

WGS Undergraduate Courses Spring 2015

WSGS 203 / THEO 202: Christianity and Violence (Service Learning)

TR 1:40-2:55 p.m. (E. Vasko)

The course examines the research, writings, and experiences of women and men in the Christian tradition. Particular attention will be paid to religious justifications for violence and discrimination; and the role that theology and faith communities have played in both condoning and resisting such violence in the US. As such, the material for this course sits at the intersection of theology and ethics. One of the primary intellectual challenges of this course is for students to develop an understanding that violence is often culturally constructed, condoned, and sometimes even supported. A good portion of our efforts in the class will be placed on untangling the ways in which race, class, gender, and imperialism work together to perpetrate violence against marginalized persons and communities. Such an investigation necessitates a careful consideration of the dynamics of power and privilege operative in society, which is accompanied by a critical awareness of our own place within the existing racial, economic, gender, and ethnic hierarchy in the United States.

**We will be partnering with the organization Women Against Abusive Relationships during the Spring Semester.

***Note this course also fulfills the SJ theme area requirement

WSGS 207 / ENGL 201 (02): Literature for Children and Young Adults

MWF 10:00-10:50 a.m. (J. McCort)

This course will introduce students to literature written for and read by children and young adults. We will study the history of each genre's development and examine the outstanding characteristics of foundational and popular texts. Throughout the course, students will be asked to engage in critical thinking, analytical reading, and discussion. The reading list will include selections from Grimm's and Andersen's fairy tales, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking-Glass, The Wizard of Oz, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Briar Rose, Coraline, and The Hunger Games, as well as selections from the Norton Anthology of Children's Literature. We will focus extensively on gender roles, gender politics, and the formation of gendered identities throughout the course of the semester.

WSGS 220W / CLSX 220W: The Ancient Novel

TR 1:40-2:55 p.m. (S. Miller)

An exploration of Greek and Roman novels written between the 1st and 3rd centuries CE. In this course, we examine the features of the genre, its cultural context, and its recurring themes of romance and adventure. We focus largely on

representations of love, sex, the body, and physical suffering in order to analyze how Greek and Roman prose fiction fashioned femininity and masculinity, heteroerotic and homoerotic love, pederasty, class, and race. Among the novels we read are: *Ephesian Tale* (Xenophon of Ephesus), *Leucippe and Clitophon* (Achilles Tatius), *An Ethiopian Romance* (Heliodorus), *Daphnis and Chloe* (Longus), *Satyricon* (Petronius) and *The Golden Ass* (Apuleius).

WSGS 364 / HIST 364: History of Sexuality in the United States

TR 12:15-1:30 p.m. (E. Parsons)

This course will explore the history of how people in the United States identified themselves sexually and engaged in sexual behavior from the early nineteenth century to the end of the twentieth century. We will focus on representations of sexuality in popular texts ranging from sensational fiction to sermons, from advice manuals to advertisements and twentieth-century sex-ed films. We will consider issues such as the emergence of a gay identity in the late nineteenth century, changes in reproductive technologies, sexual violence, prostitution, male and female body ideals, marriage, courtship and dating culture, and many other related topics.

WSGS 448W / ENGL 449W (02): Black Autobiography

MWF 12:00-12:50 p.m. (K. Glass)

Examining black autobiography from the eighteenth century to the present, this course examines the vibrant tradition of African American storytelling. Students will read slave narratives, as well as post-Emancipation and contemporary works. Tracing the evolution of the autobiographical genre, the course highlights writings by Frederick Douglass, Harriet Jacobs, Maya Angelou, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, President Barak Obama, and many others.

WSGS 453 / PSYC 453: Psychology of Gender

T 6:00-8:40 p.m. (J. Arroyo)

In this course we will explore what it might mean to be a woman, a man, or something in between or outside of those possibilities. We will consider gender from a variety of vantage points, including those of biology, culture, race, psychoanalysis, psychopathology, and mythology. Goals for the course include rich conversation about the varieties of our gendered world and the further development of our individual perspectives on what it means to be a gendered subjectivity.

WGS Graduate Courses Spring 2015

WSGS 501 / HIST 501 (01): Medieval Europe

W 6:00-8:40 p.m. (J. Parsons)

A lecture and discussion course examining the unique characteristics of the Early, High, and Late Middle Ages, with a special focus on social history and the lives of medieval people, from 300 to 1500. We will concentrate on the history of women. Women of course made up half of the population of medieval Europe though, as is the case in most pre-modern societies, their presence in the historical record is not nearly in that proportion. Nevertheless, they played a vital role at all levels of society, and scholars have been able to reconstruct a great deal of their experience from the sources available. Aside from the inherent importance of the subject, studying medieval women's history provides an overview of what is probably the most active and innovative subfield in medieval history, and offers examples of many of the most important and up-to-date methodologies in the field. Over the first half of the course, we will generally alternate between general surveys of the course of medieval history and examination of specialized monographs on issues in women's history. The second half of the course will be devoted to case studies and the analysis of primary sources in women's history.

WSGS 505 / PLCR 505 (01): Values, Ethics, and Policy

M 6:00-8:40 p.m. (M. McIntyre)

What is a good public policy? This simple, often asked question already implies the central role ethics play in policy making. This course examines that role in light of the distinctive value structure that arises from the beliefs and institutions of American liberal democracy.

WSGS 529 / ENGL 692 (01): Drama and Material Culture

1660-1830

M 6:00-8:40 p.m. (L. Engel)

Fans, gloves, patches, swords, muffs, china, feathers, and wigs, these are just some of the things represented in the theater of the long eighteenth century. This course will take a close look at the intersections between performance, gender, and material culture from 1660-1830. Considering texts (plays, memoirs, letters, pamphlet, periodicals), images (portraits, drawings, caricatures) and material artifacts (costumes, furniture, accessories), we will explore the complex relationship between things and subjects. The course will pay particular attention to the ways in which objects and accessories relate to the creation and materialization of gendered identities and constructions of sexuality during this period. We will read current scholarship on eighteenth-century consumerism, celebrity, fashion, and theater history as well as essays on performance theory, "thing" theory, gender theory, and the analysis of material and visual culture. Authors may include: Aphra Behn, William Wycherley, George Etherege, John Gay, Richard Brinsley Sheridan, Hannah Cowley, Frances Burney, and Joanna Baillie.

WSGS 543 / LAWS C543 (61): Employment Discrimination

T 6:00-8:40 p.m. (R. Kitchen)

This course is specifically concerned with discrimination in employment and will focus on various federal statutes that prohibit discrimination in employment. We will study employment discrimination through cases and scholarly materials.

WSGS 549 / ENGL 549-61 / ENGL 649-61: 19th Century

American Literature

W 6:00-8:40 p.m. (T. Kinnahan)

The course will offer a survey of major American novels and short fiction from the nineteenth century, with particular attention to literary constructions of masculinity and femininity. Possible texts include *Last of the Mohicans*, James Fenimore Cooper [1826], *Hope Leslie*, Catherine Maria Sedgwick [1827], *Moby Dick*, Herman Melville [1851], *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, Harriet Beecher Stowe [1851-2], *The Story of Avis*, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps [1877], *Daisy Miller*, Henry James [1878], *Huck Finn*, Mark Twain [1885], and *Iola Leroy*, Francis Harper [1893], along with assorted short fiction by Nathaniel Hawthorne, Kate Chopin, Jack London, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, and others.