Fall 2019 Course Descriptions
Undergraduate

WSGS142/UCOR142 Theol Views of the Person
MWF 12, MWF 1:00 (E. Vasko)

Focusing on the question "What does it mean to be human?" this course explores the relationship between gender, theology, and personhood. Students engage this question in relationship to self, others, the world, and the Divine, with attention to Christian and other views. More specifically, the class considers the ways that the Christian tradition has named sin and grace, and the implications of this naming in view of various forms of embodiment: gender/sexuality, ability, and race/ethnicity. Core Theology.

WSGS 200/Engl 204 Gender and Social Justice T/Th 10:50-12:05 (E. Speese)
This course will examine the interdisciplinary field of Women’s and Gender Studies, paying particular attention to the construction of gender both in the past and in our contemporary moment. We will examine the ways social justice is intimately tied to discussions of gender, and our focus will be in tracing the historical and cultural narratives that eventually produced the concept of intersectionality. We will be particularly attuned to discussing the ways gender intersects with other identities, like race, class, sexuality, and ability. We will trace the development of Women’s Studies by examining texts associated with the three waves of the women’s movement as well as work from the 21st century. Ultimately, this course will study multiple viewpoints related to gender as well as its many intersections and ask students to thoughtfully engage these topics with both empathy and open-mindedness. This course will include works by Lucretia Mott, Sojourner Truth, Sarah Grimké, Margaret Sanger, Pauli Murray, Simone de Beauvoir, Fannie Lou Hamer, Gloria Steinem, Angela Davis, bell hooks, Kimberlé Crenshaw, Roxane Gay, Malala Yousafzai, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, and many others.

Total cap 30: 25 seats for Engl, 5 seats for WGS (Theme area: Social justice)
WSGS 210-01/SOCI 210 Sociology of Sex and Gender T/Th 9:25-10:40 (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 225-01/SOCI 225 Family Systems MWF 12:00-12:50 (TBA/Ahmed)
A study of the family institution and its interaction with other community institutions.

WSGS 322/ENGL 322/WDLI 324/AFST 322 Global Literature Survey T/Th 9:25-10:40 (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, Moacy Scliar's The Centaur in the Garden, Salmon 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 351/THEO 351 Sexuality, Sex, and Morality T/Th 9:25-10:40 (E. Cochran)
WSGS 353/PSYC 353 15421 Psych of Gender (Staff) MW 3:00-4:15 (Time subject to change)
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 popular 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.

WGS 421/MDIA 421 Sex, Myth, and Media T/Th 4:30-5:45 (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 424/POSC 424 Women, Minorities and Politics MWF 2:00-2:50 (K. Coopie)
Examines the political socialization and behavior of women and minorities in the U.S

WSGS 418W/Engl 428W Slave Narratives MWF 11-11:50 (K. Glass)
Navigating sentimental, antislavery, and abolitionist discourses, slave narratives highlight the dignity of African Americans and foreground their enduring cultural traditions. Calling for abolition in their narratives, blacks also mobilized this form to document extreme hardships and craft triumphant tales of freedom.

Using frameworks of race, class, and gender, students in this course will examine iterations of the slave narrative from 1845-1868. In particular, we will historicize early black autobiographies and examine their formal and sociopolitical concerns. Readings will include critical essays and primary texts by Frederick Douglass, Ellen and William Craft, Harriet Jacobs, Solomon Northup, Elizabeth Keckley, and many others. In this course, students will acquire a nuanced
understanding of African-American slave narratives and relevant black critical/theoretical traditions.

ENGL 434W-01 (17159) Feminist Theory TR 4:30-5:45
This course will introduce students to feminist methodologies, exploring how these methodologies might be useful to the analysis of literary texts and other forms of representation. We will consider developments in feminist theory from the 1960’s through the contemporary moment, beginning with foundational texts from Second Wave US feminism and French feminist theory. While mapping the relationship between different currents in feminist thought, we will also consider the ways that feminist theory has been shaped by the methods of Marxism, Freud, post-structuralism, cultural criticism, and radical feminisms. We will study the ways that feminist theory has served as a foundation for queer and trans theory, and we will also consider how feminist theory has worked to shape post-colonial theory. Readings for the class will be drawn from the work of Simone DeBeauvoir, Luce Irigaray, Hélène Cixous, Monique Wittig, bell hooks, Adrienne Rich, Audre Lorde, Donna Haraway, Chandra Mohanty, Gloria Anzaldua, Lauren Berlant and Sara Ahmed among others. Class meetings will be spent discussing critical/theoretical essays 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.

Graduate

WGS 521/MDIA521 Sex, Myth and Media T/Th 4:30-5:45 (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.

WGS 558/Engl 558 Documentary Poetics M 6:00-8:40 (L. Kinnahan)
Looking primarily at 20th century N. American poetry, along with 1930s photo-documentary books and the rise of documentary photography, this course will focus on the diverse approaches, materials, and forms through which poetry explores the concept of "documentary" and "witness."
We will lay a foundation for this focus through looking at poetry and photo-documentary books from the first half of the century and then move to the contemporary period
We will read works that challenge us to think about intersectional relations between gender, race, and class, and the interactions of written and visual forms of expression. In particular, the course will explore the following:

- Relationships between photography and poetry, as well as the relationship of visual culture, visual art, and poetry
- Uses of documents, documentary material, & archives
- Relationship of documentary approaches to social ideas about gender, race, class
- Poetic documentary stances of "witness" - to poverty & economic changes, social migrations, social movements (Civil Rights, Women's Movement, etc), and socio-historical contexts & narratives (capitalism & industry; N. American histories of marginal groups/voices such as women, African-Americans, and working class; media and the dominance of the image; and more).

Tentative texts include:

- You Have Seen Their Faces, Erskine Caldwell and Margaret Bourke White (photo-documentary book)
- Exodus, Dorothea Lange & Paul Taylor (photo-documentary book) (excerpts)
- Survey Graphic, early 20th-c. journal incorporating photography (excerpts)
- Selections of modernist poetry: William Carlos Williams, Mina Loy, Marianne Moore, Langston Hughes
- Muriel Rukeyser, The Book of the Dead
- Chris Llewelyn, Fragments from the Fire
- Mark Nowak, Shut Up Shut Down
- Claudia Rankine, Citizen
- N. Nourbese Philip, She Tries Her Tongue, Her Silence Softly Breaks (or Zong)
- Susan Howe, Singularities (or parts of it)
- Kevin Young, To Repel Ghosts
- Natashia Trethewey, Bellocq's Ophelia
- Pattie McCarthy, Marybones
- Rachel Blau DuPlessis, Graphic Novella

WSGS 568/Engl 568 Feminist Theory Tues/Th 4:30-5:45 (F. Barrett)

This course will introduce students to feminist methodologies, exploring how these methodologies might be useful to the analysis of literary texts and other forms of representation. We will consider developments in feminist theory from the 1960’s through the contemporary moment, beginning with foundational texts from Second Wave US feminism and French feminist theory. While mapping the relationship between different currents in feminist thought, we will also consider the ways that feminist theory has been shaped by the methods of Marxism, Freud, post-structuralism, cultural criticism, and radical feminisms. We will study the ways that feminist theory has served as a foundation for queer and trans theory, and we will also consider how feminist theory has worked to shape post-colonial theory. Readings for the class will be
drawn from the work of Simone DeBeauvoir, Luce Irigaray, Hélène Cixous, Monique Wittig, bell hooks, Adrienne Rich, Audre Lorde, Donna Haraway, Chandra Mohanty, Gloria Anzaldua, Lauren Berlant and Sara Ahmed among others. Class meetings will be spent discussing critical/theoretical essays 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.