Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Course Descriptions
Fall 2024
Undergraduate Courses*

**Course Number/Title:** 988:101:01, 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07, 08 – Introduction to Gender, Race, and Sexuality

**Instructor:** Britney Cooper

**Course Delivery:** Face-to-face

**Course Description:**

In this course, students consider and investigate the ways in which race, gender, and sexuality structure our social worlds and intimate lives. We will ask what it means to describe these categories as ‘socially constructed’ and consider the mechanisms through which they are produced and reproduced. At the same time, we will pay careful attention to the material ways in which power is organized and distributed through these categories. Assuming that these are no ‘natural’ categories, we will look at the work that goes into making them appear so and consider the ways in which their meanings and efficacy change over time – including reevaluating the value and pitfalls of using identity categories as analytical frameworks and organizing platforms.

Considering multiple perspectives and a variety of course materials for each topic enables the class community to create personal connections through an interdisciplinary approach. This course employs a wide variety of resources and materials including movies, documentaries, journalism, activist texts, academic and scholarly work, music, and social media.

**Course Number/Title:** 988:101:10, 11, 90, 91 – Introduction to Gender, Race, and Sexuality

**Instructor:** Heather Lewis

**Course Delivery:** Face-to-Face/Online Asynchronous

**Course Description:*** This course is an interdisciplinary introduction to key concepts, topics, and questions in the study of gender, race, and sexuality. The main goal of this course is to help students develop the critical thinking skills that will allow them to question and analyze the gender and race power dynamics that organize the world in which we live. The class will explore gender, sexuality, racialization, ethnicity, colonialism, class, and knowledge production, amongst other aspects of feminist inquiry, and how they construct one another and are intertwined in people’s lives. Students will have the opportunity to read, discuss, and write using theoretical, narrative, and experience-oriented texts, as well as audiovisual materials. Through this course, students will develop interdisciplinary analysis skills and feminist thinking tools useful for addressing knowledge produced in various disciplines, as well as contemporary issues, media, and cultural products that we encounter in our everyday lives.

**Learning Outcomes:**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:
· Identify and key issues in the study of gender, race, and sexuality.
· Explain key concepts for theorizing gender, race, and sexuality such as gender, social construction, and axis of difference.
· Apply key concepts to analyze cultural practices, representation, and media products.
· Research literature and media for materials relevant to the study of

**Course Number/Title:** 988:101:14 – Introduction to Gender, Race, and Sexuality  
**Instructor:** Kara Donaldson  
**Course Delivery:** Face-to-face

**Course Description:** The rallying cry of this section of Gender, Race, and Sexuality is: the binary is BS! Starting with the Enlightenment philosophy that led to the development of democracy to the feminist and civil rights movements of the 20th century to the self-promotion and divisive impact of social media, we look at how binary thinking structures the world we live in. The Enlightenment spread the concept of personhood to male householders, but it also reified women’s confinement in the private sphere. The concept of personhood gave enslaved people the language to claim equality while structuring laws around the “mythic norm” of the white middle-class man. Our examination of social movements and social trends follows the way these binaries structure and distribute power by constructing gender, racial categories, and sexual identities through philosophy, law, art, and popular culture from medieval paintings to today’s social media images. This class is a learning community that requires dedication and engaged participation through reading, writing, discussion, and attendance. Using the discussion function on Canvas, you will read and view videos and post comments to start the conversation with fellow students before class. In class, you will work in groups and present ideas to the class. Later in the semester, course readings are augmented by news articles you choose, analyze, and share with the class while developing the skills for completing the capstone project: a reflective essay on a current, pressing issue involving gender, race, and sexuality of your choice.

**Course Number/Title:** 988:101:92, 93, 94 – Introduction to Gender, Race, and Sexuality  
**Instructor:** Tiffany Marra  
**Course Delivery:** Online Asynchronous

**Course Description:** In this introductory course, you will learn about the ways gender, race, and sexuality come to have meaning in the world as social categories. We will interrogate these terms through a range of conceptual frameworks that emerge from the field of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Lessons will give particular attention to the meaning, purpose, and applications of feminist thought. This section will have a narrower focus on sexuality, how race and gender relate to it, and the way sexuality is informed by our experiences and social environment.

**Course Number/Title:** 988:101:95 – Introduction to Gender, Race, and Sexuality  
**Instructor:**  
**Course Delivery:** Online Asynchronous

**Course Description:**

**Course Number/Title:** 988:101:96 – Introduction to Gender, Race, and Sexuality: Global Perspectives
Instructor: Nehal Naser
Course Delivery: Online Asynchronous

Course Description: The story of feminist theory is often told through a focus on United States history. By now we may be familiar with the waves of feminism and recognize names like Susan B Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Betty Friedan. But while (and as we’ll see, before) all of this was transpiring in the US, how did feminist thought and activism develop in other parts of the world? What unique obstacles did women face in their struggles against sexism, racism, and heteropatriarchy? After covering foundational texts on race, gender, and sexuality, in this course we will focus on the work of Black, Indigenous, and SWANA feminists to examine the histories of feminist movements outside of the United States. Other topics include impact of white and imperial feminism frameworks, decolonization, and ecofeminism.

Course Number/Title: 988:101:97, 98 – Introduction to Gender, Race, and Sexuality
Instructor: Taida Wolfe
Course Delivery: Online Asynchronous

Course Description: In this introductory course, we will learn about the ways that gender, race, and sexuality interact, intersect and contribute to the social construction of identity. Using mediums such as film, mainstream and social media, literature, and scholarly texts, this course will explore the following themes: history of feminisms, feminisms of color, masculinities, queer theory, body and reproductive politics, systems of oppression and privilege, gender/work, and gendered violence. By the end of the semester, students will be better poised to address questions of difference and diversity outside of the classroom as critical thinkers.

Course Number/Title: 988:101:99 – Introduction to Gender, Race, and Sexuality
Instructor: Freeha Riaz
Course Delivery: Online Asynchronous

Course Description:

Course Number/Title: 01:988:101:9A – Introduction to Gender, Race, and Sexuality
Instructor: Camila Belliard Quiroga
Course Delivery: Online Asynchronous

Course Description:

Course Number/Title: 988:101:98 – Introduction to Gender, Race, and Sexuality
Instructor: Freeha Riaz
Course Delivery: Online Asynchronous

Course Description:

Course Number/Title: 988:101:9C – Introduction to Gender, Race, and Sexuality
Instructor: Itzel Corona Aguilar
Course Delivery: Online Asynchronous
Course Description:

Course Number/Title: 988:101:9D – Introduction to Gender, Race, and Sexuality  
Instructor: Al Valentin  
Course Delivery: Online Asynchronous

Course Description:

Course Number/Title: 988:101:9E – Introduction to Gender, Race, and Sexuality  
Instructor: Nainika Paul  
Course Delivery: Online Asynchronous

Course Description:  
This online course is meant to provide an introductory, fundamental analysis into theories, methodologies, and arguments that speak to ideas of “gender”, “race”, and “sexuality”. Students will be exposed to foundational works in the field of Women’s and Gender Studies; these works will focus on prevailing understandings of gender/race/sexuality, the proposed importance of each identity, and remaining questions in the discipline. Students will not only have opportunity to dissect structural frameworks of these concepts but will also be able to contribute personal experience and knowledge through individual and multi-modal projects situated under a critical pedagogy lens (Paulo Freire). Attention will be given to social categories and feminist theories including but not limited to— Black, Indigenous, queer, Critical-Disability theory, post-structural, post-colonial, Christian Enlightenment, Islamic feminism and Womanism. By the end of the course, students will be able to a) demonstrate an understanding of how identities and lived experiences shape broader culture and society and b) articulate the importance of diversity.

Course Number/Title: 01:988:200:01 – Gender, Digital Media, and Social Curation  
Instructor: Tiffany Marra  
Course Delivery: Face-to-Face

Course Description:

Course Number/Title: 01:988:201:02 – Feminist Practices  
Instructor: Ileana Nachescu  
Course Delivery: Face-to-Face

Course Description:  
What are feminist practices? How do feminists mobilize, create community, teach each other, and reach out to diverse constituencies? If the personal is political, how do we do things “otherwise,” so that as individuals and collectivities, we are transformed in struggle? What role can horizontal media forms, such as podcasting, play in the production and transmission of feminist knowledge? In this course, we will attempt to answer these questions by focusing on feminist activism both recent and contemporary, through readings, zines, and podcasts.

Course Number/Title: 01:988:202:01 – Gender, Culture, and Representation: Indigenous and decolonial feminisms  
Instructor: Evelyn Autry  
Course Delivery: Face-to-Face
Course Description: This course explores the close associations between decolonial and Indigenous feminisms and a wide range of issues, such as gender, sexuality, race, indigeneity, coloniality, and earth rights. In particular, the course presents literature, testimony, music, film, social media, and visual art as dynamic arenas of social struggle and possibility and aims to introduce students to some of the key Indigenous and non-Indigenous thinkers and critical frameworks in the field of feminist and cultural studies. The course examines how meaning is generated and mediated through various cultural practices, products, and archives and engages students in the analysis of a range of cultural texts that shed light not only on the colonial mechanisms behind the objectification of Indigenous peoples but also on how they resist colonial domination and work toward liberation, re-existence, and resurgence of knowledge from within. Finally, the course has an emphasis on contemporary experiences and representations of gender in the Americas, but will also bring in comparisons with other geographical and historical contexts.

Course Number/Title: 01:988:202:90 – Gender, Culture, and Representation
Instructor: Ayla McCullough
Course Delivery: Online Asynchronous

Course Description: Confronting losses that are both personal and political, this course examines representations of gender, race, class, kinship, and community through the prism of grief. We will discuss how film is often a cultural vehicle for individual and collective mourning, which may or may not lend itself to political transformation. Special attention will be given to colonial and postcolonial trauma.

Course Number/Title: 01:988:235 – Dynamics of Class, Race, and Sex
Instructor: Karla Jackson-Brewer
Course Delivery: Face-to-Face

Course Description:

Course Number/Title: 01:988:255:90, 91, 92 – Gender, Art, and Society
Instructor: Wendy Ritch
Course Delivery: Online Asynchronous

Course Description:

Course Number/Title: 01:988:257:90 & 91 – Gender and the Body: Representation and Pornography
Instructor: Molly Stinchfield
Course Delivery: Online Asynchronous

Course Description: We will consider how the body has been represented in art and visual culture, as well as in pornography. We’ll discuss definitions of each of these kinds of representations. To complicate ideas of objectivity in art and to examine the ways in which ideology functions through representation, we will utilize theories such as feminism, critical race theory, and queer theory. We’ll look at “gender and the body” in terms of the makers, subjects, and audiences of art and pornography. In other words, we’ll look at artistic intention in relation to representing the body and the ways ideas about gender, race, and sexuality have shaped depictions and interpretations. Many artists have considered and engaged pornography in different ways in their art and used pornography as a liberating force. Some
contemporary art has been regarded as pornographic because the artist incorporated the nude body or reference to bodily functions. In this course, we'll consider the range of ways the nude body and pornography exist in contemporary art. Although we'll focus primarily on contemporary feminist art and pornography (since 1970) made in the United States, we'll also examine the broader history of cultural conflict in U.S. America regarding the representation of certain types of bodies. We will also examine how other cultures have represented and understood the body and sexuality in art.

**Course Number/Title: 01:988:258:90 – Gender, Race, and Contemporary Art**  
**Instructor:** Jennifer Vilchez  
**Course Delivery:** Online Asynchronous

**Course Description:** By focusing on contemporary art and artists, we will learn tools and frameworks from across various disciplines for examining the relationship of race and gender in contemporary art and visual culture. Our dialogue will develop paradigms for approaching questions of gender and race that circulate within the work of Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, mixed-race, and migrant artists. We will also use our time together to think critically about our relationships with art and its relation to our own identities.

**Course Number/Title: 01:988:259:90 & 91 – Homosexuality & Visual Culture**  
**Instructor:** Molly Stinchfield  
**Course Delivery:** Online Asynchronous

**Course Description:** How has history been changed by queer artists? The canon of western art history has been marked by exclusion and restriction. Revisionist efforts have reclaimed previously overlooked artists played. Artistic representations and the historicization of them reveal the social, political, cultural, and economic forces that construct gender visually. This course will introduce you to the central role of homosexuality and homoeroticism in visual culture in the distant and recent past as well as the present. You’ll learn about the marginalization of homosexual artists and how, even when seemingly secret or invisible, they continued to participate directly in cultural production of art and popular culture. You’ll also learn about the ways artists, critics, and patrons remedy the neglect and overcome the censorship, as well as considering how the changing notions of language and the community have impact on their lives.

**Course Number/Title: 01:988:301 – Feminist Theory: Historical Perspectives**  
**Instructor:** Zakia Salime  
**Course Delivery:** Face-to-Face

**Course Description:**

**Course Number/Title: 01:988:302 – Feminist Theory: Contemporary Engagements**  
**Instructor:** Ileana Nachescu  
**Course Delivery:** Face-to-Face
Course Description: What is feminist theory? What does it mean to theorize? How can we think theoretically, from a feminist perspective, through the most pressing issues of our time? In this class we study a variety of feminist theorists who engage with contemporary topics, in an attempt to build a lexicon of feminist concepts that you are likely to encounter in your future studies and that are relevant to our understanding of our current world. While theoretical readings form the core of this course, we will engage with podcasts, zines, and videos as well. The semester project consists in either writing a theoretical paper or creating a podcast or a zine that explores a topic of your choice through a feminist theoretical lens.

Course Number/Title: 01:988:307 – Women and the Law  
Instructor: Diane Rizzo  
Course Delivery: Face-to-Face

Course Description:

Course Number/Title: 01:988:317 – Gender & Consumption  
Instructor: Jennifer Vilchez  
Course Delivery: Face-to-Face

Course Description:

Course Number/Title: 01:988:318 – The Gendered Body  
Instructor: Al Valentin  
Course Delivery: Face-to-Face

Course Description:

Course Number/Title: 01:988:331 – Theory, Sexuality, & Gender  
Instructor:  
Course Delivery: Face-to-Face

Course Description:

Course Number/Title: 01:988:408 – Gender, Economic Inequality & Health  
Instructor:  
Course Delivery: Face-to-Face

Course Description:

Course Number/Title: 01:988:410 – Debt, Crisis, & Women’s Health
Instructor:  
Course Delivery: Online Asynchronous

Course Description:

Course Number/Title: 01:988:414 – Care Work  
Instructor:  
Course Delivery: Online Asynchronous

Course Description:

Course Number/Title: 01:988:422:01 – Internship in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies  
Instructor: Ileana Nachescu  
Course Delivery: By Arrangement

Course Number/Title: 01:988:422:02 – Internship in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies  
Instructor: Sasha Taner  
Course Delivery: By Arrangement

Course Number/Title: 01:988:447 – Violence & Rights  
Instructor: Julie Rajan  
Course Delivery: Face-to-face

Course Description: This course focuses on the range of sexual- and gender-based violence (SGBV) executed against cis-gendered women and girls, and members of the LGBT+ movement globally through a human rights framework. These investigations are grounded in the global phenomenon known as The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign. The 16 days Campaign was initiated in 1991 by The Center for Women’s Global Leadership (CWGL) on Douglass Campus at Rutgers-New Brunswick to foster an international feminist movement led by civil society organizations (CSOs). Each year, those CSOs dedicate 16 days annually—from November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women through December 10, Human Rights Day—to address SGBV manifesting in their local/regional spaces.

To date, the Campaign is comprised of over 6,000 organizations in 185 countries, each addressing SGBV in their local/regional spaces through demonstrations and marches, exhibitions, digital activism, etc. While feminist organizations work independently to address SGBV specific to their local/regional spaces, their demonstrations collectively at the same time each year: underscore the wide range of SGBV present in societies globally; stress the degree to which SGBV is undermining the human security of heterosexual women and girls, and members of the LGBT+ community across variables of race, ethnicity, class, etc., in nations internationally; and highlight a resonance among the different forms of SGBV addressed by feminists internationally without detracting from their distinct nature and origins.

Since its inception, the 16 Days Campaign has established a collective space in which feminists addressing SGBV are networking to share/leverage resources and knowledge, and are collaborating strategically to advocate against SGBV. Together, 16 Days campaigns internationally have successfully drawn attention to the urgent need to discern, address, prevent, and eliminate SGBV from local through international levels. Its global influence is evidenced in UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon’s
establishment of the UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign in 2008. This UN-led campaign was initiated specifically to strengthen the objectives of the CSO-led 16 Days Campaign. In 2017, the current UNSG Antonio Gutierrez renamed this campaign as UNiTE by 2030. This new iteration expands the impact of the original campaign by relating its objectives to the advancement of UN Sustainable Developmental Goal 5, which seeks to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

Course Pedagogy and Outcomes

Students will learn about the history of gendered human rights involving civil society, UN Member States, and UN actors. They will be exposed to wide range of SGBV manifesting globally in crises situations (pandemic, conflict, disaster) and in everyday life through traditional academic and activist readings, UN documents (including about SDG 5), and media (local and global), including in the digital space (social media, apps, etc.). The course also stresses feminist praxis through experiential learning. Students will attend UN events related to the 16 Days Campaign and other SGBV-related UN- and civil-society events where possible. Students will also be introduced to 16 Days Campaign organizers (where possible) as Guest Speakers and will be encouraged to think about how to organize 16 Days events within the United States, where it has, amazingly, gained little visibility. These events will provide students with the opportunity to network and expose them to advocacy strategies from the local through international levels. Students will also have the option to produce mid-term and final projects about SGBV in the form of podcasts, short videos, artwork, etc.

This course guides students in:

* understanding the world of human rights and its purpose, and the advantages of feminist advocacy in a human rights framework;

* learning about strategies to discern, recognize, and engage in discussions (academic and activist) about SGBV, including its root causes, in a human rights framework;

* investigating how feminist organizations globally are addressing SGBV independently in their own local spaces and collaboratively with other feminist organizations, with a focus on advocacy during the 16 Days Campaign;

* learning about how and why feminists are advocating against SGBV at the UN and in regional human rights contexts; and

* thinking about how and why US exceptionalism is undermining the human rights of cis-gendered women/girls and the LGBT+ community in the United States.

**Course Number/Title:** 01:988:491 – Senior Seminar in Women & Contemporary Issues
Instructor: Kyla Schuller
Course Delivery: Face-to-face

Course Description: Feminism as a movement, and gender studies as a discipline, are perhaps best known for working to dismantle systemic injustice. Yet these interrogations also provide necessary frameworks for healing and transformation at the institutional, social, and personal level. This seminar explores feminist healing strategies that address trauma, legacies of oppression, disability, climate destruction, personal relationships and more through joy, love, collective care, and other means. Course texts will draw especially on Black feminism, theories of healing versus curing, and disability activism and scholarship, including work by Audre Lorde, Eli Clare, bell hooks, and Robin Wall Kimmerer. We will read in a variety of genres, such as academic articles and book chapters, activist manifesto, personal essays, and short stories. The seminar guides students through the process of creating their own final projects focused on feminism as a resource for healing, projects that similarly can take a variety of forms, from academic essay to personal essay to podcast.

Course Number/Title: 01:988:493:01, 06 – Independent Study
Instructor: Kyla Schuller
Course Delivery: By Arrangement

Course Number/Title: 01:988:497 – Honors Research in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Instructor: Evelyn Autry
Course Delivery: Face-to-face

Course Description: Individual research project to be written as honors thesis. This two-semester course provides the structure, deadlines, and community to support you while students produce their senior research thesis in Women’s and Gender Studies. Students will progressively work on their own research and writing. They will have a primary advisor and second reader for this process. Open only to seniors who are candidates for honors in women’s and gender studies.

01:904 – Social Justice

Course Number/Title: 01:904:201 – Introduction to Social Justice
Instructor: Elmira Nazombe
Course Delivery: Face-to-face

Course Description:

Course Number/Title: 01:904:399 – Social Justice Internship
Instructor: Ileana Nachescu
Course Delivery: By Arrangement

Course Number/Title: 01:904:493 – Social Justice Independent Study
Instructor: Kyla Schuller
Course Delivery: By Arrangement

01:888 – Sexualities Studies
Course Number/Title: 01:888:290 – Introduction to Critical Sexuality Studies
Instructor: Asli Zengin
Course Delivery: Face-to-face

Course Description: This course introduces students to critical studies of sexuality from historical, cross-cultural, contemporary and global perspectives. We will look at the different meanings given to sexuality and how sexual practices manifest in diverse contexts. We will discuss how they are shaped by race and ethnicity, economy and class, culture and media, social structure, morality, stigma, etc. We ask: What is defined as sex and what is prescribed and prohibited in diverse communities? What is considered normal and what is perverse? How is sexuality related to gender, to homoeroticism, to transness? What defines a sexual minority? What constitutes commercial sex?

Course Number/Title: 01:888:338 – Transnational Sexualities
Instructor:
Course Delivery: Face-to-face

Course Description: