

WGS Undergraduate Courses Fall 2017

WSGS 100 / ARHS 100: Understanding Art

MWF: 10:00 - 10:50 a.m. (C. Lorenz)

This course offers students from all backgrounds an entrance point to the history of art and contemporary art practice. The founding principle of this class is that art is a social phenomenon that evolved by consensus, and we can best understand art works by positioning them in social context. We pay particular attention to the work of women artists from the Renaissance to the present. We'll consider social and cultural factors that limited women's participation in the art world over time, and read writings from the generation that brought women's work into the mainstream of art history--including essays by Linda Nochlin and Martha Rosler. We will also look at how gender influences contemporary art practices by examining the work and social context of selected artists in greater depth. **This course fulfills the University Core Curriculum Theme Area of CREATIVE ARTS.**

WSGS 142 / THEO 142 (05): THEOLOGICAL VIEWS OF THE PERSON

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

A study of theology through an investigation of the question: "What does it mean to be human?" Students engage this question in relationship to self, others, the world, and the Divine, with attention to Christian and other views. In particular, this class will explore the ways in which the Christian tradition has named sin and grace, the implications of this naming in view of various forms of embodiment: ability, gender/sexuality, and race/ethnicity. We will begin with a historical overview of traditional source material and move into contemporary texts. Please note: this is not your ordinary lecture-based class. We will use a mix of lecture, discussion, in-class activity, and community engagement.

WSGS 202 / AFST 202: Women and Christianity

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

This course provides a survey of the Old and New Testament views of women and a history of the status of women in the Roman Catholic and Major Protestant traditions with emphasis on the contemporary role and spirituality of women in Christianity. The course will examine attitudes about gender and perspectives on women as influenced by the Judeo-Christian religious tradition, major Christian theologians, Christian mystics, and women who have made important contributions to the Christian tradition or have been instrumental in transformations that promote the full dignity of women and men. **This course fulfills the University Core Curriculum Theme Area of SOCIAL JUSTICE.**

WSGS 210 / SOCI 210: Sociology of Sex and Gender

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

This course will explore the domain of sexual identity, the concomitant notion of the social construction of gender, and the concept of deviance. While our point of departure is distinctively sociological, we will attempt to examine the issues in a broader context. Consequently, we will be drawing from diverse fields such as philosophy, cultural studies, anthropology, psychology, literature, and popular culture. The readings will focus on power, addressing the conditions under which the gender system intersects with other factors to create various kinds of power and powerlessness. We will analyze contemporary films for what they can tell us about the popular conceptions of sex and gender identities, relations, and constructions. The readings will also address how people empower themselves, both personally and collectively. We will have numerous guest speakers, and although it will be a standard lecture course, active student participation will be highly encouraged.

WSGS 225 / SOCI 225: Family Systems

MWF 12:00 - 12:50 p.m. (Z. Ahmed)

A study of the family institution and its interaction with other community institutions.

WSGS 322W / ENGL 322W: Global Literature

MWF 11:00 - 11:50 am (E. Mirmotahari)

The question "Is world literature an inventory and survey of foreign/non-domestic literatures?" will be answered in the negative in this course. Instead, we will explore world literature as a set of active critical practices that call attention to the way we categorize literary texts and the assumptions that inform that categorization. This course will emphasize the idea of world literature and its development through the various scholarly debates and relationships that have shaped it. These include world literature's relationship to translation, "ethnic"/minority literatures, immigration, the "culture wars" (debates over canons), as well as colonialism and globalization. Literary texts are chosen to facilitate and highlight these relationships and conversations. Readings include Dinaw Mengestu's *The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears*, Moacyr Scliar's *The Centaur in the Garden*, Salman Rushdie's *East, West*, Alejo Carpentier's *The Kingdom of This World*, and Kamau Braithwaite's poetry trilogy *The Arrivants*. **This course fulfills the University Core Theme Area of GLOBAL DIVERSITY and SOCIAL JUSTICE.**

WSGS 353 / PSYC 353: Psychology of Gender

MW 3:00 - 4:15 pm (S. Barnard)

In Psychology of Gender, we elaborate critical theoretical perspectives on gender toward understanding how gendered conditions affect psychological life, forms of

embodiment and sociocultural experiences. We read psychological, philosophical, and literary texts, as well as screening and interpreting film and video. Our focus includes understanding gender in contexts of contemporary pop culture, including music, films, news reporting, television and web culture. Goals for the course include deeply engaged conversation about the rich complexities of our gendered world and increasingly nuanced development of our individual perspectives on what it means to be a gendered subjectivity.

WSGS 401W / HIST 401W: Medieval Europe

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

An exploration of the elements which, taken together, comprise the culture of the Middle Ages.

WSGS 421 / JMA 421: Sex, Myth, and Media

TR 4:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. (M. Patterson)

This course will examine the role of mass media in reinforcing or challenging common cultural definitions of masculinity and femininity and power relationships between the sexes. In analyzing various mass media--including print, television, Internet publishing, electronic games, and film--we will apply gender theory and connect these artifacts to their historical moment. Students' own experiences, insights, questions, and ideas are a key part of this course. Throughout the term, we will consider not only what is in terms of gender roles, but also what might be.

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WSGS 501 / HIST 501: Medieval Europe

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

An exploration of the elements which, taken together, comprise the culture of the Middle Ages.

WSGS 521 / JMA 521: Sex Myth and Media

TR 4:30 - 5:45 p.m. (M. Patterson)

This course will examine the role of mass media in reinforcing or challenging common cultural definitions of masculinity and femininity and power relationships between the sexes. In analyzing various mass media--including print, television, Internet publishing, electronic games, and film--we will apply gender theory and connect these artifacts to their historical moment. Students' own experiences, insights, questions, and ideas are a key part of this course. Throughout the term, we will consider not only what is in terms of gender roles, but also what might be.

WSGS 568 / ENGL 568: Feminist Theory

MW 4:25 - 5:40 p.m. (M. Michael)

This course will introduce students to feminist methodologies and offer students an opportunity to explore how these methodologies might be useful to the reading and analysis of literary texts and other cultural products. The course will begin with a brief historical survey of primarily Anglo-American feminist thought since the Enlightenment and trace various strains or traditions such as cultural, Marxist, Existential, Freudian, and radical feminisms. The early feminist texts will establish the historical and intellectual context within which second wave and then third wave feminist theory has been produced. Although this particular course will focus on Anglo-American feminist theory, some attention will be given to French feminist theory since it has had a great impact on all feminist theory, and attention to the recent surge of Postcolonial feminist theory will emphasize the complexity and plurality of feminist theorizing when placed in a more global perspective. Essays published during the last fifty years will be organized around major issues in contemporary feminism. Class meetings will be spent discussing critical/theoretical essays, seminar style, and will require active intellectual engagement and exchange among all participants. Students will be given the opportunity to write a final paper that is informed by feminist theories within the context of their particular field of interest.

WSGS 571 / ENGL 571: Contemporary American and British Poetry

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

This course will trace how poetry in America, Britain, Ireland, and Scotland insists upon exploring intersections of racial, gender, and class identity, especially within socio-cultural contexts of nation and concepts of national identity. How does race become formulated within post-colonial migrations that shape a Black British presence? How do poets write out and in response to the Civil Rights movement and America's history of slavery? How is "woman" rethought in the face of second-wave feminism and queer liberation? How do categories of gender undergo pressure from post-WWII social changes in Anglo-American locations? How do the dimensions of class in Britain, America, or Ireland involve ideas of masculinity, especially in the face of diminished production economies? How does poetry of the 1950s and beyond grapple with issues of sexuality and its intersections with class, race, and nation? We will read clusters of poets whose cross-Atlantic dialogues (real or imagined) insist upon these questions and the cultural work that poetry does in grappling with them. Poets under consideration include: (Americans) Natasha Trethewey, Audre Lorde, Adrienne Rich, Mark Nowak, Frank O'Hara; (British) Carol Ann Duffy, Tony Harrison, Grace Nichols; (N. Irish) Ciarin Carson; (Irish) Eavan Boland; (Scottish) Jackie Kay; (Welsh) Gillian Clarke. The shaping impact of gender and ideas about gender will weave through the entire set of readings, while focusing on intersectionality of race, class, nation, and gender. Particular attention will be paid to how operations of language, structures of national authority (such as politics, history, education, and community), and intersections of the private and political constitute sites for examining these intersectionalities. In addition to readings of poetry and prose works by individual poets dealing directly with these issues, we will also draw upon a critical mass of feminist scholarship developed in the past 25 years in the

field of poetry studies, including critics and poet-criticas such as Rachel Blau DuPlessis, Romana Huk, Lynn Keller, Lisa Sewell, Claudia Rankine, and Evie Shockley.