

Gender & Women's Studies

SPRING 2014 COURSES

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 Schmidt Wagman
MW 11:00-12:15**

Introduction to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Studies GWS 220

This course will provide an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) studies. We will explore the historical, sociological, cultural, psychological, political, literary, artistic, and philosophical foundations of LGBTQ studies. We will study the emergence and transformation of LGBTQ identities, cultural practices, and political movements within the broader context of changes in social constructions of sexuality, as well as cultural, social, political, and economic transformations. Throughout the course, we will pay particular attention to the ways in which gender, race, ethnicity, and class have shaped same-sex sexuality in different historical periods, with an emphasis on the United States. The aim of this course is to consider not only how individuals experience same-sex sexuality or transgress gender norms, but also how same-sex sexuality leads people to form communities and social movements. We will investigate the ways different cultural conditions sanction—in both senses, to restrict or make possible—the development of sexual identities and differences in order to understand the construction of gender and sexuality in society at large.

**Professor Susan Alexander
TR 3:30-4:45**

Transnational Feminisms GWS 333 / POSC 333

In this course, we will discuss feminist analyses of gender, colonialism, and economic globalization. The first part of this course will consider a variety of feminist theoretical perspectives on the gendered, classed, and racialized dynamics of colonialism and globalization. Next, we will examine the particularities of women's lives globally and their different histories and social histories. Finally, we will look at some of the feminist transnational activism and mobilization around issues of conflict, environment, capitalism, and labor. Some of the questions we will consider are: How does globalization impacted existing (gender) inequalities? How does globalization trouble the "North-South" divide? What political, social, and economic ramifications does the outsourcing of reproductive labor have? THEORY

**Professor Sonalini Sapra
MW 3:00-4:15**

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 SDMs or Gender and Women's Studies 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.

History and Criticism of Public Address
COMM 302

Professor Michael Kramer
MW 3:00-4:15

This course is an introduction to rhetoric, rhetorical criticism, and public address studies. We will study, in a critical and analytical way, how public communicators (journalists, politicians, activists, celebrities and other public figures) use language and images to influence society. Every day, these communicators attempt to shape and reshape the meaning of people, events, issues, and ideas in society in order to influence our perceptions and beliefs about the world. The ability to better understand and critically analyze public communication is important because of the potential impact of such widely-distributed and widely-consumed discourse. The course pays particular attention to the rhetorical acts of women, including the speeches of 19th and early 20th century women's rights activists and the method of feminist rhetorical criticism.

Female Beauty
COMM 420

Professor Terri Russ
TR 12:30-1:45

This course will examine the cultural expectations and standards of female beauty as embodied and enacted through various discourses including: cultural, media, interpersonal, and intrapersonal. Through studying the ways that female beauty is communicated through these discourses, students will come to a greater understanding of their own experiences of female beauty and formulate ways to move beyond and resist the dominant norms of beauty. The material will be approached from a feminist, critical perspective with theoretical readings from communication studies, feminist theory, and cultural studies, amongst other areas. Prerequisite: Jr. status or permission of instructor. THEORY

Masculinities in U.S. Media
COMM 490

Professor Helen Ho
TR 3:30-4:45

This course serves as a broad introduction to masculinities and theories of masculinity, providing you with the opportunity to research a topic related to masculinity or masculinities in depth. We will discuss how masculinity is understood, defined, and socially constructed. By thinking through various representations of manhood as they appear in magazines, films, television shows, and advertising, we will consider how "manliness" is produced, articulated, enforced, and subverted, particularly as concepts of masculinity intersect with other identities like race and sexuality.

*THEORY pending CC approval

Caribbean Women's Literature
ENLT 331

Professor Ann Marie Alfonso-Forero
TR 12:30-1:45

The readings, class discussions, and assignments in this literature seminar will be informed by critical discourses on the intersection of feminist, queer, and postcolonial theory in Caribbean literary studies. The region's colonial history – and the violent oppression and connected to that history – produced institutions and movements that deeply affected and continue to affect the lives of Caribbean women. Throughout the semester we will examine the manner in which their literature represents sexual violence and the ideological appropriation of the female body, sexuality and gender identity, and patriarchy and gender roles. In particular, we will consider how the thematic recurrence of these issues across the texts is related to the social, political, economic, cultural, and ethnic conflicts endemic to colonization and its aftermath.

*pending CC approval

History of Women in the U.S.
HIST 324

Professor Jamie Schmidt Wagman
TR 12:30-1:45

A study of how race, class, and gender come together to shape the identities of American women from Colonial times to the present.

Spanish Women Writers
MLSP 424

The course will involve the reading, analysis and interpretation of novels, short stories, poems, essays and dramas by Spanish women writers of the twentieth century. Through this analysis, students will explore the changing status of women in Spain over the course of the twentieth century and examine issues of personal identity, changing gender roles and literary movements. Another extremely important objective of the course is to explore the feminine or feminist discourse of the chosen texts and, in so doing, to examine the impact of feminist literary theory and Spanish feminism on Spanish women's writing.

Professor Jennifer Zachman
TR 2:00-3:15

Introduction to Feminist Philosophy
PHIL 243

This course is an inquiry into the meaning of gender and its philosophical implications. Questions of identity, knowledge, ethics, race, and global responsibility will be considered both from historical and contemporary perspectives. Feminism is both an intellectual commitment and a social and political movement that seeks justice for women. We will be studying feminism from a theoretical background and examine the philosophical and intellectual commitments that underlie feminist projects. The first part of the course centers around what feminist theory is. The course will then move into investigating theories of gender difference and ways of conceiving female (and male) identity. We will then examine feminist critiques of moral, social, and political philosophy. Throughout the course, we will examine how feminist philosophy and inquiry is motivated by the quest for social justice. THEORY

Professor Adrienne Lyles-Chockley
MWF 11:00-11:50

Gender and Politics
POSC 365

This course will investigate the role of sex and gender in political life in the United States. We will examine the experience of women as citizens, elites, and policymakers in our political system and how gender roles make a difference. We will then seek to understand factors that affect women's participation in each of these arenas as well as how women's participation *changes* politics at each level. THEORY

Professor Patrick Pierce
TR 2:00-3:15

Stereotyping and Prejudice
PSYC 438

This course will examine issues of stereotyping and prejudice from a social psychological perspective. Using a mix of quantitative journal articles, novels, and films, students will identify and explore why people stereotype, how prejudices form, the effects of prejudice, how to combat stereotypes, and how members of disadvantaged groups can psychologically protect themselves against the negative effects of stigma. Students should have an understanding of social psychology or have taken a course in research methods. Prerequisite: PSYC 337 or permission of the instructor.

Professor Lindsay Kraynak
TR 9:30-10:45

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 JoAnn Burke
W 4:00-6:30
Section 02: Staff
T 6:00-8:30

Sociology of Families
SOC 257.01 & .02

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
TR 9:30-10:45 & 3:30-4:45



The Program in Gender and Women's Studies

The Saint Mary's College program in Gender and Women's Studies encourages students to analyze and analyze women's lives and constructions and performativities of genders. The program 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 program embodies a commitment to women in all their diversities and reflects our conviction that women must actively define themselves and create knowledge.

Students who minor in Gender and Women's Studies or develop a Student Designed major enroll both in courses housed in the program and in courses offered in other disciplines. An SDM 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.

Student Designed Major

Gender and Women's Studies is an ideal focus for a student-designed major because it is an inherently interdisciplinary field. Yet the fundamental assumption of Gender and Women's Studies—that gender is a critical category, an intellectual tool for analysis and understanding—also provides a framework within which to organize specific interests.

If you are interested in pursuing the Student Designed major, you must declare your intentions by early in the spring semester of your sophomore year and submit a proposal which you will have prepared with the help and advice of a faculty sponsor. The Coordinator can provide you with guidelines for coursework in Gender and Women's Studies, as well as sample proposals from previous student-designed majors. For more information, or to discuss the possibilities, feel free to approach any Gender and Women's Studies faculty member or contact Prof. Stacy Davis (ext. 4700, 164 Spes Unica, sdavis@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)

One course in feminist theory (such courses are noted on this brochure with "THEORY" after the description)

Three additional courses, no more than one in any one department with the exception of Gender and Women's Studies (GWS)

Why Minor in Gender and Women's Studies?

Gender and Women's Studies minors 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 minors apply their knowledge and understanding in a diversity of fields. A minor or major in 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.

