

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Course Descriptions
SPRING 2024

Undergraduate Courses*

Course Number/Title: 988:101:01, 02, 03, 04 – Introduction to Gender, Race, and Sexuality

Instructor: Heather Lewis

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 the power is organized and distributed through these categories. Assuming that these are not '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. Discussions, assignments, and course materials are engaged through an interdisciplinary approach across academic, literary, and popular culture. 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: 988:101:05, 06, 11 – Introduction to Gender, Race, and Sexuality

Instructor: Tiffany Marra

Course Delivery: Face-to-face

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.

This section is highly collaborative – both at the levels of class discussion and practical application. The goal is to encourage and challenge students to be prepared to hold conversations regarding sensitive issues related to gender, race, and sexuality. If you do not intend to both be present and participate within our classroom, this may not be the section for you.

Course Number/Title: 988:101:07, 08 – Introduction to Gender, Race, and Sexuality

Instructor: Kara Donaldson

Course Delivery: Face-to-face

Course Delivery: 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: 988:101:09, 10 – Introduction to Gender, Race, and Sexuality

Instructor: Anel Mendez Velazquez

Course Delivery: Face-to-face

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

Instructor: Carlos Burgos

Course Delivery: Online Asynchronous

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

Instructor: Sarah-Anne Gresham

Course Delivery: Online Asynchronous

Course Description:

This introductory course explores the ways that love, sex, and desire are negotiated through technology and are structured by race, gender, and sexuality. Theoretically rooted in Black and Caribbean feminist thought, we will unpack and assess the ways that anti-blackness and white supremacy, as axes of power, stratify racialized people according to the most and least desirable as well as those most and least worthy of love. Black and Caribbean feminist thought offer a critical lens that helps us understand how power acts upon and determines the kinds of love available to Black women and other people of color. Through this lens, we will explore and critique controlling images and stereotypes through which Black women and men are presented and against which people across racial differences are contrasted. Discussions for this course will pivot around cultural objects called "desire machines," including social media and dating apps that produce and circulate knowledge about racial "preferences" in dating culture. Finally, we will explore two emergent responses, therapy, and theory, to love, sex, and desire. Women of color who struggle to find love and to feel desired have turned to technology to help contextualize love's fugitivity. Advice that circulates on digital platforms leans toward self-management and individual choice which ignores the ways that structures of power intervene in people's love lives. However, radical love, as a theory of justice, presents a more comprehensive framework that troubles systems of oppression, queers love, and offers community as a way to rethink how love can be accessed and enacted. Some key questions

animating the arc of this course include: how is technology influencing the ways people actualize love in their personal lives? How are their choices determined by race, gender, and sexuality?

Course Number/Title: 988:101:92 – Introduction to Gender, Race, and Sexuality

Instructor: Carmen Jones

Course Delivery: Online Asynchronous

Course Description: This online, asynchronous course will encourage students to expand their understanding of what counts as a “feminist issue/concern.” We will do so by exploring a range of issues, varying from the politics of casual sex to the violence of capitalism, drawing primarily from decolonial and anti-racist feminist perspectives. This course aims to provide students with a diversified and carefully curated selection of reading, listening, and viewing material consisting of the works of academics, activists, artists, and others whose positionality challenges colonial understandings of who counts as a *credible source* (*if you don’t understand what this means, that is OK because you will as this course progresses!*). As an introductory course, this class will provide students with additional context on the topics we will grapple with, including simplified definitions of terms that will be key to our learning process. In other words, this class aims to be beginner-friendly without watering down the severity and complexity of the issues we will discuss.

This course aims to provide students with critical thinking tools that can be applied to other areas of your life beyond our time together this semester. The selected texts are meant to serve as a diverse array of accessible, yet still challenging material that you (hopefully) find enjoyable to engage with. In this course, it is perfectly acceptable to find the material and theories we cover to be confusing. Particularly in our discussion board posts, I welcome everyone to be honest about whichever topics, terminologies, and concepts you may be struggling with from our selected texts so that we can engage in a collaborative process to better understand any given topic. We are here to support and learn from one another.

NOTE: Each semester, students flood my inbox trying to register for this course. Please be considerate of this, as I want people who really want to take this course to be able to. Further, the use of AI software will not be tolerated. If you sign up for this class, please be committed to doing the work.

Course Number/Title: 988:101:93 – Introduction to Gender, Race, and Sexuality

Instructor: Ayla McCullough

Course Delivery: Online Asynchronous

Course Description: This introductory course explores how Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies endeavors to reconceptualize the world, unsettling dominant epistemological, political, and social formations. Believing in the possibility and urgency of other worlds, the materials in this class demonstrate how scholars, artists, and activists wrestle with issues of power, difference, knowledge, and resistance. Some of the questions we will consider include: What makes living and thinking “feminist”? How are individuals embedded within structures of power? And finally, how do other worlds and ways of being *together* redefine human and nonhuman relations?

This course approaches gender, race, and sexuality from a variety of geographical, historical, and intellectual vantages. We will discuss the intersections of gender, race, sexuality, and colonialism, with an emphasis on significant interventions in the field including intersectionality, trans studies, and

decoloniality. Most importantly, our readings do not cumulatively define these key terms, but illustrate how they are inherently unstable, contradictory, and fluctuating. Finally, we will explore new horizons with childhood studies and critical animal studies to apply the foundational concepts and frameworks of Gender Studies.

Course Number/Title: 988:101:94, 99, 9A – Introduction to Gender, Race, and Sexuality

Instructor: Itzel Corona Aguilar

Course Delivery: Online Asynchronous

Course Number/Title: 01:988:101:95 – Introduction to Gender, Race, and Sexuality: Healing, Self-Care and Wellness in a “Post” Pandemic World

Instructor: Nehal Naser

Course Delivery: Online Asynchronous

Course Description: This course is an introduction to the field of women's gender and sexuality studies, focusing on its theories, methods, and interdisciplinary nature. We will cover main themes including sex, gender, the waves of feminism, indigenous and transnational feminisms, intersectionality, disability, and privilege. The class will then explore the wellness/self-care industry through the lens of race, gender, sexuality, class, and religion to address the following questions: What is wellness? In a "post" pandemic world threatened by climate catastrophe, staggering inequality, social and political upheaval, how possible is it to truly be well? Who is it possible for? How are notions of healing, wellness, and self-care situated within capitalism, colonialism, patriarchy?

Course Number/Title: 988:101:96, 97 – 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: 988:101:98 – Introduction to Gender, Race, and Sexuality

Instructor: Freeha Riaz

Course Delivery: Online Asynchronous

Course Number/Title: 988:101:9B – 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: 988:101:9C, 9D – Introduction to Gender, Race, and Sexuality

Instructor: Camila Belliard Quiroga

Course Delivery: Online Asynchronous

Course Number/Title: 988:101:9E – Introduction to Gender, Race, and Sexuality

Instructor: J Randolph

Course Delivery: Online Asynchronous

Course Number/Title: 01:988:200:02 – Gender, Digital Media, and Social Curation

Instructor: Tiffany Marra

Course Delivery: Face-to-Face

Course Description: Within our digitally ruled lives, everything seems to necessitate an online and visible presence to be deemed “real.” This begs the question of how do gender, race, and sexuality thrive or reach their demise in this digitalization. Furthermore, how do we curate (select, organize, and look after) what to include within our digital personas and how does this tie into power, privilege, & surveillance.

This course is highly collaborative – both at the levels of class discussion and practical application. The goal is to encourage and challenge students to find and analyze everyday examples of curation and to consider the connections between social curation and categories of difference. If you do not intend to both be present and participate within our classroom, this may not be the section for you.

Course Number/Title: 01:988:201:02 – Feminist Practices

Instructor: Sarah Tobias

Course Delivery: Face-to-Face

Course Description: What is a feminist? What are feminist practices? In this course we will read a variety of different texts that help us answer these questions. We will explore how feminists analyze injustice, challenge power relationships, and imagine transformed futures. We will address the relationship between grassroots activism and theory-making, both domestically and globally. Throughout this course we will pay close attention to the intersections of race, ethnicity, class, nation, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and expression.

Course Number/Title: 01:988:202:01 – Gender, Culture, and Representation

Instructor: Anel Mendez Velazquez

Course Delivery: Face-to-Face

Course Description: This course is an interdisciplinary introduction to key theories, concepts, and questions in the study of the cultural production and representation of gender, race, and other socially constructed categories. Its goal is to help students develop critical thinking skills that will allow them to question and analyze the gendered power dynamics that organize our world. The course will explore and analyze media (TV, film, social networks, cyberspaces, etc.), knowledge production & science, and the arts. Students will have the opportunity to engage with theoretical, narrative, and experience-oriented texts, as well as audiovisual materials. Students will have the opportunity to address diverse ideas and images produced in various media and disciplines, as well as contemporary issues, media, and cultural artifacts that we encounter in our everyday lives.

Course Number/Title: 01:988:206 – The Black Woman

Instructor: Karla Jackson-Brewer

Course Delivery: Face-to-Face

Course Number/Title: 01:988:220 – Religion and Reproduction

Instructor: Michal Raucher

Course Delivery: Face-to-Face

Course Number/Title: 01:988:221 – Women Religious Leaders

Instructor: Michal Raucher

Course Delivery: Face-to-Face

Course Number/Title: 01:988:235 – Dynamics of Class, Race, and Sex

Instructor: Asli Zengin

Course Delivery: Face-to-Face

Course Description: This course critically examines the complex intersections of class, race, gender, and sexuality that shape individual and collective experiences of social difference across the globe. Class, race, and sex are not fixed categories of social difference but rather sites of historical, material, and representative politics. The course materials and discussions will help students develop a rigorous conceptualization of difference as a social reality in many forms and through multiple processes of power. Both comparative and interdisciplinary, this course introduces students to theories of power, violence, resistance, and social justice through intersectional lenses on the dynamics of class, race, and sex.

Course Number/Title: 01:988:255:90, 91, 92 – Gender, Art, and Society

Instructor: Wendy Ritch

Course Delivery: Online Asynchronous

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: In examining the broad intersections of gender and race in contemporary American visual art, this course will primarily engage how gender and race shape understandings of artistic production and exhibition. Those who write about gender and race and the impact they have on artists often center their critiques primarily on the race or/and gender of the artists. This course will highlight the ways selected American artists have engaged in individual studio practices and collaborative creative endeavors in their art, as well as how they have built coalitions centering on politics, representation, and the art industry.

By focusing on contemporary American visual artists and the work they produce, we will learn about the theoretical frameworks that scholars across various disciplines have developed for examining the relationship of race and gender in contemporary art and culture. This dialogue is a paradigm for considering issues of gender and race that circulate within the work of Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian, and mixed-race artists. We will also use our time together to think critically about our relationships with art and its relation to our 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. This course includes thirteen units. You should be spending at least hours of class time reading the unit assignments before you start the work on required assignments. The units are sequential, so you'll complete one before moving onto the next one.

Course Number/Title: 01:988:301 – Feminist Theory: Historical Perspectives

Instructor: Ed Cohen

Course Delivery: Face-to-Face

Course Number/Title: 01:988:302 – Feminist Theory: Contemporary Engagements

Instructor: Zakia Salime

Course Delivery: Face-to-Face

Course Number/Title: 01:988:307 – Women and the Law

Instructor: Diane Rizzo

Course Delivery: Face-to-Face

Course Number/Title: 01:988:309—Working Women in American Society

Instructor: Danielle Phillips-Cunningham

Course Delivery: Face-to-Face

Course Number/Title: 01:988:313 – 20th Century Feminism: Theories of Gender

Instructor: Andrew Parker

Course Delivery: Face-to-Face

Course Number/Title: 01:988:350 – Gender & Spirituality

Instructor: Karla Jackson-Brewer

Course Delivery: Face-to-Face

Course Number/Title: 01:988:405 – Gender and Human Rights

Instructor: Julie Rajan

Course Delivery: Face-to-Face

Course Number/Title: 01:988:407 – Women's Global Health

Instructor: Omid Mohamadi

Course Delivery: Online Asynchronous

Course Description: This course will offer students a survey of women's global health movements with a focus on different forms of inequality related to gender, sexuality, race, and class. It will also provide an in-depth look at complex health issues through a wide of fields such as sociology, political science, anthropology, history, feminist studies, public health and others.

Course Number/Title: 01:988:409 – Gender and Environmental Health

Instructor:

Course Delivery: Online Asynchronous

Course Number/Title: 01:988:413 – Global Pharmaceutical Health

Instructor: Sophie Smith

Course Delivery: Online Asynchronous

Course Description: Nearly all modern health crises share at least one concern: access to medicine. The crisis might feel private, like a personal struggle with mental health. Or it might encompass national tragedies, like the United States' decades-long opioid crisis. Or consider the Covid-19 pandemic, which has impacted the health—whether physical, mental, or economic—of every person in every corner of the world.

This class will explore how such diverse health crises have been precipitated, neglected, and/or capitalized upon by one of the world's most profitable and least-regulated industries: Pharma. Throughout the course we will cover such topics as: why drugs in the US cost so much; why certain populations are bombarded with drugs they do not need; and why even cheap essential medicines remain beyond the reach of millions. Along the way, we will study the social and political context of pharmaceutical development and marketing, while keeping an eye to how these trends impact the question of women's health.

Course Number/Title: 01:988:422:01 – Internship in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Instructor: Kyla Schuller

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: 01:988:426 – Women, Work, and Community

Instructor: Julie Rajan

Course Delivery: Face-to-Face

Course Number/Title: 01:988:445 – Feminist Advocacy for Women's Rights

Instructor: Hasnaa Mokhtar

Course Delivery: Face-to-face

Course Description: Find your voice as a feminist advocate. Learn key concepts such as heterosexism, privilege and oppression, intersectionality, and decoloniality. Explore the multiple histories, presents, and futures of varied feminist activisms and organizing across the global North and South. Develop your anti-colonial, anti-racist, and anti-sexist gender analysis, feminist writing, researching, and reflective participatory decision-making skills. This course will prepare you for the demands of transformative social change advocacy and will assist you in developing basic capacities such as public speaking, agenda-setting, needs assessment, harnessing free media, group facilitation, grant writing, networking, and community organizing. The course will foster Women's and Gender Studies learning goals: Students will be able to identify, analyze, and critique the formation and reproduction of social, economic, and political hierarchies grounded in race, gender, ethnicity, nationality, and sexuality. They will develop the skills necessary to appreciate the complexity and variety of differently gendered lives and livelihoods around the globe and to identify the politics of issue-framing and knowledge production.

The course aims to bridge feminist theory and praxis through readings, discussions and concrete experiences at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and dialogue with feminist activists from around the world.

The priority theme of the 67th meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women will focus on “Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.” The review theme will focus on “Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls.”

The course will examine through an intersectional lens how gender inequality across the globe is linked to structural challenges. Central to the life of the course will be case studies linking community engagement to global human rights mechanisms to strengthen local and national organizing. Students will also reflect on their experiences and develop critical analyses of the state of feminist activism and their own activist goals. The culmination of the course will be the planning and organization of a public event to share their learning with the broader Rutgers community.

Course Number/Title: 01:988:490 – Senior Seminar in Women & Contemporary Issues

Instructor: Jaime Coan

Course Delivery: Face-to-face

Course Description: This seminar explores feminist life-writing as a political and aesthetic strategy for social transformation. We will read key texts from the 1970s and 1980s by Audre Lorde, Adrienne Rich, Gloria Anzaldúa, and others, which theorize and exemplify the potentialities inherent in writing from the “I.” We will trace the influence of these texts on contemporary feminist makers, writers, activists, and scholars, such as Saidiya Hartman, Sara Ahmed, Moya Bailey, Aisha Sabatini-Sloane, Cathy Park Hong, Maggie Nelson, and Cecilia Gentili. Course texts will offer models for critically examining one’s relationship to structures of power and oppression, and for addressing the complex issues of the contemporary world via lived experience. The seminar guides students through the process of creating their own final projects focused on feminist life-writing, which may take a variety of forms.

Course Number/Title: 01:988:494:02, 05, 06– Independent Study

Instructor: Kyla Schuller

Course Delivery: By Arrangement

Course Number/Title: 01:988:498 – Honors Research in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Instructor: Ileana Nachescu

Course Delivery: Face-to-face

Course Description: The second semester of the Honors Research Seminar is designed to support student research and writing in completing the senior honors thesis in women’s and gender studies. The seminar provides a space to generate and critique the work required to complete the thesis, to discuss the knotty problems of interdisciplinary scholarship on gender, and to help you prepare to present and defend your work in front of an audience.

Course Number/Title: 01:988:499 – Capstone in Gender & Media

Instructor: Kyla Schuller

Course Delivery: Face-to-face

Course Description: This capstone to the Gender and Media minor is a project-based seminar. Students will develop, discuss, produce and critique a project related to gender, media, and technology. Students will articulate and present the project in written and oral formats and will have the option. The type of project can take one of 3 forms: (1) create an in-depth multimedia component to the project; 2) complete an internship; or 3) complete a service-learning experience.

Our readings and discussions will explore the theme of “Optimizing, Burnout, and Care.” Media, especially social media, plays a complicated role in our wellbeing – both offering a lure for continual and exhausting performance and optimizing and offering the potential for the redress of burnout through community and care. How does media function as both a structure of capitalism and mass entertainment in ways that create wealth by extracting our energy and attention, and also as a site for our own individual agency as producers and consumers? As individuals and as collectives, how can we engage in media in ways that feel nurturing, not depleting?

01:904 Social Justice

Course Number/Title: 01:904:202 – Practicing Social Justice

Instructor: Elmira Nazombe

Course Delivery: Face-to-face

Course Number/Title: 01:904:392:01 – Topics in Social Justice

Instructor: Darnell Thompson

Course Delivery: Face-to-face

Course Description: In this course, students will explore the abilities needed to develop cultural competencies in student leadership environments. Cultivating challenging and engaging discourse while also reflecting on the impacts identity has on the whole student experience will ground this course. Culminating skills will inform an understanding of how to develop an education session focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion topics to establish communities that are social justice-centered.

Course Number/Title: 01:904:402 – Social Justice Capstone

Instructor: Diane Rizzo

Course Delivery: Face-to-face

Course Number/Title: 01:904:493 – Social Justice Independent Study

Instructor: Kyla Schuller

Course Delivery: By Arrangement

01:888 Sexualities Studies

Course Number/Title: 01:888:215 – Introduction to Transgender Studies

Instructor: Asli Zengin

Course Delivery: Face-to-face

Course Description: This course is an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of trans studies. We will trace out the terrain of “transgender,” and its historical and contemporary articulations from a cross-cultural perspective. Social, cultural, political, and historical changes will be our focus to gain a deeper insight into the formation and circulation of “transgender” as a category, as well as into trans lives, identity, and politics. After covering the trans history in the Global North, we will draw on a series of historical and present accounts of transness and sex/gender nonconformity in the Global South. Within this framework, we will address the following questions: What does the term “transgender” mean? What does it enable and obliterate? What does it implicate when it is used in non-Western contexts? What are the possibilities and problems that arise with its political and cultural use? What kind of transnational frameworks have an impact on its shaping and circulation?