Overview & Learning Goals

Overview

The interdisciplinary Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Program (GSWS) combines a variety of scholarly traditions to develop a culture of critical thinking about the intersections of gender, sexuality, race, and class. Drawing primarily on the humanities and the social sciences, courses in GSWS explore the social construction of identity and experience as well as how difference, marginalization, and resistance exist within and across cultures and historical periods. In its curriculum and its faculty research, GSWS explores the multiple directions that feminist and queer scholarship and activism take locally, nationally, and transnationally.

Learning Goals

Curriculum of the Bowdoin Major in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies

The Bowdoin program in gender, sexuality, and women's Studies (GSWS) takes a theoretically broad and methodologically varied approach to the study of gender and sexuality and their intersections with race, class, ethnicity, nationality, and religion, across historical eras and transnational contexts. Courses at every level of the GSWS curriculum focus on reading, writing, speaking, collaborative learning, and the development of critical thinking skills. From first-year seminars and introductory courses (1000-level) to theory courses, intermediate seminars, and electives (2000-level), to advanced seminars, independent studies, and honors projects (3000-4000-level courses), GSWS students gain competence and confidence in their ability to understand, interrogate, and contribute to this interdisciplinary field of study. In addition to core and elective courses taught by the permanent GSWS faculty, faculty from across the campus contribute classes from a wide range of departments and programs.

Learning Goals

- Understand and apply precepts: Students will explore the foundations of this field of study (1000-level), develop fluency in the ways in which gender and sexuality shape how individuals experience the world (2000-level), and apply their learning and critical thinking to questions of their choosing (3000- and 4000-level).
- Develop strengths in college-level intellectual engagement: Students will read texts closely, deliberate on their meanings on their own and with others, and write and speak clearly and persuasively about them (all levels).
- Engage theoretically: Students will develop fluency in the theoretical constructs of feminist theory and/or queer theory, and then rigorously evaluate and apply those ways of thinking (2000-level).
- See the classroom as a space of growth: Students will explore the processes as well as the products of our learning, viewing differences among us and among the scholars whose work we engage as opportunities for intellectual and personal engagement and growth.
- Exercise a gendered imagination: Students will develop the competence and confidence to use their learning to further their intellectual lives, exercise leadership, and foster change beyond the Bowdoin classroom.

Requirements

Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Major

The major consists of nine courses, including three required core courses.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>GSWS 1101</td>
<td>Introduction to Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>GSWS 2201</td>
<td>Feminist Theory</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or GSWS 2001</td>
<td>Queer Theory</td>
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Select a GSWS-designated, advanced-level capstone seminar

Select six courses chosen from the set of GSWS courses, or from a set of courses in other disciplines that have been approved by the Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Program Committee to count toward the major. GSWS courses are numbered to indicate the level of course instruction.

Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Minor

The minor consists of five courses, including two required courses.

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Select three additional courses
Additional Information

Additional Information and Program Policies

- One first-year seminar may count toward the major or minor.
- With prior approval, GSWS allows up to two transfer courses to count toward the major, one toward the minor. All core courses must be taken at the College.
- Courses count toward the major if grades of C- or better are earned. One course taken with the Credit/D/Fail grading option may count toward the major as long as a CR (credit) grade is earned for the course. No Credit/D/Fail courses may be counted for the minor.
- Only three of the six elective courses for the major may be from any single department outside of GSWS.
- Only two of the three elective courses for the minor may be from any single department outside of GSWS.
- The departmental affiliation of a course is considered the department of which the instructor is a member.
- No more than two independent study courses may count toward the major requirements, unless the student is pursuing an honors project, in which case the limit is three independent studies.
- Honors: during the spring of their junior year, students who wish to undertake an honors project must secure the agreement of a faculty member to supervise their independent study project. The honors project supervisor must be an affiliated faculty member with GSWS. If the student's chosen supervisor is not an affiliated faculty member, the student may appeal for permission from the GSWS Program Committee. Two semesters of advanced independent work (GSWS 4050 Honors Project in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies and GSWS 4051 Honors Project in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies) are required for an honors project in GSWS.
- Departments that offer GSWS Classes include:
  - Africana Studies
  - Anthropology
  - Art
  - Asian Studies
  - Cinema Studies
  - Economics
  - Education
  - English
  - German
  - Government and Legal Studies
  - History
  - Music
  - Philosophy
  - Religion
  - Romance Languages and Literatures
  - Russian
  - Sociology
  - Theater and Dance

Courses

GSWS 1005 (c, FYS) Victorian Monstrosity
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Examines various monsters and creatures that emerge from the pages of Victorian narratives. What do these strange beings tell us about literary form, cultural fantasies, and anxieties; or about conceptions of selfhood and the body? How do they embody (or disembody) identities that subvert sexual, racial, and gendered norms? Authors may include Lewis Carroll, Richard Marsh, Robert Louis Stevenson, Bram Stoker, and H.G. Wells. (Same as: ENGL 1005, GOV 1005, AFRS 1005)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2015.

GSWS 1009 (c, FYS) The Ravages of Love
David Collings.

Examines examples of overwhelming love in eighteenth and nineteenth century novels from England, France, and Germany. Through close reading and intensive writing, considers the intersection of love with the difficulties created by class and gender difference; the power of desire to challenge social convention and the terms of ordinary reality; the confrontations between love, egotism, and seduction; and the implications of love’s attempt to dare all, even at the risk of death. Discusses the political overtones of these narratives of love and their place within the construction of gender, sexuality and subjectivity in Western culture. Authors may include Prevost, Goethe, Laclos, Hays, Austen, Bronte, and Flaubert. (Same as: ENGL 1009)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2017, Spring 2017.

GSWS 1018 (c, FYS) Jane Eyre, Everywhere
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Charlotte Brontë’s 1847 novel, “Jane Eyre,” had a profound impact not only on subsequent nineteenth-century fiction, but also on twentieth- and twenty-first century literary representations of female experience. Begins with a close reading of Brontë’s novel and then moves on to exploring modern literary rewritings of this narrative. Considers both how Brontë’s themes are carried out through these various texts and why her narrative has been such a rich source of reinterpretation. In addition to Brontë, authors may include Du Maurier, James, Messud, Park, and Rhys. (Same as: ENGL 1018)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2018.

GSWS 1021 (c, FYS) Bad Girls of the 1950s
Jennifer Scanlon.

Explores the representation and life experiences of women who did not fit the cultural norm of suburban motherhood in 1950s America. Focuses on issues of class, race, sexuality, and gender in a decade shaped by fears about nuclear war and communism, and by social and political conformity. Topics include teenage pregnancy, women’s grassroots political leadership, single womanhood, civil rights, emergent feminism, and, finally, the enduring cultural resonance of the apron-clad 1950s mom. Engages a variety of primary and secondary sources. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: United States. (Same as: AFRS 1021, HIST 1001)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2017.
GSWS 1022 (c, FYS)  “Bad” Women Make Great History: Gender, Identity, and Society in Modern Europe, 1789–1945
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Focuses on the lives and works of path-breaking women who defied the norms of modern European society in order to assume extraordinary and often controversial identities in a range of fields -- as writers, scientists, performers, athletes, soldiers, and social and political activists. What does each woman’s deviance reveal about cultural constructions of identity and the self in Modern Europe; about contemporary views on issues such as women’s work, gender relations, education, marriage, sexuality, motherhood, health, and the struggle for civil and political rights? When studied together, what do these women’s experiences reveal about patterns of change and continuity with respect to definitions of masculinity versus femininity, the public versus private sphere, and the relationship of the individual to the modern state? Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: Europe. (Same as: HIST 1012)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2016.

GSWS 1025 (c, FYS)  Jane Austen
Ann Kibbie.

A study of Jane Austen’s major works, Sense and Sensibility, Pride and Prejudice, Emma, Mansfield Park, and Persuasion. (Same as: ENGL 1012)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2016.

GSWS 1026 (c, FYS)  What We Talk about When We Talk about Love
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Examines literary texts in which writers from the United States and Europe follow a well-worn literary dictum to “show rather than tell” narratives dramatizing the always complex, sometimes painful, but always endlessly challenging negotiations of intimate relationships. Throughout the term, students read a variety of literary works: from an Anton Chekhov play to short stories by Edwidge Danticat and Raymond Carver. Attention given to the impact on these narratives of historical and cultural shifts in race, gender, class, and sexual discourses. (Same as: ENGL 1028)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2016.

GSWS 1027 (c, FYS)  From Flowers of Evil to Pretty Woman: Prostitutes in Modern Western Culture
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Explores the myriad ways that prostitutes have been represented in modern Western culture from the middle of the nineteenth century to the present. By analyzing literary texts, visual artworks, and films from Europe and the United States, examines prostitution as a complex urban phenomenon and a vehicle through which artists and writers grapple with issues of labor, morality, sexuality, and gender roles. Introduces students to a variety of literary, artistic, musical, and filmic genres, as well as to different disciplinary approaches to the study of prostitution. Authors, artists, and film directors may include Baudelaire, Toulouse-Lautrec, Kirchner, Wedekind, Pabst, Marshall, Scorsese, Spielberg, and Sting. (Same as: GER 1027)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2018.

GSWS 1029 (c, FYS)  Comediennes, Historians, and Storytellers: Women Filmmakers in the German-Speaking Countries
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Examines the work of women filmmakers in the German-speaking countries since the 1960s. Explores key interests of these directors: the telling of stories and (German, European, global) histories; the exploration of gender identity, sexuality, and various waves of feminism; the portrayal of women; the participation in the cinematic conventions of Hollywood as well as independent and avant-garde film; spectatorship. Analyzes a range of films and cinematic genres to include narrative cinema, biography, documentary, and comedy. Also introduces students to film criticism; includes weekly film screenings. No knowledge of German is required. Note: Fulfills the film theory requirement and the non-US cinema requirement for cinema studies minors. (Same as: GER 1029, CINE 1029)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2015.

GSWS 1031 (c)  Science, Sex, and Politics
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Examines the intersection of science, sex and politics in twentieth-century United States history. Issues of sex and sexuality have been contested terrain over the past hundred years, as varying conceptions of gender, morality, and proper sexual behavior have become politically and socially controversial. Explores the way that science has impacted these debates—often as a tool by which activists of varying political and intellectual persuasions have attempted to use notions of scientific objectivity and authority to advance their agendas. Explores debates over issues such as birth control, eugenics, abortion, and the “gay gene.” Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: United States. (Same as: HIST 1023)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2016.

GSWS 1101 (b, ESD)  Introduction to Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies
Shenila Khoja-Moolji; Jennifer Scanlon.
Every Year. Fall 2019. Enrollment limit: 35.

Introduces key concepts, questions, and methods that have developed within the interdisciplinary fields of gender, sexuality, and women's studies. Explores how gender norms differ across cultures and change over time. Examines how gender and sexuality are inseparable from other forms of identification—race, class, ability, and nationality. And considers the role that gender, sexuality, and other identity knowledges play in resisting sexism, racism, homophobia, and transphobia.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2019, Fall 2018, Spring 2018, Fall 2017, Spring 2017, Fall 2016.
GSWS 1102 (c, ESD, VPA)  Cultural Choreographies: An Introduction to Dance
Every Other Year. Enrollment limit: 26.

Dancing is a fundamental human activity, a mode of communication, and a basic force in social life. Investigates dance and movement in the studio and classroom as aesthetic and cultural phenomena. Explores how dance and movement activities reveal information about cultural norms and values and affect perspectives in our own and other societies. Using ethnographic methods, focuses on how dancing maintains and creates conceptions of one's own body, gender relationships, and personal and community identities. Experiments with dance and movement forms from different cultures and epochs -- for example, the hula, New England contradance, classical Indian dance, Balkan kolos, ballet, contact improvisation, and African American dance forms from swing to hip-hop -- through readings, performances, workshops in the studio, and field work. (Same as: DANC 1102)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2018.

GSWS 1104 (c)  Introduction to Black Women's Literature
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 50.

Examines the twin themes of love and sex as they relate to poems, stories, novels, and plays written by African American women from the nineteenth century to the contemporary era. Explores such issues as Reconstruction, the Great Migration, motherhood, sexism, group loyalty, racial authenticity, intra- and interracial desire, homosexuality, the intertextual unfolding of a literary tradition of black female writing, and how these writings relate to canonical African American male-authored texts and European American literary traditions. Students are expected to read texts closely, critically, and appreciatively. Possible authors: Harriet Jacobs, Frances Harper, Nella Larsen, Jessi faucett, Ann petry, Tozake Shange, Suzan-Lori Parks, Alice Walker, Tony Morrisson, Gayle Jones, Jamaica Kincaid, Terry McMillan, Sapphire, Lizzette Carter. (Same as: ENGL 1108, AFRS 1108)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2019, Fall 2015.

GSWS 1111 (c, ESD)  Introduction to LGBTQ Fiction
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Using an intersectional reading approach, students closely analyze both classic and more contemporary lesbisay, trans, and queer fictional texts of the last one hundred years. Students consider the historically and culturally changing ways that sexuality has been understood within popular, medical, as well as religious discourses. And because gender conflict and the tendency to analogize the struggles of sexual and racial minorities are key features of this literary tradition, students are expected to engage this subject matter sensitively and critically. Possible texts include The Well of Loneliness, Giovanni's Room, Rubyfruit Jungle, A Single Man, Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit, and The Limits of Pleasure. (Same as: ENGL 1111)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2017.

GSWS 1205 (c, ESD) Black Women's Lives as the History of Africana Studies: Twentieth and Twenty-first Century
Tess Chakakaliakal, Judith Casselberry.

In conjunction with the fiftieth anniversary of Africana studies at Bowdoin, this course will address debates and issues of Africana studies through the lives of black women. Students will focus on the twentieth and twenty-first centuries reading works by and about Zora Neale Hurston, Pauli Murray, Nina Simone, Josephine Baker, Angela Davis, and Condoleeza Rice. We will take up differences and continuities between these thinkers to understand the politics of respectability, work, representation, sexuality, and family across multiple historical contexts. Though this course continues the themes of AFRS 1109, students need not take Part I to take Part II. (Same as: AFRS 1111, ENGL 1302)

GSWS 1301 (c, ESD) Black Women's Lives as the History of Africana Studies: Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century
Tess Chakakaliakal, Judith Casselberry.

In conjunction with the fiftieth anniversary of Africana studies at Bowdoin, this yearlong, two-part course will address debates and issues of Africana studies through the lives of black women. In Part I, students will focus on early Africana studies texts, reading works by and about Phillis Wheatley, Sojourner Truth, Frances Harper, Ida B. Wells, and Anna Julia Cooper. We will take up differences and continuities between these thinkers to understand the politics of respectability, work, representation, sexuality, and family across multiple historical contexts. (Same as: AFRS 1109, ENGL 1301)

GSWS 1321 (c, ESD) Philosophical Issues of Gender and Race
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 50.

Explores contemporary issues of gender and race. Possible topics include the social construction of race and gender, implicit bias, racial profiling, pornography, the gender wage gap, affirmative action, race and incarceration, transgender issues, and reparations for past harms. Readings drawn from philosophy, legal studies, and the social sciences. (Same as: PHIL 1321)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2018, Fall 2016, Fall 2015.

GSWS 1592 (c, ESD, VPA) Issues in Hip-Hop I
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 50.

Traces the history of hip-hop culture (with a focus on rap music) from its beginnings in the Caribbean to its transformation into a global phenomenon by the early 1990s. Explores constructions of race, gender, class, and sexuality in hip-hop's production, promotion, and consumption, as well as the ways in which changing media technology and corporate consolidation influenced the music. Artists/bands investigated include Grandmaster Flash, Run-D.M.C., Public Enemy, De La Soul, Queen Latifah, N.W.A., MC Lyte, Snoop Doggy Dogg, and Dr. Dre. (Same as: MUS 1292, AFRS 1592)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2018.
GSWS 2001 (ESD) Queer Theory
Marilyn Reizbaum.

Intermediate Seminar (English). This course will offer an overview of the interdisciplinary field of queer theory. With origins in psychoanalysis, literary criticism, political philosophy, feminist inquiry, and urban sociology, queer theorists have used multiple methodologies to imagine alternative practices of community, desire, intimacy, and gender expression. This iteration of the course will focus on the development of the concept of queer, and the practice and methodology of queer theory within the arts (literature, visual arts, cinema, theatre, performance art), arguably the originary and preeminent arena of study with such foundational thinkers as Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick and Judith Butler.

Prerequisites: GSWS 1000 - 2969 or GSWS 3000 or higher.


GSWS 2076 (c, IP) Fashion and Gender in China
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Examines how the dress women wear and the fashion consumers pursue reflect social-cultural identities and generate gender politics. Readings and discussions span historical periods, geographical locations, social-cultural groups, and identity categories. From bound feet to the Mao suit, and from qipao to wedding gowns, fashion styles and consumer trends inform a critical understanding of the nation, gender, body, class, and transnational flows. Topics include the intersections between foot-binding and femininity, qipao and the modern woman, the Mao suit and the invisible body, beauty and sexuality, oriental chic and re-oriental spectacle. With visual materials as primary source, and fashion theory the secondary, offers an opportunity to gain knowledge of visual literacy and to enhance analytical skills. (Same as: ASNS 2076)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2017, Spring 2016.

GSWS 2111 (b, ESD) Viral Cultures: HIV/AIDS in Science, Policy, and Culture
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

In the thirty-plus years since its emergence, HIV/AIDS has dramatically altered the world’s social, political, economic, scientific, and cultural landscape. From the early 1980s through the present, people living with HIV and AIDS, activists, artists, policymakers, and researchers have sought to understand the ways that HIV/AIDS is transforming how we live and die, how we think and create, and what we value. Brings students together to work across disciplines to address the complexities of HIV/AIDS on global, national, local, and individual scales. Students examine various aspects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic: activism, epidemiology, cultural history, medical treatment; the business, economics, and industry of disease, HIV and global health, law and public policy; and representations of HIV/AIDS in literature, archives, media, and the arts. Throughout, the intersections of HIV/AIDS with sexuality, gender, race, ability, culture, religion, nation, poverty, and other factors that crucially shape the lives and life chances of those living with HIV/AIDS are addressed. Critically engaging diverse materials and topics illuminates how contemporary societies have and continue to witness, frame, and make meaning of the ongoing HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2017.

GSWS 2180 (c, IP, VPA) Gender in Japanese Art
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Uses gender as a point of departure for examining works of art in the Japanese tradition. Addresses a variety of theoretical approaches and considers the varying interpretations of gender through time and across cultures, as well as issues associated with applying contemporary gender theory to pre-modern works. Chronological topics from the thirteenth through twentieth centuries CE include Buddhist ideas of the feminine, voyeurism in early modern woodblock prints, modern girls of the early twentieth century, and contemporary art. (Same as: ARTH 2180, ASNS 2291)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2016.

GSWS 2201 (b, ESD) Feminist Theory
Shenila Khoja-Moolji.

The history of women’s studies and its transformation into gender studies and feminist theory has always included a tension between creating “woman,” and political and theoretical challenges to that unity. Examines that tension in two dimensions: the development of critical perspectives on gender and power relations both within existing fields of knowledge, and within the continuous evolution of feminist discourse itself.

Prerequisites: GSWS 1000 - 2969 or GSWS 3000 or higher.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2018, Fall 2017, Fall 2016.

GSWS 2202 (c) Renaissance Sexualities
Aaron Kitch.

How do Renaissance authors represent sexual desires and dilemmas? What strategies do authors use to represent, for instance, drives that have not been codified and labeled according to modern epistemologies? Topics include the inarticulacy of homoeroticism and other forms of attachment as they shape Shakespearean comedy, minor epic, and tragicomic romance, with special attention to the poetics of same-sex desire and the erotics of theatrical performance by boy actors on the London stage. Authors include Shakespeare, Thomas Middleton, John Ford, Thomas Craschaw, and Margaret Cavendish, with secondary readings by Eve Sedgwick, Jonathan Goldberg, and Laurie Shannon, among others. Note: Fulfills the pre-1800 requirement for English majors. (Same as: ENGL 2202)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2017.
GSWS 2207 (c, ESD, VPA)  Black Women, Politics, Music, and the Divine
Every Fall. Enrollment limit: 16.

Seminar. Examines the convergence of politics and spirituality in the
musical work of contemporary black women singer-songwriters in the
United States. Analyzes material that interrogates and articulates the
intersections of gender, race, class, and sexuality generated across
a range of religious and spiritual terrains with African diasporic/
black Atlantic spiritual moorings, including Christianity, Islam, and
Yoruba. Focuses on material that reveals a womanist (black feminist)
perspective by considering the ways resistant identities shape and are
shaped by artistic production. Employs an interdisciplinary approach
by incorporating ethnomusicology, anthropology, literature, history, and
performance and social theory. Explores the work of Shirley Caesar,
the Clark Sisters, Meshell Ndegeocello, Abby Lincoln, Sweet Honey in
the Rock, and Dianne Reeves, among others. (Same as: AFRS 2201,
MUS 2291, REL 2201)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2018, Fall 2016, Fall 2015.

GSWS 2217 (c) Dostoevsky or Tolstoy?
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Compares two giants of Russian literature, Dostoevsky and Tolstoy, and
explores their significance to Russian cultural history and European
thought. Part I focuses on the aesthetic contributions and characteristic
styles of both to nineteenth-century realism through examination of
the novelists’ early work. Compares Dostoevsky’s fantastic realism
with Tolstoy’s epic realism. Part II considers the role of religion in their
mature work: in Dostoevsky’s “The Brothers Karamazov” and “The
Diary of a Writer”; Tolstoy’s “Anna Karenina” and “Resurrection.” Topics
studied include gender dynamics in nineteenth-century literature, the
convergence of autobiography and novel, and the novelist’s social role.
(Same as: RUS 2117)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2015.

GSWS 2231 (c, ESD) Gender and Sexuality in Early Christianity
Todd Berzon.

Investigates the ways in which gender and sexuality can serve as
interpretive lenses for the study of early Christian history, ideas, and
practices. Can the history of early Christianity—from the apostle Paul to
Augustine of Hippo—be rewritten as a history of gender and sexuality? In
answer to that question, addresses a range of topics, including prophecy,
sainthood, militarism, mysticism, asceticism, and martyrdom. In addition,
by oscillating between close readings and contemporary scholarship
about gender, feminism, masculinity, sexuality, and the body, looks beyond
the world of antiquity. Aims to show how theories of and about sexuality
and gender can fundamentally reorient understandings of Christian
history. (Same as: REL 2235)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2016.

GSWS 2237 (b, ESD, IP) Family, Gender, and Sexuality in Latin America
Krista Van Vleet.

Focuses on family, gender, and sexuality as windows onto political,
economic, social, and cultural issues in Latin America. Topics include
indigenous and natural gender ideologies, marriage, race, and class;
machismo and masculinity; state and domestic violence; religion and
reproductive control; compulsory heterosexuality; AIDS; and cross-
cultural conceptions of homosexuality. Takes a comparative perspective
and draws on a wide array of sources including ethnography, film, fiction,
and historical narrative. (Same as: ANTH 2737, LAS 2737)

Prerequisites: ANTH 1101 or SOC 1101.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2017.

GSWS 2242 (c) Radicals, Feminists, Poets, Monsters, circa 1800
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Examines the rise of and reactions to radical literature in the wake of
the French Revolution. Focuses on such topics as extravagant lyricism,
anarchism, non-violent revolution, and the critique of marriage, family,
male privilege, and patriarchal religious belief, as well as the defense of
tradition and the depiction of revolution as monstrosity. Discusses radical
rewritings of classical myth, the uses of fiction for political critique, and
the intersections between sharp historical change and the emergence
of the Gothic. Authors may include Burke, Blake, Wollstonecraft, Godwin,
Percy Shelley, and Mary Shelley. (Same as: ENGL 2350)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2018, Fall 2017.

GSWS 2247 (c) Modernism/Modernity
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Examines the cruxes of the “modern,” and the term’s shift into a
conceptual category rather than a temporal designation. Although not
confined to a particular national or generic rubric, takes British and
transatlantic works as a focus and includes fiction, poetry and visual
art. Organized by movements or critical formations of the modern,
i.e., modernisms, psychoanalysis, postmodernism, cultural critique,
transnationalism. Readings of critical literature in conjunction with
primary texts. Authors/directors/artists may include T. S. Eliot, James
Joyce, Langston Hughes, Virginia Woolf, Katherine Mansfield, Zadie
Smith, J. M. Coetzee, Roberto Bolaño, Man Ray, Stanley Kubrick. (Same
as: ENGL 2451)

Prerequisites: ENGL 1000 - 1049 or ENGL 1100 - 1999 or GLS 1000 - 1049
or GLS 1100 - 1999 or GWS 1000 - 1049 or GWS 1100 - 1999.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2018, Fall 2015.
GSWS 2248 (c, ESD) Family and Community in American History, 1600–1900
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Examines the social, economic, and cultural history of American families from 1600 to 1900, and the changing relationship between families and their kinship networks, communities, and the larger society. Topics include gender relationships; racial, ethnic, cultural, and class variations in family and community ideals, structures, and functions; the purpose and expectations of marriage; philosophies of child-rearing; organization of work and leisure time; and the effects of industrialization, urbanization, immigration, and social and geographic mobility on patterns of family life and community organization. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: United States. (Same as: HIST 2128)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2016.

GSWS 2249 (c, ESD, IP) Rebels, Workers, Mothers, Dreamers: Women in Russian Art and Literature since the Age of Revolution
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Although the Russian cultural tradition has long been male-dominated, this paradigm began to shift with the advent of brilliant women writers and artists prior to the Russian Revolution. Since the collapse of the USSR, women have again emerged as leaders in the tumultuous post-Soviet cultural scene, even overshadowing their male counterparts. Explores the work of female Russian writers, artists, and filmmakers against a backdrop of revolutionary change, from the turn of the twentieth century to the present. Themes include representations of masculinity and femininity in extremes; artistic responses to social, political, and moral questions; and women’s artistry as cultural subversion. (Same as: RUS 2245)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2017.

GSWS 2251 (c, ESD) Women in American History, 1600–1900
Every Other Year. Enrollment limit: 35.

A social history of American women from the colonial period through the nineteenth century. Examines women’s changing roles in both public and private spheres; the circumstances of women’s lives as these were shaped by class, ethnic, and racial differences; the recurring conflict between the ideals of womanhood and the realities of women’s experience; and focuses on family responsibilities, paid and unpaid work, religion, education, reform, women’s rights, and feminism. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: United States. (Same as: HIST 2126)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2019, Spring 2016.

GSWS 2252 (c) Christian Sexual Ethics
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

An examination of the historical development, denominational variety (e.g. Catholic, Evangelical, Mormon), and contemporary relevance of Christian teachings and practices regarding sex and sexuality. The course is designed to acquaint students with the centrality of sex to Christian notions of sin and virtue as well as with the broader cultural impact of Christian sexual ethics on the understanding and regulation of gender, the rise of secularization and “family values,” and public policy regarding marriage, contraception, reproductive technologies, sex work, and welfare. In addition, students will have opportunities to construct and test moral frameworks that address sexual intimacy and assault, the stigmatization of bodies (with regard to race, class, size, sexuality and disability), and the commoditization of sex and persons. Materials are drawn from the Bible, Church dogmatics, legal cases, contemporary ethicists and documentary film. (Same as: REL 2257)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2018.

GSWS 2256 (c, ESD) Gender, Body, and Religion
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

A significant portion of religious texts and practices is devoted to the disciplining and gendering of bodies. Examines these disciplines including ascetic practices, dietary restrictions, sexual and purity regulations, and boundary maintenance between human and divine, public and private, and clergy and lay. Topics include desire and hunger, abortion, women-led religious movements, the power of submission, and the related intersections of race and class. Materials are drawn from Christianity, Judaism, Neopaganism, Voudou, and Buddhism. (Same as: REL 2253)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2017.

GSWS 2257 (c) White Negroes
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Intermediate seminar. Close readings of literary and filmic texts that interrogate widely held beliefs in the fixity of racial categories and the broad assumptions these beliefs often engender. Investigates “whiteness” and “blackness” as unstable and fractured ideological constructs. These are constructs that, while socially and historically produced, are no less “real” in their tangible effects, whether internal or external. Includes works by Charles Chesnutt, Nella Larsen, Norman Mailer, Jack Kerouac, John Howard Griffin, Andrea Lee, Sandra Bernhard, and Warren Beatty. (Same as: ENGL 2004, AFRS 2654)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2018.

GSWS 2258 (c, VPA) Women, Gender, And Sexuality in Western European and American Art, 1500 to Present
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Provides an introduction to the history of women as creators, patrons, and audiences of art in Western Europe and the United States from the Renaissance to the present, and explores methods and approaches to visual art that focus on questions of gender and sexuality in an intersectional context. Artists considered may include Artemisia Gentileschi, Angelica Kauffman, Edmonia Lewis, Mary Cassatt, Georgia O’Keeffe, Claude Cahun, Frida Kahlo, Lee Krasner, Judy Chicago, Adrian Piper, Shirin Neshat, and Kara Walker. (Same as: ARTH 2560, GER 2251)

Prerequisites: ARTH 1100 or Placement in above ARTH 1100.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2018.
GSWS 2259 (c, ESD, IP) Sexual Politics in Modern India
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.
Seminar. Explores the politics of sexuality in India from the colonial era to the present day. Topics include sexual violence; arranged marriage; courtesanship and sex work; sexuality and colonialism; sexuality and nationalism, and the emergence of a contemporary lesbian/gay/queer movement. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: South Asia and Colonial Worlds. It fulfills the non Euro/US requirement for history majors and minors. (Same as: HIST 2801, ASNS 2573)
Prerequisites: HIST 1000 or higher.
Previous terms offered: Spring 2016.

GSWS 2260 (c) African American Fiction: (Re) Writing Black Masculinities
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.
In 1845, Frederick Douglass told his white readers: “You have seen how a man was made a slave; you shall see how a slave was made a man.” This simple statement effectively describes the enduring paradox of African American male identity: although black and white males share a genital sameness, until the nation elected its first African American president the former has inhabited a culturally subjugated gender identity in a society premised on both white supremacy and patriarchy. But Douglass’s statement also suggests that black maleness is a discursive construction, i.e. that it changes over time. If this is so, how does it change? What are the modes of its production and how have black men over time operated as agents in reshaping their own masculinities? Reading a range of literary and cultural texts, both past and present, students examine the myriad ramifications of, and creative responses to, this ongoing challenge. (Same as: ENGL 2650, AFRS 2650)
Previous terms offered: Fall 2017.

GSWS 2261 (c, ESD) Gender, Film, and Consumer Culture
Jennifer Scanlon.
How do we spend money, and why? Examines the relationship between gender and consumer culture over the course of the twentieth century. Explores women’s and men’s relationships to consumer culture in a variety of contexts: the heterosexual household, the bachelor pad, the gay-friendly urban cafeteria, the advertising agency, and the department store. Also explores the ways in which Hollywood films, from the 1930s to the present, have both furthered and complicated gendered notions about the consumption of goods.

GSWS 2266 (c, ESD) The City as American History
Every Other Year. Enrollment limit: 16.
Seminar. America is an urban nation today, yet Americans have had deeply ambivalent feelings toward the city over time. Explores the historical origins of that ambivalence by tracing several overarching themes in American urban history from the seventeenth century to the present. Topics include race and class relations, labor, design and planning, gender and sexual identity, immigration, politics and policy, scientific and technological systems, violence and crime, religion and sectarian disputes, and environmental protection. Discussions revolve around these broad themes, as well as regional distinctions between American cities. Students are required to write several short papers and one longer paper based upon primary and secondary sources. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: United States. (Same as: HIST 2660)
Previous terms offered: Spring 2019, Spring 2016.

GSWS 2268 (b, IP) Saved By the Girl? Politics of Girlhood in International Development
Every Other Fall. Enrollment limit: 35.
In recent decades, girls’ education and empowerment has emerged as a key site for investment and advocacy. Girls are often represented as having the potential to solve wide-ranging societal issues, from poverty to terrorism. Interrogates the current focus on girls in international development by examining its cultural politics. What kinds of knowledge about people in the global south are produced in/through girl-focused campaigns? What is highlighted and what is erased? What are the consequences of such representations? Examinations lead to an exploration of the different theories of ‘girl,’ ‘culture,’ ‘empowerment,’ ‘rights,’ and ‘citizenship’ that are operative in this discourse. Situates girl-focused campaigns within the broader politics of humanitarianism and asks critical questions about conceptualizations of ‘freedom’ and the construction of the ‘human’. To provide a more nuanced understanding of the lives of girls in the global south, brings to bear ethnographic studies from Pakistan, Egypt, India, and Nepal. (Same as: ASNS 2610)
Previous terms offered: Fall 2018.

GSWS 2270 (c, ESD) Spirit Come Down: Religion, Race, and Gender in America
Every Spring. Enrollment limit: 35.
Examines the ways religion, race, and gender shape people’s lives from the nineteenth century into contemporary times in America, with particular focus on black communities. Explores issues of self-representation, memory, material culture, embodiment, and civic and political engagement through autobiographical, historical, literary, anthropological, cinematic, and musical texts. (Same as: AFRS 2271, REL 2271)
Previous terms offered: Spring 2017, Spring 2016.
GSWS 2271 (b, ESD, IP) The World’s Most Dangerous Place?: Gender, Islam, and Politics in Contemporary Pakistan
Shenila Khoja-Moolji.
Every Other Fall. Fall 2019. Enrollment limit: 35.

The January 2008 cover image of The Economist calls Pakistan “The world’s most dangerous place.” Indeed, Pakistan has been variously called a “terrorist state,” a “failed state,” and a “lawless frontier.” This course engages in an academic study of the gender, religion, and politics in Pakistan to deepen students’ understanding of the world’s sixth-most populous country. We begin with accounts of the British colonization of South Asia and the nationalist movements that led to the creation of Pakistan. We then consider the myriad issues the nation has faced since 1947, focusing in particular on the debates surrounding gender and Islam, and Pakistan’s entanglements with the US through the Cold War and the War on Terror. In addition to historical and ethnographic accounts, the course will center a number of primary texts (with English translations) including political autobiographies, novels, and terrorist propaganda materials. Students will write a research paper as the final product. (Same as: ASNS 2611)

GSWS 2273 (c) The Woman’s Film
Every Other Year. Enrollment limit: 35.

Concentrating in large part on the classical Hollywood period, we will explore films that center on women’s experiences and that are (or seem to be) intended for a female audience. We will examine the genres of melodrama, film noir, gothic, and comedy in relation to the performance of female identity; representations of gender, class, race, and sexuality; and theories of spectatorial identification. The last part of the class will consider ways in which contemporary women’s films draw on and reconfigure the themes brought up by earlier narratives. Directors might include Arzner, Cukor, Haynes, Hitchcock, Mankiewicz, Varda, and Vidor. (Same as: CINE 2270)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2019.

GSWS 2282 (c, ESD) Gender, Sexuality, and Schooling
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Schools are sites where young people learn to do gender and sexuality through direct instruction, the hidden curriculum, and peer-to-peer learning. In schools, gender and sexuality are challenged, constrained, constructed, normalized, and performed. Explores instructional and curricular reforms that have attempted to address students and teachers sexual identities and behavior. Examines the effects of gender and sexual identity on students’ experience of school, their academic achievement, and the work of teaching. Topics may include compulsory heterosexuality in the curriculum, the gender of the good student and good teacher, sex ed in an age of abstinence. (Same as: EDUC 2212)

Prerequisites: EDUC 1101 or GLS 2001 or GWS 1101 or GSWS 1101.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2017.

GSWS 2283 (c, ESD) Interracial Narratives
Guy Mark Foster.

Violence and interracial sex have long been conjoined in U.S. literary, televisual, and filmic work. The enduring nature of this conjoining suggests there is some symbolic logic at work in these narratives, such that black/white intimacy functions as a figural stand-in for negative (and sometimes positive) commentary on black/white social conflict. When this happens, what becomes of “sex” as a historically changing phenomenon when it is yoked to the historically unchanging phenomenon of the “interracial”? Although counter-narratives have recently emerged to compete with such symbolic portrayals, i.e. romance novels, popular films and television shows, not all of these works have displaced this earlier figural logic; in some cases, this logic has merely been updated. Explores the broader cultural implications of both types of narratives. Possible authors/texts: Richard Wright, Chester Himes, Ann Petry, Lillian Smith, Jack Kerouac, Frantz Fanon, Kara Walker, Amiri Baraka, Alice Walker, Octavia Butler, John R. Gordon, Kim McLarin, Monster’s Ball, Far From Heaven, and Sex and the City. (Same as: ENGL 2653, AFRS 2653)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2016.

GSWS 2289 (c, IP) Construction of Goddess and Deification of Women in Hindu Tradition
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Focuses include an examination of the manner in which the power of the feminine has been expressed mythologically and theoretically in Hinduism; how various categories of goddesses can be seen or not as the forms of the “great goddess”; and how Hindu women have been deified, a process that implicates the relationship between the goddess and women. Readings may include primary sources, biographies and myths of deified women, and recent scholarship on goddesses and deified women. (Same as: ASNS 2501, REL 2289)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2016.

GSWS 2292 (c, ESD, IP) Gods, Goddesses, and Gurus: Gender and Power in South Asian Religions
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Examines representations of gender, divinity, and power in cosmology, mythology, literature, and society in Hinduism and esoteric tantric traditions. Delving into India’s philosophical tradition, we discuss prak#ti, the feminine principle or nature, and the male or pure spirit, puru#a. We analyze issues of authority and gender in Sanskrit epics, the Rāmāyana and the Mahābhārata, as they are retold in vernacular languages, songs, and animated films. We learn how Kāli, the most militant goddess in the Devī Māhātmyam, serves in the cause of nationalist politics and how she is “sweetened” and democratized over time. The course culminates in a role-playing game “A virtuous woman? The Abolition of Sati in India, 1829,” which uses an innovative methodology called reacting to the past (RTTP). In RTTP, students research and articulate opinions of historical players through in-character writing and speaking assignments, learning to express themselves with clarity, precision, and force. (Same as: REL 2280, ASNS 2740)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2019.
GSWS 2294 (c) Issues in Hip-Hop II
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Traces the history of hip-hop culture (with a focus on rap music) from the 1990s to the present day. Explores how ideas of race, gender, class, and sexuality are constructed and maintained in hip-hop's production, promotion, and consumption, and how these constructions have changed and/or coalesced over time. Investigates hip-hop as a global phenomenon and the strategies and practices of hip-hop artists outside of the United States. Artists investigated range from Iggy Azalea to Jay-Z, Miz Korona to Ibn Thabit. (Same as: MUS 2294, AFRS 2294)

Prerequisites: MUS 1292 (same as AFRS 1592 and GWS 1592).

Previous terms offered: Spring 2019, Fall 2015.

GSWS 2300 Religion and Ecofeminism in India and Sri Lanka
Every Other Fall. Enrollment limit: 35. 1.5 Credit

Focuses on environmental predicaments faced by disadvantaged people (especially rural women and the agrarian and tribal poor) in contemporary India and Sri Lanka. Students read and discuss case studies that illustrate how various Hindu and Buddhist religious concepts, as well as various political discourses about nationhood, have been deployed by various actors (government, business, political organizations, environmental activists, and the disadvantaged themselves) in order to legitimate or critique the exploitation and alienation of natural resources (rivers, forests, and farm lands). Students write three short essays aimed at gaining an understanding of how issues germane to environmental degradation, economic development, and eco-feminism are understood specifically within contemporary South Asian social, cultural, and political contexts. This one-half credit course meets from September 2 thru October 26. (Same as: ASNS 2651, ENV 2451, REL 2284)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2017.

GSWS 2315 (c, IP) Love, Sex, and Desire in Russian Literature and Culture
Reed Johnson.

Russian culture is rich with depictions of the fundamental human experiences of love, sex, and desire. And while these depictions have often been subject to various forms of censorship, they have just as often served as expressions of dissent against rigid social, political, and artistic norms. This course explores the ideological and aesthetic significance of such themes as romance, lust, yearning, sexual violence, adultery, prostitution, religious passion, poetic inspiration, unrequited love, celibacy, gender identity, sexuality, masturbation, pornography, body image, sexual frustration, castration, and witchcraft in Russian literature and the arts from medieval times to the present day. Not only do the works studied inscribe “difference” on the bodies of their subjects, but Russia also functions as a social “other” against which students examine their own cultural assumptions. Authors may include Avvakum, Bulgakov, Chekhov, Dostoevsky, Gogol, Nabokov, Pushkin, Tolstoy, Tssetaeva, Turgenev, and Zamyatin. Taught in English. (Same as: RUS 2315)

GSWS 2345 (b, IP) Carnival and Control: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in Brazil
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Every year, Brazilians pour onto the street to celebrate carnival, with its festive traditions of gender ambiguity, sexual libertinism, and inversion of social hierarchies. Questions how this image of diversity and freedom is squared with Brazil's practices of social control: high rates of economic inequality and police violence, as well as limited reproductive rights. Using carnival and control as frameworks, examines how contemporary Brazilian society articulates gender roles and sexual identities, as well as racial and class hierarchies. While course content focuses on Brazil, topics addressed are relevant to students seeking to understand how institutions of intimacy, propriety, and power are worked out through interpersonal relations. (Same as: ANTH 2345, LAS 2345)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2017.

GSWS 2355 (c, IP) The Buddhist Tradition and Women
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Explores and explains the position of women in Buddhist canonical texts and women in Buddhist society. Analysis and discussion focuses on the complex “separate interdependence” between the family on the one hand, and the life of the renouncer on the other. This tension lies at the heart of the Buddhist position on women. Special attention given to selected narratives of women encountering the Buddha: Patacara and Kisagotami, the two women in deep sorrow from loss in the family, and Maha-Pajapati, the first fully ordained nun in Buddhism. Considers implications for the economic roles, access to education, and religious freedom for women in contemporary (Thai) Buddhist society. (Same as: REL 2287, ASNS 2760)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2017.

GSWS 2410 (c, ESD, VPA) Post-Soviet Russian Cinema
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Newly freed from censorship, Russian filmmakers in the quarter-century between 1990 and 2015 created compelling portraits of a society in transition. Their films reassess traumatic periods in Soviet history; grapple with formerly taboo social problems such as alcoholism, anti-Semitism, and sexual violence; explore the breakdown of the Soviet system; and critique the darker aspects of today's Russia, often through the lens of gender or sexuality—specifically addressing subjects such as machismo, absent fathers, rape, cross-dressing, and birthing. Central are the rapid evolution of post-Soviet Russian society, the emergence of new types of social differences and disparities and the reinvention of old ones, and the changing nature of social roles within the post-Soviet social fabric. Taught in English. (Same as: RUS 2410, CINE 2602)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2019, Spring 2017.
GSWS 2426 (c) The Horror Film in Context
Aviva Briefel.

Examines the genre of the horror film in a range of cultural, theoretical, and literary contexts. Considers the ways in which horror films represent violence, fear, and paranoia; their creation of identity categories; their intersection with contemporary politics; and their participation in such major literary and cinematic genres as the gothic, comedy, and family drama. Texts may include works by Craven, Cronenberg, De Palma, Freud, Hitchcock, Kristeva, Kubrick, Poe, Romero, and Shelley. Note: Fulfills the film theory requirement for Cinema Studies minors. (Same as: ENGL 2426, CINE 2426)

Prerequisites: ENGL 1000 - 1049 or ENGL 1100 - 1999 or FILM 1101 or FILM 2201 or FILM 2202 or GWS 1000 - 1049 or GWS 1100 - 1999 or CINE 1101 or CINE 2201 or CINE 2202.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2017, Fall 2015.

GSWS 2450 (c, ESD, IP) Sex, Scandal, and Celebrity in Early Modern Europe
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Seminar. Uses major scandals and cults of celebrity to illuminate the cultural history of early modern Europe. Questions include: What behaviors were acceptable in private but inexcusable in public? Why are people fascinated by scandals and celebrities, and how have those categories evolved over time? How have the politics of personal reputation changed with the rise of new media and new political cultures? Topics include gossip, urban spaces, gender, sex, crime, and religion. Uses a variety of materials, such as cartoons, newspaper articles, trial transcripts, memoirs, and novels, to explore the many meanings of scandal in early modern Europe, especially France and England. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: Europe. It also fulfills the pre-modern requirement for history majors and minors. (Same as: HIST 2540)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2019.

GSWS 2454 (c) The Modern Novel
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

A study of the modern impulse in the novel genre in English. Considers origins of the modern novel and developments such as modernism, postmodernism, realism, formalism, impressionism, the rise of short fiction. Focuses on individual or groups of authors and takes into account theories of the novel, narrative theory, critical contexts. Topics shift and may include Philip Roth, Henry Roth, Virginia Woolf, James Joyce, Rebecca West, Dorothy Richardson, Lorrie Moore, Ford Madox Ford, J. M. Coetzee, W. G. Sebald, F. Scott Fitzgerald, John Bunville, Ian Watt, Peter Brook, and Franco Moretti. (Same as: ENGL 2454)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2016.

GSWS 2504 (c, ESD) American Queen: Drag in Contemporary Art and Performance
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 18.

Explores the intersection of queer subcultures and contemporary artistic production. Also considers what constitutes drag culture, including cross-dressing, hyper-stylized language (guuuuuuuurrrl), and performative gestures (e.g., snapping, teeth-sucking, and eye-cutting). Emphasizes how drag links different kinds of explorations of self in a range of artistic mediums, alternately evoking gendered violence, humor, and transformative possibility. (Same as: THTR 2504)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2016.

GSWS 2505 (c, ESD, VPA) Geographies of the Sexiness: Dance and Politics of (Dis)Respectability Across the Americas
Every Spring. Enrollment limit: 16.

Dance—an art form whose medium is the body—and ethnography—the study of people and their cultures—are great tools for addressing some of the ways different dancing bodies have been historically policed for “dancing sex(y).” Other tools, such as critical dance and black theories, in addition to queer and feminist approaches, will also be utilized to comprehend the uneven ways these bodies are further racialized, sexualized, and gendered within the Americas. In particular, students will learn about various dances (such as the Brazilian samba to the Cuban rumba, Jamaican Dancehall, and the Trinidadian wine) through readings, lectures, and actual in-studio dancing. Ultimately, the intention here is to understand dancing as both a meaning-making activity and a way of understanding the world. In turn, it is an important lens for critically thinking, talking, researching, and writing about politics of identity (especially regarding nationality, gender, race, and sexuality). (Same as: DANC 2505, AFRS 2292)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2019.

GSWS 2548 (c) American Wilderness
Samia Rahimtoola.

Examines changing American attitudes towards the environment through the specific lens of wilderness literature from first encounters with the American wilderness by European colonists to the current period, which some scientists call the sixth mass extinction. Topics include the mastery of nature; myths of natural plenitude and natural scarcity; the relationship of wilderness to nature and civilization; race, gender, and wilderness; and the end of nature. Devotes attention to queer, feminist, and of color interventions, from the outright rejection of wilderness to transformative possibility. (Same as: THTR 2504)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2016.
GSWS 2600 (b, IP) Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary Eastern Europe
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Seminar. Examines the current scholarship on gender and sexuality in modern Eastern Europe: the countries of the former Soviet Union, the successor states of Yugoslavia, Poland, Hungary, Romania, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Bulgaria, and Albania. Focusing on research produced by academics based in the region, examines the dialogue and interchange of ideas between East and West, and how knowledge about the region is dialectically produced by both Western feminists and East European gender studies scholars. Topics include the women question before 1989; nationalism, fertility, and population decline; patterns and expectations for family formation; the politics of EU gender mainstreaming; visual representations in television and film; social movements; work; romance and intimacy; spirituality; and the status of academic gender studies in the region.

Prerequisites: GSWS 1101.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2017.

GSWS 2601 (c) History of Women’s Voices in America
Sarah McMahon.
Every Other Year. Spring 2020. Enrollment limit: 16.

Seminar. Examines women’s voices in America from 1650 to the twentieth century, as these emerged in private letters, journals, and autobiographies; poetry, short stories, and novels; essays, addresses, and prescriptive literature. Readings from the secondary literature provide a historical framework for examining women’s writings. Research projects focus on the form and content of women’s literature and the ways that it illuminates women’s understandings, reactions, and responses to their historical situation. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: United States. (Same as: HIST 2609)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2017.

GSWS 2602 (c) Science and Art of the Sex Photograph
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Intermediate seminar. Explores the way in which late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century scientific uses of the photograph to configure sexuality and gender were adjusted by modern visual arts and literary photographs (prose works using photographs and/or photographic techniques to construct character). Texts considered: scientific studies by Francis Galton, Magnus Hirschfeld, and Alfred Kinsey; contemporary theory of photography by Roland Barthes, Pierre Bourdieu, and Susan Sontag; photography by André Kertész, Man Ray, Claude Cahun, and Cindy Sherman; film by Michelangelo Antonioni (“Blowup”); prose works by Virginia Woolf (“Orlando”), W.G. Sebald (“The Emigrants”), Claude Cahun (“Disavowals”). (Same as: ENGL 2011)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2017, Fall 2015.

GSWS 2605 (c, IP) Gendered Bodies: Toward a Women’s Art in Contemporary China
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

Introduces students to an emerging subject that has yet to receive much attention from art critics or from scholars. Taking the body, especially the female body, as a discursive subject and visual medium, examines how women artists, through their artistic innovations and visual representations, search for forms of self-expression characterized by female aesthetics and perspectives. Included among topics covered are personal experience and history, sexuality and the gaze, pain and memory, and landscape aesthetics and the body. Examines how different visual media—such as painting, photography, installation, performance art, and video work—play a role in the development of women’s art in contemporary China. (Same as: ASNS 2074)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2016.

GSWS 2606 (b) Radical Politics, Radical Families
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Seminar. Women’s emancipation and sexual freedom were common themes among utopian socialists, anarchists, and other radical left communities in the United States and Europe in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Sexual equality was also a bedrock principle of “scientific socialist” and communist societies throughout the twentieth century. Explores how a variety of communalist ideologies re-imagined the shape of the family and the gender relations between men and women. Examines the theoretical foundations and practical implications of sexual equality through a detailed history of a wide variety of ideological movements, including Owenism, anarchism, utopian socialism, scientific socialism, and “really-existing” socialism in the twentieth century. Special attention paid to the ongoing tensions between theory and practice.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2016.

GSWS 2610 (b) Sex and State Power
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Seminar. Examines sexual politics of the law, policing, public health, and state surveillance and explores feminist and queer responses to the relationship between sex and power from a variety of disciplines and traditions. Focuses on two major trends in the regulation of sex in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries: (1) how policy making has shifted from defining sexual morality to managing populations, and (2) the reinvigorated politics of the family as governments scale back their social welfare programs. Additional topics may include reproductive rights, sex work, marriage, hate crimes, surveillance, militarism, and prisons. Students learn main trends in the politics of sexuality and conduct a research project on the topic of their choice. (Same as: ANTH 2610)

Previous terms offered: Fall 2018, Fall 2016.
GSWS 2651 (c, ESD) Queer Race
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 35.

How does the concept of queerness signify in cultural texts that are ostensibly about the struggle for racial equality? And vice versa, how does the concept of racialization signify in cultural texts that are ostensibly about the struggle for LGBT recognition and justice? While some of this work tends to reduce queer to traditional sexual minorities like lesbigay and trans folk while downplaying racial considerations, others tend to limit the category race to people of color like blacks while downplaying questions about sexuality. Such critical and creative gestures often place queer and race in opposition rather than as intersecting phenomena. Students examine the theoretical and cultural assumptions of such gestures, and their implications, through close readings of selected works in both the LGBT and African American literary traditions. (Same as: ENGL 2651, AFRS 2651)

Prerequisites: ENGL 1000 - 1049 or ENGL 1100 - 1999 or AFRS 1000 - 1049 or AFRS 1100 - 1999 or GLS 1000 - 1999 or GLS 1100 - 1999.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2018.

GSWS 2660 (c) Romantic Sexualities
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Intermediate seminar. Investigates constructions of sexuality in English romantic writing, especially tales of seduction by supernatural or demonic figures; the sexualized world of the Gothic; the Byronic hero; lyrical depictions of incest; the yearning for an erotized muse or goddess; and same-sex desire in travel writing, diaries, and realist fiction. Discusses the place of such writing in the history of normative and non-normative sexual identities, repression, the unconscious, and the sublime. Authors may include Burke, Lewis, Mary Shelley, Byron, Wollstonecraft, Lister, Austen, Coleridge, and Keats, with further readings in queer theory and the history of sexuality. (Same as: ENGL 2014)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2019.

GSWS 2701 (b, ESD) Muslim Women: Contemporary Challenges and Activism
Shenila Khoja-Moolji.

Explores contemporary debates on gender and sexuality in Islam. Begins with an examination of gender and sexuality in the Quran to understand how these ideas have been taken up in the past and present to produce and maintain gender hierarchies. At the same time, it also centers contemporary challenges posed to these hierarchies. To do so, we pay particular attention to Muslim women's activism by centering ethnographic studies from Muslim-majority as well as diasporic contexts. A major thrust of the course is studying the lifeworlds of Shia Muslim women (a minority interpretive community within Islam). Seminar-style course.

Prerequisites: GSWS 1101.

GSWS 2745 (c, IP) The Tigress' Snare: Gender, Yoga, and Monasticism in South and Southeast Asia
Christine Marrewa.

There is no dearth of stories regarding the dangers of women and sexuality for Hindu, Buddhist, Jain, and Nath yogis and ascetics. Texts after texts written on ancient, classical, and early modern Asian monasticism point to the evil of women and the dangers they pose to those attempting to live monastic lives. Women, however, have historically been and continue to be involved in these religious traditions. This class will examine the highly gendered worldview found within South and Southeast Asian yogic and monastic texts. Primarily reading Hindu, Nath yogi, Jain, and Buddhist canonical teachings, the class will discuss the manner in which women have historically been viewed within these religious traditions. It will then shift to look at the manner in which women have been and continue to take part in these communities in their everyday life. Through the use of both academic readings and multimedia texts, the class will examine how women navigate their roles within these male-dominated communities, their reasons for joining these communities, and the differences that exist for women within the different monastic and yogic communities. (Same as: ASNS 2745, REL 2745)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2019.

GSWS 3015 (c) James Baldwin
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 15.

Examines the major postwar writings of the controversial African American author and the role his fiction and nonfiction played in challenging that era's static understandings of racial, gender, and sexual politics. Although Baldwin lived abroad for much of his life, many critics associate the author narrowly with the United States black civil rights and sexual liberation struggles. In recent years, however, Baldwin has increasingly been recognized as a transnational figure and for his invaluable contributions to the discourse of globalization. Indeed, Baldwin's "geographical imagination," one informed by critical racial literacy, led him to anticipate many of the central insights of contemporary Queer Studies, Whiteness Studies, as well as Africana philosophical thought. (Same as: ENGL 3015, AFRS 3015)

Prerequisites: ENGL 2000 - 2969 or AFRS 2000 - 2969 or GLS 2000 - 2969 or GLS 2000 - 2969 or GSWS 2000 - 2969.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2017.

GSWS 3103 (c) Gender, Sexuality, and Popular Music
Every Other Year. Enrollment limit: 15.

Employs gender as a theoretical tool to investigate the production, consumption, and representation of popular music in the United States and around the world. Examines how gender and racial codes have been used historically, for example to describe music as “authentic” (rap, rock) or “commercial” (pop, new wave), and at how these codes may have traveled, changed, or reappeared in new guises over the decades. Considers how gender and sexuality are inscribed at every level of popular music as well as how music-makers and consumers have manipulated these representations to transgress normative codes and open up new spaces in popular culture for a range of sexual and gender expressions. Juniors and seniors only; sophomores admitted with consent of the instructor during the add/drop period. (Same as: MUS 3103)

Previous terms offered: Spring 2018, Spring 2016.
GSWS 3211 (c) Bringing the Female Maroon to Memory: Female Marronage and Douboutism in French Caribbean Literature  
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

History has retained the names of great male Caribbean heroes and freedom fighters during slavery such as the Haitians, Mackandal or Toussaint Louverture, the Jamaican, Cudjoe or the Cuban Coba. Enslaved Africans who rebelled against oppression and fled from the plantation system are called maroons and their act, marronage. Except for Queen Nanny of the Jamaican Blue Mountains, only male names have been consecrated as maroons. Yet, enslaved women did fight against slavery and practiced marronage. Caribbean writers have made a point of bringing to memory forgotten acts of marronage by women during slavery or shortly thereafter. Proposes to examine the fictional treatment French-speaking Caribbean authors grant to African or Afro-descent women who historically rebelled against slavery and colonization. Literary works studied against the backdrop of douboutism, a conceptual framework derived from the common perception about women in the French Caribbean which means strong woman. Authors studied may include Suzanne Dracius (Martinique), Fabienne Kanor (Martinique), André Schwartz-Bart (Guadeloupe), Maryse Condé (Guadeloupe), Evelyn Trouillot (Haiti). Conducted in French. (Same as: FRS 3211, AFRS 3211, LAS 3211)

Prerequisites: Two of: either FRS 2409 (same as AFRS 2409 and LAS 2209) or FRS 2410 (same as AFRS 2412 and LAS 2210) or FRS 3000 or higher and either FRS 2409 (same as AFRS 2409 and LAS 2209) or FRS 2410 (same as AFRS 2412 and LAS 2210) or FRS 3000 or higher.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2016.

GSWS 3230 (c) Colonial Seductions in Spanish America  
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Studies how divergent European and indigenous conceptions of marriage, sex, and sin shaped the colonization of the Spanish Americas during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. A variety of conquest histories, epics, and plays by authors like Hernán Cortés, Titu Cusi Ypanqui, and Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz are read alongside theoretical texts on the study of gender, sexuality, and colonialism. Through historical and literary analyses, considers how Europeans and indigenous subjects understood, imposed, and violated sexual norms. Conducted in Spanish. (Same as: HISP 3230, LAS 3230)

Prerequisites: SPAN 2409 (same as LAS 2409) or SPAN 3200 or higher or SPAN 2410 (same as LAS 2410) or HISP 2409 (same as LAS 2409) or HISP 2410 (same as LAS 2410) or HISP 3200 or higher.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2016.

GSWS 3231 (c, IP) Sor Juana and María de Zayas: Early Modern Feminisms  
Every Other Year. Enrollment limit: 16.

Did feminism exist in the early modern period? Examines key women authors from the early Hispanic World, considering the representation of gender, sexuality, race, and identity in distinct political and social contexts. Focuses on Mexican author Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz (1651-1695) and Spanish author María de Zayas (1590-1661), alongside other prominent women writers from the period. Students read short stories, essays, poems, and personal letters. Conducted in Spanish. (Same as: HISP 3231, LAS 3231)

Prerequisites: HISP 2409 (same as LAS 2409) or HISP 2410 (same as LAS 2410).

Previous terms offered: Spring 2019.

GSWS 3301 (b) Doing Gender Studies: Race, Gender, and the Franchise  
Jennifer Scanlon.


Capstone seminar. Gender, race, and sexuality are constructed in social relations and lived experience. This course marks the anniversaries of two critical amendments to the United States Constitution, the Fifteenth and Nineteenth Amendments, ratified in 1870 and 1920 and designed to prohibit the use of race and then sex to deny American citizens the franchise. Through a range of scholarly approaches, and through an intersectional lens, we will consider how gender and race have been understood, claimed, and lived in American history and culture.

Prerequisites: Two of: either GSWS 2001 or GSWS 2201 and GSWS 1101.


GSWS 3302 (b) The Economics of the Family  
Rachel Connelly.


Seminar. Microeconomic analysis of the family, gender roles, and related institutions. Topics include marriage, fertility, married women’s labor supply, divorce, and the family as an economic organization. (Same as: ECON 3531)

Prerequisites: Two of: ECON 2555 and ECON 2557.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2017, Spring 2016.

GSWS 3310 (c) Gay and Lesbian Cinema  
Tricia Welsch.


Considers both mainstream and independent films made by or about gay men and lesbians. Four intensive special topics each semester, which may include classic Hollywood stereotypes and euphemisms; the power of the box office; coming of age and coming out; the social problem film; key figures; writing history through film; queer theory and queer aesthetics; revelation and revaluations of film over time; autobiography and documentary; the AIDS imperative. Writing intensive; attendance at evening film screenings is required. Note: Fulfills the film theory requirement for cinema studies minors. (Same as: CINE 3310)

Prerequisites: CINE 1000 or higher.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2016.
GSWS 3320 (c) Victorian Epics
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.
Advanced seminar. Examines one of the foremost literary forms of the Victorian period: the long novel. By focusing on a few central texts, investigates the ways in which narrative length shapes stories about wide-ranging issues related to nationalism, science, technology, and empire, as well as allegedly local issues regarding domesticity, familial relations, personal adornment, and romance. Authors may include Charles Dickens, George Eliot, William Thackeray, and Anthony Trollope. (Same as: ENGL 3024)
Prerequisites: ENGL 1000 - 1049 or ENGL 1100 - 2969 or ENGL 3000 (same as GSWS 3000) or higher.
Previous terms offered: Spring 2018.

GSWS 3323 (c) Voices of Women, Voices of the People
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.
Focuses on texts written by women from French-speaking West African, Central African, and Caribbean countries. Themes treated -- woman and/ in colonization and slavery, memory, alienation, womanhood, individual and collective identity, gender relationships, women and tradition, women and modernism -- are approached from historical, anthropological, political, sociological, and gender perspectives. Readings by Tanella Boni (Côte d’ivoire), Marie-Léontine Tsibinda (Congo-Brazzaville), Maryse Condé (Guadeloupe), Fabienne Kanor (Martinique), Marie-Célie Agnant (Haiti). (Same as: FRS 3201, AFRS 3201, LAS 3222)
Prerequisites: Two of: either FRS 2409 (same as AFRS 2409 and LAS 2209) or FRS 2410 (same as AFRS 2412 and LAS 2210) or FRS 3000 or higher and either FRS 2409 (same as AFRS 2409 and LAS 2209) or FRS 2410 (same as AFRS 2412 and LAS 2210) or FRS 3000 or higher.
Previous terms offered: Fall 2017.

GSWS 3326 (c) A Body "of One's Own": Latina and Caribbean Women Writers
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.
What kind of stories do bodies tell or conceal? How are those stories affected by living in a gendered body/subject? How do embodied stories relate to history and social realities? These are some of the questions addressed in this study of contemporary writing by women from the Hispanic Caribbean and the United States Latina/Chicana communities. Films and popular culture dialogue with literary works and feminist theory to enhance the examination of the relation of bodies and sexuality to social power, and the role of this relation in the shaping of both personal and national identities. Authors include Julia Álvarez, Fanny Buitrago, Judith Ortiz Cofer, Magali García Ramis, and Mayra Santos-Febres, among others. Taught in Spanish with readings in Spanish and English. (Same as: HISP 3226, LAS 3226)
Prerequisites: Two of: either HISP 2409 (same as LAS 2409) or HISP 2410 (same as LAS 2410) or HISP 3200 or higher and either HISP 2409 (same as LAS 2409) or HISP 2410 (same as LAS 2410) or HISP 3200 or higher.
Previous terms offered: Fall 2017.

GSWS 3350 (c, ESD) Desire and Difference: Exploring Gender, Sexuality, and Race in Ancient and Medieval Art
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 12.
Gender, sexuality, race, and other aspects of identity have come to play a huge role in our public and private lives, and these same issues can be key to understanding how people lived and understood their lives in the past. Through in-class discussion and individual research projects, students in this seminar examine intersections of these concerns with the visual arts produced in the ancient Mediterranean region and medieval Europe (c. 500 BCE – c. 1500 CE), gaining a deeper and richer understanding of how people in the past described themselves and their lives and made sense of individual identities. Specific topics covered will include representations of women and minorities, the roles played by women as makers and patrons of art, and the usefulness of modern categories of sexuality and gender in the context of ancient and medieval art. (Same as: ARTH 3350)
Prerequisites: ARTH 1100 or Placement in above ARTH 1100 or ARTH 2000 - 2969 or GSWS 1000 - 2969 or GSWS 3000 or higher.
Previous terms offered: Spring 2019.

GSWS 3900 (c, IP, VPA) Women, Performance, and Activism in the Americas
Explores when, why, and how women organize collectively to challenge political, economic, and social injustice in the late twentieth century. This course investigates how civil rights and labor movements, the rise and fall of dictatorships, and neoliberalism impacted and continues to impact female cultural production and activism in the Americas. In our investigation, we will turn to the intersection between art and activism as we look at a wide range of artistic practices, from literature and film to site-specific performance art and interventionist art. Throughout the semester, we will revisit the following questions as we consider the development of female activism in the Americas: 1) what is the relationship between feminism and activism, 2) can literature and performance be placed at the service of activism, and 3) how does looking at the Americas as a whole enable us to better understand the shared injustices across the North/South divide? (Same as: LAS 3900)