

WGST 1000: Gender and Social Movements

Term: Fall 2024

Professor: Dr. Amanda Apgar

Days/Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:00 AM – 9:40 AM and 9:55 AM – 11:35 AM

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

Feminism is not a philosophy, or a theory, or even a point of view. It is a political movement to transform the world beyond recognition. It asks: what would it be to end the political, social, sexual, economic, psychological and physical subordination of women? It answers: we do not know; let us try and see. WGST 1000 is an interdisciplinary study of gender through an overview of the major issues, movements, innovations, and debates that have characterized feminist activism and Women's and Gender Studies in the United States. This course introduces the history of feminist activism and discourse in the US; defines major contributions, language, policies, and practices forwarded by feminist scholarship and activism; and examines the production of gender and sexuality through race, class, ability, nationality, ethnicity, and aesthetic.

WGST 1100: Gender, Race, and Sexuality in Contemporary Society

Term: Fall 2024

Professor: Dr. Iris Blake

Days/Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:40 PM – 5:20PM and 8:00 AM – 9:40 AM

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

This course examines race, class, gender, and sexuality as interlocking structures of power.

Questions that will guide our inquiries include: How do the intersections of these systems (race, class, gender, sexuality) exert power and domination to produce states of un/freedom and inequality? How and under what conditions have these forms of power and domination been resisted? How does history, memory, and “what might have been” inflect our present moment?

What more liberatory and just presents and futures can we envision, and what are some strategies that have been proposed for enacting those visions? While the primary focus is on the U.S. context, this course recognizes the transnational relationships that constitute the formation of the project known today as the “U.S.” and the attendant histories and presents of settler colonialism, slavery, imperialism, white supremacy, war, capitalism, imprisonment, and heteropatriarchy that produce the borders of the nation-state. This course engages women of color feminisms, queer of color critique, counter memories, histories of social movements, transnational feminisms, decolonization, abolition, and speculative fiction as forms of insurgent knowledge production and praxis that simultaneously critique and generate possibilities for a world that is otherwise.

WGST 1100: Gender, Race, and Sexuality in Contemporary Society

Term: Fall 2024

Professor: Dr. Danielle Borgia

Days/Times: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays

9:25 AM – 10:35 AM, 10:50 AM – 12:00 PM, and 1:40 PM – 2:50 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

In this course we will explore how the intersections of gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality, class, citizenship, language, education, ability, age, religion, and sovereignty in institutions, representations, and personal interactions affect our lives and life choices. We will center our work on the ideas of feminists of color and their storytelling through academic articles and studies, film, art, personal essays, music videos, a podcast, a graphic novel and nonfiction. We will explore how migration, state surveillance, cis and heteronormativity, race and ethnicity shape the reproductive work and life chances of people of all gender identities. Students will be asked to analyze how beauty and fashion ideals are formed by Whiteness, global capitalism, and hegemonic narratives of gender and sexuality. We will study struggles for reproductive justice and their intersections with environmental racism, immigration, eugenics, and education. Students will question ways that romantic and sexual relationships are influenced by race, ethnicity, language, ability, and citizenship and how dominant narratives perpetuate the spectrum of gender-based violence and harassment. This class will engage us in exploring these issues, equipping students with tools to make their own meanings.

WGST 2000 Women in Global Communities

Term: Fall 2024

Professor: Dr. Najwa Mayer

Days/Times: Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:55 AM – 11:35 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

This seminar explores feminism, gender, and sexuality within transnational frameworks.

Transnational feminism is, at its broadest, the dialogical practice of feminism across borders. As a field of feminist theory and activism, it understands the experience of gender and sexuality as both situated and mobile. It, thus, proposes a feminist critique that is attentive to issues of power, knowledge, and difference as they emerge, meet, or conflict across local, regional, national, and international relations. The first half of our seminar begins by defining the terms and interventions of the field, focusing on how transnational feminism developed through Indigenous, Black, Third World, and Women of Color feminisms. Students will engage the gendered and sexual politics of race, class, positionality, language, and solidarity across multiple sites of difference. The second half of our seminar applies transnational feminist analysis to examine the gendered-sexual effects of issues like labor and globalization, borders and security, violence and humanitarianism, as well as tourism and consumption. We will read across the humanities and social sciences while also engaging the work of transnational feminist activism and aesthetics.

WGST 2000 Women in Global Communities

Term: Fall 2024

Professor: Dr. Iris Blake

Days/Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:45 PM – 3:25 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

This course will introduce students to the historical legacies, trajectories, and potential futures of movements and interventions that have come to be known as transnational feminisms. Questions that will guide our inquiries include: How have transnational feminisms interrogated and de-universalized categories of analysis including “Third world,” “woman,” and “the nation-state”? How do transnational feminisms intersect and overlap with movements for anti-imperialism and decolonization? How might shifting the frame of analysis from the nation-state reveal transnational dimensions of what are typically imagined to be U.S.-based feminisms? How do interconnections of race, gender, class, sexuality, and ability shift across and between borders, and how does this affect transnational feminist organizing? We will engage a variety of forms of media to approach these guiding questions, including academic texts, films, poetry, and a novel.

WGST 3000: Feminist Theories

Term: Fall 2024

Professor: Dr. Amanda Apgar

Days/Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:45 PM – 3:25 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

WGST 3000/4000 is an upper-level examination of feminist thought. This course examines foundational and widely cited feminist texts, deepening course members' understandings of the critical ideas and issues that animate feminist activism and feminist studies. The course fulfills an upper-level requirement for the Women's and Gender Studies major and minor.

WGST 3300: Gender, Race, and Graphic Narratives

Term: Fall 2024

Professor: Dr. Stella Oh

Days/Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:50 AM – 1:30 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

This course explores how graphic narratives serve as cultural spaces for critical engagement with discourses on displacement, loss, and ethical optics. The course materials are derived from feminist theory, ethnic studies, comic studies, disability studies, trauma studies, and literary studies to provide multiple interdisciplinary perspectives on gender, race, sexuality, health, and representations of human rights. In this course, we will examine graphic narratives and situate them in the context of theories of human rights, disability studies, and trauma studies. We will be looking at ways in which graphic narratives engender alternative ethical imaginings. In addition to learning the basic elements of a graphic narrative in terms of its textual composition and the use of panels, space, color, and size, students will also demonstrate creative skills in the class. Students will accomplish this by working on various drafts of creative fiction writing that they will ultimately incorporate into their original critical and creative graphic narrative assignments. This course fulfills the Creative Experience area requirement in the University Core Curriculum.

WGST 4001: QUEER THEORIES

Term: Fall 2024

Professor: Dr. Sandibel Borges

Days/Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:50 AM – 1:30 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

“Queer of color analysis extends women of color feminism by investigating how intersecting racial, gender, and sexual practices antagonize and/or conspire with the normative investments of nation-states and capital” (Ferguson 2011). This course centers the field of Queer of Color Critique, an important contribution to the broader field of queer theory. Queer of Color Critique (QoCC) is a frame of analysis that consists of theories, analytics, knowledge, and activism. It is grounded in the struggles and world-making of LGBTQ people of color, and it emerged from LGBTQ people of color studying the intersections of race, class, gender, and sexuality in the areas of colonialism/postcolonialism, cultural studies, migration and diaspora, space and place and HIV and AIDS, among others. Queer of Color Critique challenges both whiteness in mainstream queer studies/theory and heterosexism in ethnic studies. In this course, students will study the genealogies of the interdisciplinary field of Queer of Color Critique, and will study related concepts such as desire, refusal, hope, future, and home. This class is NOT about opinions. It is based on research and critical scholarship.

WGST 4101: QUEER MIGRATIONS AND DIASPORA

Term: Fall 2024

Professor: Dr. Sandibel Borges

Days/Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 3:40 PM – 5:20 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

This course introduces students to key concepts, perspectives, and theories in the field of queer migration and diaspora studies. We will study the correlation between colonization, imperialism, LGBTQ+ migration, and resistance. We will look at what queer migrants' stories tell us about larger systems of power, both within and beyond U.S. borders. Specifically, we will examine the historical and ongoing heteronormativity of migration structures, how these migration structures work within colonial systems, the ways in which gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, and class intersect and interact with migration and citizenship, and the various forms of resistance that queer migrants engage in their everyday lives. This class is an upper division course. As such, students will read and discuss long and complex texts; please do not expect to get a summary of the texts in class. Class meetings will consist of whole-class and small-group discussions. Attend class ready to discuss assigned texts, and feel free to ask questions, in or outside of class. If you disagree with the authors we read, you may of course do so. However, before offering critiques, you must engage the text and demonstrate that you've read and understood the argument(s). If you disagree with the author(s), you must be able to explain why and offer an informed analysis that goes beyond "not liking" the text.