

WGST 1000: History of Gender and Social Movements

Term: Spring 2024

Professor: Dr. Danielle Borgia

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS

This class will form a learning community that takes an intersectional feminist approach to studying the history of struggles for gender and racial justice in the United States. This course, in exploring social movements for gender equality, will look at the ways that people of many intersectional identities have worked, and continue to work, for crucial change in the way systems of privilege and oppression affect the life possibilities of people living in the United States. Our discussions of how life chances and choices have been limited based on gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, nationality/citizenship, class, age, religion, education, and ability will tie individual and everyday experiences to larger structural, historical, and geographical contexts. We will learn about struggles to control sexualities as well as the reproductive oppressions and freedoms that different people in the U.S. have experienced. We will take a critical approach to the use of individual, institutional, and representational violence from different feminist lenses. Throughout these academic explorations, students will be able to be personally involved in social justice struggle through community-based learning.

WGST 1100: Gender, Race, and Sexuality

Term: Spring 2024

Professor: Dr. Sandibel Borges

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

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course introduces students to key concepts in the field of Women's and Gender Studies, with a focus on Gender, Race, and Sexuality. These concepts will help students develop a critical lens to examine systems and structures of oppression, both historical and contemporary. The course covers strategies for organizing and activism, offering examples of social justice struggles and victories. Furthermore, students will develop the vocabulary and tools to think about contemporary feminist issues, including but not limited to gender and sex binaries, citizenship, sex work, colonial borders, prison, and reproduction.

In this course, we utilize an intersectional framework to understand social issues. Thus, we affirm and recognize the experiences of women, girls, femmes, queer, trans, gender non-conforming and nonbinary, and intersex people, breaking with the violence of gender and sex binaries. We assume the existence of multiple sexes and genders, and will examine how these experiences intersect, interact, and are shaped by systems of oppression, such as colonialism, capitalism, and white supremacy.

Class meetings will consist of whole-class and small-group discussions. Please complete the readings, attend class ready to discuss, and feel free to ask questions, in or out of class.

WGST 1100.01: Gender, Race, and Sexuality in Contemporary Society

Term: Spring 2024

Professor: Dr. Linh Hua

Days/Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:55am-11:35am

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines the heterogeneity of lives within the construct of America and its intersections with race, class, gender, and sexuality. We will read theoretical texts examining the interlocking systems of oppression and critique the politics of representation. The course will explore the following questions: How are feminist struggles informed by race, class, gender, and sexuality? How is representation effected by hegemonic ideals of race, class, gender, and sexualities? This course will introduce students to concepts such as intersectionality, queer of color critique, neo- and post-colonialism, and globalization, while exploring how race, class, gender, sexuality, and other identity formations operate and interrelate in contemporary society. This course fulfills the American Diversity area requirement in the University Core Curriculum. Loyola Marymount University is built and operates on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the Gabrielino/Tongva peoples.

WGST 2000: Women in Global Communities - Transnational Feminisms

Term: Spring 2024

Professor: Dr. Iris Blake

Days/Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:00-9:40am / Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:55-11:35am

Course Description:

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.

The course is organized around six core areas:

- (1) Defining and Contextualizing Western Feminism vs. Transnational Feminisms
- (2) Feminized Labor in the Global Economy
- (3) Decolonization, Indigenous Feminism, and Climate Activism
- (4) Anti-Militarist and Anti-Imperialist Feminism
- (5) Globalization & Abolition Feminism
- (6) Queer and Trans Migration

WGST 2200: Women's Health, Bodies, and Sexualities

Term: Spring 2024

Professor: Michelle Bitting

Days/Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays 03:40 - 05:20 PM

Course Description:

This course explores the history and politics of women's health, bodies and sexuality. Using an intersectional framework, we will explore how bodies become a site for the social construction of race and sexuality. This course is grounded in the theories and social movements known as reproductive justice. Course topics will include: reproductive health, health and sexuality, health care access, the politics of disease, disability justice, and transgender health. This course will provide students with opportunities to build their skills in critical analysis—specifically critical reading, writing, and speaking skills—which will be applicable to their future academic and professional engagements. This course fulfills the Understanding Human Behavior flag for the Core Curriculum. To that end, students will critically engage various methodologies for understanding human health. We will pay specific attention to the histories of social, behavioral, and medical sciences as systems of racialized and gendered violence.

WGST 2500: Introduction to LGBTQ Studies

Term: Spring 2024

Professor: Dr. Sandibel Borges

Days/Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:45 - 3:25pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course examines the histories, theories, and contemporary issues of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer peoples in the U.S. We will analyze, deconstruct, and interrogate the identities, activism, and resistances that undergird the politics of LGBTQ people and communities. A central tenant of this course is the destabilization of a singular notion of "LGBTQ." We will do so by exploring how race, ethnicity, class, ability, sexuality, immigrant and refugee status, nationality, gender presentation, and histories of colonization and imperialism affect the innumerable positionalities of LGBTQ peoples. Compounding this context will be a focus on historical and contemporary issues that matter to LGBTQ peoples, including the changing and multifaceted politics of LGBTQ liberation movements. Situating the context in which these differential axes make up the complexities of LGBTQ lives, this course takes up an assortment of texts, including scholarly books and articles, popular publications, film, video, and art in order to arrive at our goals. Moreover, this course investigates how issues and topics of concern for LGBTQ peoples are complicated through various categories of difference using the lens of queer theory, feminist theory, and critical ethnic studies. Altogether, students will be able to scrutinize the intricacies in which LGBTQ peoples construct, imagine, and conceive their lives in the pursuit of social justice and liberation.

WGST 3900: Gender (Race) and Disability

Term: Spring 2024

Professor: Dr. Amanda Apgar

Days/Times: Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:45 - 3:25pm

Course Description:

WGST 3900: Gender (Race) and Disability is a critical feminist study of disability justice, hetero-ableism, and normality. This course examines: the ways in which disability and gender are socially constructed and co-constructed via rhetorics of dependence and autonomy; the centrality of “interdependence” to both feminist and disability justice movements; the entanglement of disability and race and gender in over-diagnosis, underdiagnosis and misdiagnosis; disability and sex; mental health; reproductive rights/justice; this history of the disability movement; and other legal and cultural issues of disability justice in Spring 2024.

WGST 3998: Abolition Feminisms

Term: Spring 2024

Professor: Dr. Iris Blake

Days/Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:45-3:25pm

Course Description:

Centering Black feminist, Indigenous feminist, and queer and trans of color perspectives, this course examines abolition feminisms as a framework and practice for transformative social change and justice. Beginning with Angela Davis's foundational work *Are Prisons Obsolete?*, this course understands abolition to include both the dismantling of existing institutions (such as the prison and the police), as well as the creation of new institutions and ways of relating. In the words of Fred Moten and Stefano Harney, the object of abolition is "Not so much the abolition of prisons but the abolition of a society that could have prisons, that could have slavery, that could have the wage, and therefore not abolition as the elimination of anything but abolition as the founding of a new society" (42, "The University and the Undercommons").

In working toward such a "new society," abolition feminisms asks us to envision more liberatory ways of relating to one another across difference, and to consider how we might begin to practice those ways of relating from where we are right now, rather than waiting for some ideal future moment. The course begins by historicizing the institution of the prison and feminist anti-prison activism, with a focus on the U.S., California, and Tovaangar/Los Angeles contexts. Next, we turn to cutting-edge scholarship on abolition feminisms that emphasizes internationalism, aesthetic interventions, and collective movement building, while prioritizing interconnections with movements for decolonization, disability justice, and queer and trans liberation. In the concluding weeks of the course, we will read about and critically analyze specific strategies through an abolition feminist lens, including restorative justice, transformative justice, pod mapping, mutual aid, crip time, and letter writing. Over the course of the semester, we will flex our imaginative energies by contributing to an immersive art installation, and the class will culminate with a zine share of solo-authored short-form creative publications.

WGST 4001: Queer Theory

Term: Spring 2024

Professor: Mairead Sullivan

Days/Times: Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:50am - 1:30pm

Course Description:

This advanced course provides students with grounding in contemporary conversations in Queer Theory. At its root, queer theory attempts to interrogate the structuring logics, or norms, that produce queer subjects. This course foregrounds a mode of analysis called “queer of color critique.” Queer of color critique “wrest(s) cultural and aesthetic formations away from interpretations that neglect to situate those formations within analysis of racial capitalism and the racial state” (Ferguson, “Queer of Color Critique”). In this way, queer theories is less a course about gay people as it is a course about the structuring logics of sexuality, race, gender, nation-state, and ability. Put differently, queer theories instruct us to resist an assimilationist politics that seeks to make the world “better” for marginalized communities within current structures in favor of a coalitional politics that seeks to build new worlds away from the marginalizing logics of this one. The first step in this process, however, is to understand what we mean by “structuring logics.” Such is the task of this course.

WGST 4100: Sex, Trade, and Trafficking

Term: Spring 2024

Professor: Dr. Stella Oh

Days/Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:50am-1:30pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This is an interdisciplinary course that explores issues of sex, trade and trafficking through the lenses of literature and the law. We will examine the intersections of gender, race, class, and nation and its relationship to sex trafficking, public policy, legal interventions, and advocacy. The course will explore processes and legacies of colonization, imperialism, war, displacement, state violence, and globalization, as well as ethical, social, and legal transformations. In class, students will read short stories, graphic novels, legal briefs, and scholarly essays on the topic of human trafficking. The course will also explore the various systems that influence trafficking of human beings and the interconnectedness of multiple systems of inequality and injustice. This course fulfills the core curriculum requirement for Interdisciplinary Connections.