diversity among peoples and cultures of India through time and the significance of various traditions for contemporary life. Individual experiences of caste, class, gender, and sect are examined, as are outside influences on social patterns and modes of thought, revealing complex interplay between tradition and modernity, India and the West.

ANTH-339 Culture, History, Power, Place

002 African American Women

M 02:35PM 05:15PM Prince, S

This course examines the contours of the African American female experience in the United States, moving across time and space

to look at the shared patterns and experiential differences that shape the lives of this population. This focus includes examinations of ideology; the sexual division of labor, health, and wellness; expressive culture; and resistance to sexism and racism; among other considerations. The course helps students understand the challenges and triumphs of this population that is diverse along the lines of region, religion, class, color, sexuality, and standpoint. Meets with ANTH-639 002.

COMMUNICATIONS

COMM-209 Communication and Society

001 MTH 11:45AM 01:00PM TBA

Open only to SOC students.

002 MTH 04:00PM 05:15PM TBA

003 MTH 10:20AM 11:35AM TBA

Open only to SOC students

The central role communication processes play in human life and society, with consideration of the practical ramifications as well as the theoretical implications of communication. Communication process issues involving gender, race, culture, ethnicity, class, and conflict and power are also analyzed.

COMM-275 Dissident Media

TF 11:45AM 01:00PM TBA

The evolution and impact of alternative media as forces for social change. How dissident groups have used non-establishment media such as suffragist and Socialist journals, African-American and gay presses, counterculture tabloids, Christian-right newsletters, and the "zines" of the 1990s to organize and bring about reform. Also examines the power of communication, the interplay between media and society, and the complex role of

politically dissident media in American history.

EDUCATION

EDU-280 Social Justice & Urban Educ

MTH 01:10PM 02:25PM Tate, S

Analysis of the nature and impact of race, class, gender, and exceptionality in education. Emphasis on how schools have served as vehicles of oppression and opportunity for social groups in our society. Engagement in change agency to promote social justice in schools and society.

GOVERNMENT

GOVT-282 Intro to Women and Politics

001 SSU 09:00AM 05:00PM TBA

002 SSU 09:00AM 05:00PM TBA

This course is an intensive introduction to women and politics. Students in the course gain an understanding of the historical struggle of women for political, economic, and educational rights, as well as the major actors who were or continue to be involved in these efforts.

GOVT-455 Equal Protection

MTH 11:45AM 01:00PM Ivers, G

Examination of the evolution of federal civil rights law and modern interpretations of the major statutory and constitutional provisions that guarantee equal protection. Emphasis is on constitutional development under the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments and major congressional legislation that bans discrimination in employment, education, housing, etc., based on race, ethnic origin, gender, religion and color. Also examines emerging legal developments intended to prohibit discrimination on the basis of

sexual orientation and physical or mental disability.

GOVT-483 Women, Politics & Public Pol
W 02:35PM 05:15PM Sherman, E

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.

GOVT-485 Topics in Women and Politics:

003 Women World Leaders
01.00 Lawless,J; Foster,S

SSU 09:00AM 05:00PM \$50.00
10/08/11 10/09/11

This course examines the current status of women in key political leadership positions, the barriers faced by women as they strive for these positions, how these women have influenced policy debates, and how they have changed perceptions of women in leadership. Meets with GOVT-685 003.

004 Pol/Econ Sexual Harrassment

Lawless,J; Langelan,M
SSU 09:00AM 05:00PM \$50.00
11/12/11 11/13/11

This course provides an in-depth analysis of the political and economic impact of sexual harassment. The course focuses on the history of sexual harassment, its underlying functions, its repercussions, and the administrative remedies and direct-action strategies to counter it. Meets with GOVT-685 004.

GOVT-486 Feminist Political Theory

W 11:45AM 02:25PM Sauls, S

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. Usually offered every fall. Meets with GOVT-686. Prerequisite: one course in political theory, philosophy, or women's and gender studies, or permission of instructor

HEALTH AND FITNESS

HFIT-245 Gender, Culture and Health
TH 11:45AM 02:25PM TBA

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
MTH 02:35PM 03:50PM Richardson, A

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.

HNRS 302-002H EMOTIONS, SELF AND SOCIETY

W 5:30-8 p.m. Natalia Ruiz-Junco

This course examines the social dynamics underlying people's interpretations of emotions and their experiences of self in varied social contexts. Students will gain understanding of the social construction of a multiplicity of emotions, including empathy, sympathy, love, anger, compassion, and shyness. Emphasis will be placed on perspectives that focus on the role of social interaction and broader cultural processes in analyzing self construction and emotions.

MAJOR CREDIT: CLEG (Communication); HEALTH PROMOTION; PSYCHOLOGY; SOCIOLOGY; and WOMEN'S, GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

HNRS 302-008H THE AIDS CRISIS IN AFRICA: ORIGINS, IMPACTS, AND RESPONSES

M 11:45 a.m.-2:25 p.m. R. Robinson

This course treats the HIV/AIDS pandemic in sub-Saharan Africa as both an object of study as well as a lens through which to understand the dynamics of African states and societies. We start by focusing on the cultural, economic, and political causes of HIV/AIDS, looking at how the disease has disproportionately affected some groups (such as women and migrants) and some countries (such as those in southern Africa). We then examine the impacts of the disease on the labor force, the family, and on Africans' ways of thinking about the world. Next, we look at local, national, and international responses to the disease, which have include the creation of small organizations to support those afflicted by the disease, national policies and programs, and massive influxes of funding for prevention +programs and antiretroviral

therapy. We will consider the effectiveness of these interventions, as well as their implications for everything from intellectual property debates to the crowding out of other health concerns. In the end, students will have learned about AIDS in Africa, but also about Africa more generally, and about their own role in the global community as it struggles to find a way to slow the AIDS pandemic.

MAJOR CREDIT: ECONOMICS; HEALTH PROMOTION; POLS (Major Related Social Science requirement); SIS (Africa, International Development, U.S. Foreign Policy, Comparative and International Race Relations); SOCIOLOGY; and WOMEN'S, GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

JUSITICE, LAW, AND SOCIETY

JLS-535 Gender and the Law

W 02:35PM 05:15PM Barron, C

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.

JLS-536 Reproduction and the Law

W 02:35PM 05:15PM Waters,J

Students undertake a historical, legal, and policy-based analysis of the laws and policies regulating human reproduction, with an emphasis on Supreme Court jurisprudence and current legislative efforts to both expand and curtail reproductive

rights. Prerequisite: JLS-101 or JLS-307, or permission of instructor.

LITERATURE

LIT-736 Seminar in 18th C. Literature 001 Georgian Gender Trouble

T 05:30PM 08:00PM Brideoake, F

This course explores a variety of non-normative genders and sexualities throughout British literature and culture of the later eighteenth century. Over the course of the semester, students encounter gender transgressors including mollies, tommies, macaronis, and fops; sodomites and sapphists; and the big-haired woman of fashion of the 1770s.

PSYCHOLOGY

PSYC-430 Human Sexual Behavior

W 02:35PM 05:15PM McCarthy, B

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

SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

SIS-400 Senior Sem in Int'l Relations 001 Gender and Development

T 02:35PM 05:15PM Samarasinghe, V

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. Students explore the different theoretical approaches used in understanding women's

situations in developing societies and examine the impact of production and reproduction, politics, globalization, environment and migration on women in different parts of the developing world. Students probe the success and failure of development strategies in incorporating women into the development process and explore new approaches to ensure women's empowerment and their agency to fully participate in development processes.

SIS-519 Special Studies in Int'l Politics 009 Migration, Refugees & Trafficking

W 02:35PM 05:15PM Thouez, C

This course addresses the issues of migration, refugees, and trafficking from the perspective of how the United Nations system and its member states approach human mobility. It describes the work of the main international institutions and other actors that assist in supporting and shaping states' and regions' approaches to migration, refugees and trafficking. The course examines concrete examples through case studies, and students develop their own approach to address specific challenges in country/regions.

SIS-638 Sel Topics in Int Devel Skill 003 Gender Analysis & Development

F 05:00PM 09:00PM Morris, P
SSU 09:00AM 05:00PM TBA

This course explores the concept of gender and its practical application to international development programs and policy. It covers a variety of analytical and planning tools as well as frameworks and methodologies developed and used by gender practitioners and activists worldwide. The course takes a broad approach to development, including strategies that address basic needs and those

that promote rights and strengthen civil society.

SIS-648 Women and Development

W 05:30PM 08:00PM Samarasinghe, V

Provides the student with a critical evaluation of the main theoretical structures of feminism as applied to an analysis of the multiple facets of women's lives in the developing world. Explores the diverse socioeconomic, cultural, religious and political factors that affect women including the impact of development itself.

SOCIOLOGY

SOCY-205 Diverse and Changing Families

TF 10:20AM 11:35AM Fulbright, Y

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-335 Sociology of Birth and Death

W 08:55AM 11:35AM Brenner, A

One of the few common denominators among human beings is that each of us was born into this world and each of us will die. This course examines the sociological dimensions of human "entry and exit." It focuses on how society supports, controls, and constrains our arrival into and departure from the social world. The social, organizational, and cultural dimensions of birth and death are considered in terms of rites of passage, bureaucratization, social movements, cultural differences, and historical and contemporary contexts.

SOCY-354 White Privilege/Social Justice

M 05:30PM 08:00PM Pascale, C

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-396 Selected Topics:

001 Gender, Poverty and Health

F 11:45AM 02:25PM Blankenship,

This course adopts a global perspective to examine the interconnections among gender, poverty, and health, emphasizing the many ways that health and illness are rooted in social relations. Among the specific health issues considered using this framework are HIV/AIDS, reproductive and maternal health, violence, and occupational health.

SOCY-570 Sociology of Gender and Family

F 02:35PM 05:15PM Young, G

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.