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COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

FALL 2017



Introduction to Gender and Women's Studies

GWS 207

This interdisciplinary course introduces students to the field of gender and women's studies. The course will enable students to understand how gender impacts their everyday lives, social institutions, and cultural practices both locally and globally. Additionally, students will examine the significance and meaning of one's gender identity in different historical periods, the history of feminist movements, and transnational perspectives on feminism. Students will also discuss how gender intersects with other identities such as socio-economic class, race, ethnicity, sexuality, age, geography, and generational location. Lastly, students will examine and critique cultural representations and claims about women and gender identities. *Gen Ed.*

Professor Jamie Wagman

TR 11:00-12:15

Feminist Theory

GWS 350

This course teaches a broad range of feminist theoretical approaches, including black feminist thought and critical race feminism, intersectionality, standpoint theory, queer theory, and transnational feminist theory. Prerequisite: GWS 207.

Professor Karie Cross

MW 11:00-12:15

Independent Study

GWS 497

Many faculty members are willing to direct independent study projects. Students interested should speak first to the Gender and Women's Studies faculty member who will guide the project, then contact Professor Stacy Davis to formalize the proposal and ensure proper registration.

Internship

GWS 499

Practical off-campus experience in a Gender and Women's Studies related field at an approved site. Jointly supervised by a faculty member and a representative from the sponsoring agency. Open to junior or senior majors or minors who have taken at least two Gender and Women's Studies courses. Must be approved by Professor Davis. Graded S/U. May be repeated for up to three hours. A reflection paper appropriate to the nature of the internship will be required.

Topics: Water, Culture, and Sustainability

ANTH 392

In the midst of global climate change, environmental crises surrounding water resources, and the concomitant national and international conflicts over water, humans all around the world are coming to grips with our complete dependence on water. Indeed, as the source of life, water is deeply imbricated in our understanding of the past, present, and future of human life on earth. This course investigates our long-term engagement with water through cultural ecology, environmental history, visual, literary and ethnographic sources. We will explore the flow of cultural meanings of water as well as political contestation over water resources globally. And, paying particular attention to the gendered engagements and aspects of sustainability, we will cross the world through case studies of rivers, lakes, oceans and urban water infrastructures as they connect life on this planet. And in these case studies – of Los Angeles, California, Detroit, Michigan, Lake Titicaca, Peru, the Bay of Bengal, Bali, Indonesia, the Mekong, Vietnam, Yunnan, China, and the Murray-Darling Basin, Australia – we will examine connections and disconnections among social movements focused on sustainability.

Professor Laura Elder

TR 12:30-1:45

Public Communication

COMM 369

As a gender and women's studies course, we will be considering the numerous interconnections between gender and communication. We live our gender both through and within our communication. As gendered beings, when we communicate our gender influences how we communicate and how what we communicate is received. In addition to examining the role of gender in our communication, we will also consider how race, socioeconomic class, and sexuality work in connection with our gender to enable and constrain our communicative attempts. Through our work within a service agency specifically working with women, we will be able to come to a greater understanding of the ways that these social constructs play out in individual lives and impact identity.

Professor Terri Russ

TR 5:00-6:15

Romantic Era Feminism

ENLT 332

Women writers of the romantic era did not call themselves "feminists," but their vindication of the rights of woman inspired all subsequent "waves." Responding to parallel political demands for democratic government and the abolition of slavery, Romantic women authors began a movement that – despite obstacles and backlashes – blazed a steady trail into the present day. We will begin by reading Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* to situate educated, Romantic era, Englishwomen in their time and place. Our central focus will be the life and work of Mary Wollstonecraft, whose career exemplifies persistent tensions between "sense" and "sensitivity" in feminist discourse and feminine experience. We will also read her contemporaries for a wide range of perspectives on women's issues. The good news that good men side with feminists against patriarchal oppression will be demonstrated by William Godwin and John Stuart Mill, among others.

Professor Laura Haigwood

TR 11:00-12:15

**Women of Genius
ENLT 255**

At the turn of the 20th century, talented women of every description were fighting to have a voice: in politics, in society, in marriage; over their education, their bodies, and their economic destiny. How that struggle worked its way into the fiction and drama of the era (roughly 1880 to 1920) is the focus of this course. A recurring motif is the woman of great natural abilities – someone with a “genius” for this or that calling – who attempts, against steep odds, to win a public audience for her talents, whether from the lectern, the stage, the pulpit, or print. Prerequisite: Completion of the Basic Writing Proficiency Requirement.

**Professor Thomas Bonnell
MWF 1:00-1:50**

**Postcolonial Women's Writing
ENLT 366**

In this course we will examine examples of women's literature from Africa, South Asia, and the Caribbean written after the end of British colonialism. These texts engage with the complicated histories of colonization and independence from which they emerge, reflecting the cultural, geo-political, religious, social, and economic contexts that inform the term “postcolonial.” Because we are focusing on women's writing, we will pay special attention to how these texts contribute to an understanding of feminism that challenges Western perceptions of what that term suggests. Therefore, throughout our readings we will consider the various ways in which empire and postcolonial nationalism gave rise to a non-Western understanding of feminism and sexuality studies.

**Professor Ann Marie Alfonso Short
TR 2:00-3:15**

**History of Sexuality in the U.S.
HIST 333**

This class will examine histories of sexuality, race, politics and power in the United States. Students will study themes such as histories of courtship and marriage, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender histories, histories of the body, and histories of contraception, reproduction and prostitution. We will discuss the varied debates that have shaped our national understanding of sexuality, and our use of texts, primary sources, fiction and nonfiction will help familiarize students with the process of historical interpretation and also help them gain a deeper understanding of the United States today. Our discussions will draw on critical race theory and feminist theory, and the course will enhance students' critical writing and speaking skills.

**Professor Jamie Schmidt Wagman
TR 9:30-10:45**

**Philosophy of Gender
PHIL 233**

An investigation of how gender construction has influenced how philosophy has been done and received historically, exploring how past and present thinkers view reality, knowledge and the good through the lens of gender identity (and the intersections of gender and other identities, including race, class and sexuality). There are no prerequisites for this course.

**Professor Megan Zwart
TR 9:30-10:45**

**Psychology of Adult Development and Aging
PSYC 302**

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the psychological development of adulthood, with a primary focus on personality, gender roles, and social development from late adolescence through mature adulthood/aging. One goal is to explore the psychological theories of adult development as they address the stages and processes contributing to psychological growth across the life cycle. A second goal is to examine commonalities and differences in the developmental life cycle of men and women as well as cultural meanings given to them. We will explore the psychological and/or social basis for the differences, as well as the sociocultural (e.g. ethnicity/race/social class/sexual orientation) effects on men's and women's development. A third and important women's studies goal is for you to develop a more informed awareness of the personal growth issues you are experiencing now and those that you will likely experience in the years to come.

**Staff
TR 2:00-3:15**

We will use Erikson's psychosocial theory as the organizing structure for this course, and include Jungian theory as we explore the psychological changes and issues that emerge in mid-life. We will also examine critiques of the “Stage and Change theories of Adult Development,” particularly in the context of women's lives. Beginning with an overview of central issues in adult development, we will proceed chronologically through the major life stages. Our study of theories of adult development will be enhanced by reading the personal journeys described by the authors of the books we're reading, and by keeping a journal of your responses to and reflections on the readings and class discussions. We will also use the Ramsay and Sweet book of exercises to explore other means of self-reflection.

**Becoming Women: Religion, Sex and Gender
RLST 362**

This course examines Christian theological positions about women and sexuality as these positions have functioned in history and have affected Church teaching on the role of women in society. It uses interdisciplinary, interfaith discussions to highlight the importance of constructive theological reflection on contemporary issues facing women.

**Professor Phyllis Kaminski
TR 9:30-10:45**

Sociology of Families
SOC 257

In this course, we will consider the various forms of families and their relationships to their social environments. For example, we will examine historical trends, economic pressures, and the impact of public policies. We will also consider life within families as we examine gender, childrearing, household labor, divorce, and family violence. Finally, we will always examine the ways in which family life varies because of gender, cultural differences, class position, race, and sexualities.

Professor Mary Ann Kanieski
MW 3:00-4:15

Social Stratification
SOC 360

This course will identify and investigate the following topics: general principles of stratification, theoretical explanations by which inequality emerges and is maintained, the relationship between class and other forms of inequality in the United States especially gender, race, and social hierarchy changes over time. Particular attention is given to the role of women in various socioeconomic locations. Prerequisites: SOC 153 or a 200 level SOC course or GWS 207.

Professor Henry Borne
TR 12:30-1:45

Sexuality/Intimacy/Relationship
SW 341

This course is designed to provide students with an opportunity to examine human sexuality and intimacy within a lifespan, relational context. Students will address these topics through knowledge of the biological, social, spiritual, and psychological aspects of relationships, sexuality, and intimacy. We will also explore populations-at-risk—namely, those who are experiencing issues with intimacy, sexuality, and relationships. Perspectives from feminist literature will be used to strengthen the analysis. Psychosocial issues are emphasized

Section 01: Professor Anne Drake
R 6:00-8:30
Section 02: Professor Brandyn Blosser
W 6:00-8:30



The Gender and Women’s Studies Department

The Saint Mary’s College Gender and Women’s Studies department encourages students to analyze and analyze women’s lives and constructions and performativities of genders. The department applies an inclusive and interdisciplinary approach to the study of women, gender identities, and sexualities. It is guided by feminist activism and feminist theoretical insight into different forms of power, inequality, and privilege. Students investigate the intersectionalities of gender, race, class, sexualities, and other identity categories from historical and contemporary transnational perspectives. The Gender and Women’s Studies department embodies a commitment to women in all their diversities and reflects our conviction that women must actively define themselves and create knowledge.

Students who major or minor in Gender and Women’s Studies enroll both in courses housed in the program and in courses offered in other disciplines. A major or a minor supports career choices in human services, activism and advocacy, education, law and public policy, business, and other fields calling for social and historical awareness, critical thinking, and engagement with social and cultural diversity.

Faculty who teach in Gender and Women’s Studies represent the departments throughout the College. They share a commitment to helping students in our women’s college develop the skills to interpret and to analyze systems of oppression and ultimately to work toward a more just society.

The Gender and Women’s Studies Major

As an interdisciplinary field, Gender and Women’s Studies gives students a framework within which to analyze different academic areas, subjects, and interests. The major consists of 25-28 hours, including:

Introduction to Gender and Women’s Studies (GWS 207)

GWS 350: Feminist Theory

GWS 360: Feminist Methods

5-6 additional courses in the following content areas: The Gendered Body; Intersectionalities of Gender, Race, Class, Sexuality; and, Transnational Perspectives on Gender

For more information, or to discuss the possibilities, feel free to approach any Gender and Women’s Studies faculty member or contact Prof. Phyllis Kaminski (ext. 4702, 88 Spes Unica, kaminski@saintmarys.edu).

Requirements for the Gender and Women’s Studies Minor

The minor consists of a minimum of 14 hours (5 courses), including:

Introduction to Gender and Women’s Studies (GWS 207)

Feminist Theory (GWS 207)

One course in each of the following content areas: The Gendered Body; Intersectionalities of Gender, Race, Class, Sexuality; and, Transnational Perspectives on Gender

A listing of courses in their categories can be found in the bulletin.

Why Minor or Major in Gender and Women’s Studies?

Gender and Women’s Studies students gain awareness of their own abilities, a keen sense of justice, and a self assurance that enables them to act reflectively in the world. Gender and Women’s Studies leads students to raise questions about equity and fairness and to develop the self assurance which leads them to act constructively to improve community life. Because Gender and Women’s Studies students have learned to see what is invisible to many others, they have unusually positive impacts on the societies in which they live.

If I focus on Gender and Women’s Studies in college, what can I do after college?

Gender and Women’s Studies students apply their knowledge and understanding in a diversity of fields. A minor or major in Gender and Women’s Studies supports career choices in human services, education, public policy, business, and other fields calling for social and historical awareness, critical thinking, and engagement with human diversity. Many graduates work for justice within society in service-oriented fields; still others apply their knowledge in the corporate world. Gender and Women’s Studies minors have also entered graduate school in Law, Cultural Studies, English, Sociology, French, Philosophy, Psychology, and Theology.

