

Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Spring 2023 Undergraduate Courses

01:988:101 Introduction to Gender, Race, and Sexuality (3)

Section 01: Love, Sex, & Desire in the Digital Age -Gresham – MW2:00-3:20pm

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 difference are contrasted. Discussions for this course will pivot around cultural objects called “desire machines” that include social media and dating apps which 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 into 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? In what ways are their choices determined by race, gender, and sexuality?

Section 02: Naser – MTH12:10-1:30PM

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, privilege, and power. 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? What does healing, wellness, and self-care have to do with global capitalism? With colonialism? We will read selections from Ed Cohen's "On Learning to Heal: Or, What Medicine Doesn't Know", Robin Wall Kimmerer's "Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants, and Fariha Róisín's "Who is Wellness For? An Examination of Wellness Culture and Who It Leaves Behind."

Section 03: Ling – TTH2:00-3:20PM

This course traces the entanglements of race, gender and sexuality that animate critical discourse of the United States as an ongoing heteropatriarchal, imperial and settler colonial project. With an eye for the contexts which produce them, we will look at the emergence of political coalitions like 'Third World,' 'women of color,' 'Indigenous,' and 'Asian American Pacific Islander' and the different tactics they use to address systems of power. How does the past inform us in the present? Can thinking about the U.S. as an empire or a settler colony help us understand how we came to believe that assimilation and belonging to the nation are modes of equality and justice?

Section 04: Marra – MTH10:20-11:40AM, Section 05: TF8:30-9:50AM, Section 08: MTH8:30-9:50AM

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 and Gender 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 course 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.

Section 06: Lewis – MTH8:30-9:50AM, Section 07: TF10:20-11:40AM

Section 09: Mendez Velazque – MW3:50-5:10PM, Section 10: MW5:4-7:00PM, Section 11: TTH3:50-5:10PM

Sections 90-99: Online Course

01:988:130 Knowledge and Power: Issues in Women's Leadership (3)

Section 01: Georges - TF10:20-11:40AM

Section 02: Perez - MW3:50-5:10PM

Section 03: Perez - MW5:40PM-7:00PM

Section 04: Freeman - TTH7:30PM-8:50PM

Section 05: Danehy - TF12:10PM-1:30PM

Section 06: Odoh - MW5:40PM-7:00PM

Section 07: Elamin - TTH5:40-7:00PM

Section 08: Elamin - TTH7:30PM-8:50PM

Section 09: Moore - MW3:50-5:10PM

Section 10: Gray - MW2:00PM-3:20PM

Study of gender, in the construction of knowledge in different fields, and the factors that encourage women to achieve agency and leadership.

01:988:200 Gender, Digital Media, and Social Curation (3)

Section 02: Cooper – MW5:40-7:00PM

This course brings together analytic frameworks in feminist theory and gender studies with emerging bodies of theory about digital media, social media, and digital humanities.

01:988:201 Feminist Practices (3)

Section 02: Nachescu – MW5:40-7:00PM

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 history and contemporary, through readings and podcasts.

01:988:202 Gender, Culture, and Representation (3)

Section 01: Mark – TTH3:50-5:10PM

Examines how gender is represented in cultural texts and artifacts; introduces students to theories of representation.

01:988:206 The Black Woman (3)

Section 01: Jackson-Brewer – MTH10:20-11:40AM

01:988:220 Religion and Reproduction: Jewish and Christian Experiences (3)

Section 01: Raucher – TTH3:50-5:10PM

This course explores the intersection of religion and reproduction in the United States. During the semester we will focus primarily on pronatalism and abortion as two key aspects of reproduction. For each of these issues we will focus on how Jews and Christians, as well as Judaism and Christianity, in the US understand these issues, and wrestle with them internally. A few themes will continually arise: how religious ideas about kinship, women's sexuality, and concern for demographic continuance are applied through forms of reproduction and reproductive interruption. Gender and religion will form the two primary modes of analysis for the study of reproduction. At the end of the semester we will also consider how class and race shape reproductive ideas and practices in the US.

01:988:232 Women Writers of South Asia (3)

Section 01: Gangopadhyay – MW3:50-5:10PM

01:988:235 Dynamics of Class, Race, and Sex (3)

Section 01: Lewis - MTH12:10-1:30PM

Examination of dynamics of, and connections among, classism, racism, and sexism in contemporary American society; ways they influence and are influenced by the structure of society at large; their effect on individuals; and strategies for personal and social change.

01:988:250 Feminist Perspectives : Feminism in a Time of Environmental Crisis (3)

Section 01: Luciano – MW2:00-3:20PM

What is the relationship between environmental degradation and gender inequality? This class will explore the importance of intersectional feminist thought and practice in combatting climate change and other global environmental crises. We will examine connections between the exploitation of the natural world and the subjugation of human populations, focusing on the links between colonialism, racial capitalism, and the climate. Particular attention will be paid to the emergence and development of ecofeminism, a branch of feminist thought which tracks the relations between gender and nature; the evolving focus on racial and social justice within environmental activism; and how BIPOC and queer writers, artists, and activists address climate change and other environmental concerns. Throughout, we will highlight the necessity of feminism in creating and sustaining what Vandana Shiva calls "a democracy of all life."

01:988:255 Gender, Art, and Society (3)

Sections 90-93: Online Class

Women artists, their achievements, and impact. Social and cultural reasons for their neglect in the visual arts and how that neglect is being remedied today. Different ways in which men and women are depicted in art and how those differences relate to culture and society. Please note that this is an online course.

01:988:257 Gender and the Body: Representation and Pornography (3)

Sections 90-92: Online Class

Examination of representations of gendered bodies in art, sexuality, gender, politics, and pornography. Examines how to understand who defines what is obscene and why some work is called pornography.

01:988:258 Gender, Race, and Contemporary Art (3)

Section 90: Online Class

Intersection of gender and race in contemporary American art. Black and white racial politics in relation to gender and contemporary art in the United States. Special focus on African-American artists.

01:988:259 Homosexuality and Visual Culture (3)

Sections 90-91: Online Class

Central role of homosexuality and homoeroticism in visual culture in the distant and recent past as well as the present. Marginalization of homosexual artists, critics, and patrons despite direct participation in cultural production of art and popular culture.

01:988:260 The Modern Girl (3)

Section 01: Feinberg – MW2:00-3:50PM

Just after the end of the First World War, a new creature appeared on the streets of cities around the world. Her hair was short, as were her skirts. She smoked, wore lipstick, and went out dancing without a chaperone. No one knew what to make of her. To some, she was dangerous; to others, exciting. She was the flapper, *garçonne*, *neue Frau*, *moga*, *modeng xiaojie*, *kallege ladki*, *la pelona*: all terms for what we will call the “Modern Girl.” This course examines the so-called Modern Girl of the 1920's and 1930's, considering how she reflected—and helped to create—a new modern lifestyle. The Modern Girl was both a fictional creation and a flesh-and-blood creature. We will investigate “her” in her many manifestations, from fiction, film, and advertisements, to the sound of her heels clicking on actual city streets. This course will concentrate on the Modern Girl in Europe and the United States, but will also consider examples from Asia and Africa.

01:988:271 Immigrant States (3)

Section 01: Decena – MTH8:30-9:50PM

01:988:296 Topics in Women's and Gender Studies (1.5)

Section 01: Gender and the Black Diaspora – Dantzler – M7:30-8:50PM

Section 02: Arts as Activism – Mantell - M7:30-8:50PM

Section 03: Global Cuisine – Comollo - M7:30-8:50PM

Section 04: Human Rights – Amya Fernandez - M7:30-8:50PM

Section 05: La Casa Hispanica - Cipriana - M7:30-8:50PM

(La Casa for short) course is focused on the Latinx experience in the United States. We will delve into various topic and research areas that will specifically inform LATINX students of the rich identity, culture, history, politics, socio economic realities (and more!) that will help students grapple with what it means to be a Latinx woman in the U.S. We will explore collectively and individually current research and books in the academy focused on feminism and powerful movements made by Latinx women and leaders that will help us understand (through a deeper feminist lens) the lived experiences of Latinx people in the U.S. and abroad. **Latina/o/x/e are gender neutral terms to be inclusive of all folks who come from Latin American/Spanish and Portuguese speaking countries.

Section 06: Environmental Sustainability – Harste – W7:30-8:50PM

Section 07: Global Health and Medicine – Davis – M7:30-8:50PM, Section 08: M5:40-7:00PM

The Global Village is a Living-Learning Community that seeks to develop language skills, intercultural appreciation, global awareness, and a sense of community among participating students. This unique environment combines activities in and outside of the classroom, all of which are designed to strengthen the community. Engagement in all these activities is an essential part of this experience and, as such, it is important to recognize that what happens in the living community (for example, the residence halls, your rooms, the dining halls) shapes what happens in the classroom—vice versa. Respect for others in the community, as well as adhering both to the guidelines of your residence hall and the mission of Douglass Residential College, are essential to being an engaged member of the Global Village.

Section 09: Mokhtar - Global Leaders – T5:40-7:00PM

01:988:299 Mentoring Leadership and Practice (3)

Section 01: Elamin – W8:30-9:50AM

This semester we will examine the relationship between feminist pedagogical theory and feminist practice in the college classroom. We will begin with a brief overview of feminist epistemology starting from the premise that feminist epistemology informs feminist pedagogy. We will critique how we know what we know to be able to formulate practices that subvert gendered paradigms. We will also explore the meaning of women’s leadership, knowledge, and power through the mentor experience. We will accomplish this by examining texts that provide a framework for exploring different ways to construct definitions of knowledge and power. Your classroom experiences, in both your mentor seminar and the first-year Douglass Course, will give you a practical opportunity to examine the issues we will be raising this semester. In addition to our examination of feminist theory and practice, we will also be looking at the role that gender plays in our understanding of knowledge and power at a women’s college to challenge the orthodoxies surrounding conceptions of leadership.

01:988:301 Feminist Theory: Historical Perspectives (3)

Section 01: Carson – MW5:40-7:00PM

This course tracks the various developments within the history of feminist theory. It begins with its emergence in and out of liberal, psychoanalytic, and Marxist conceptualizations of the subject. We consider the vexed and paradoxical nature of feminism's relationship to these theories—they are what originally makes feminist theories thinkable in the West, yet at the same time, are what must be critique, resisted, reimagined, or altogether abandoned, according to many feminist theorists, as they insufficient and limited by their patriarchal, phallogentric, sexist, and often homophobic logics and dispositions. This first half culminates by examining how these critiques, anxieties, and discontents come to (in)form what is termed radical feminism. The second half of the course maps the interventions of a number of other feminist interventions, which critique and build off of these foundational theories, including: ecofeminism, care-focused feminism, black feminism, postcolonial and transnational feminism, queer and trans feminism, and feminist disability studies. *Prerequisite: 01:988:101 or 201 or 202 or 235 or by special permission.*

01:988:302 Feminist Theory: Contemporary Engagements

Section 01: Nachescu – MW2:00-3:20PM

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 and videos as well. The semester project consists in either writing a theoretical paper or creating a podcast that explores a topic of your choice through a feminist theoretical lens.

01:988:303 Global Feminisms (3)

Section 01: Salime – MW3:50-5:10PM

Compares the development of feminist writing in several historical periods across different cultures. *Prerequisite: 01:988:101 or 201 or 202 or 235 or by special permission.*

01:988:307 Women and the Law (3)

Section 01: Rizzo – W3:50-6:50PM

Areas of law that regulate the position of women, including birth control, abortion, marriage, alimony, child support and custody, childcare, education, employment, criminal law (including rape, prostitution, women in prison, and the juvenile justice system), and constitutional rights. Readings in court decisions, statutes, and supplementary materials.

01:988:312 African Feminism (3)

Section 01: Okereke-Beshel – TF10:20-11:40AM

This course is an in-depth examination of diverse critical approaches to the development of feminism in Africa. Students will also build critical understanding of gender dialogues within African societies as experienced in their historical, cultural, social and economic contexts. Through readings, class discussions and written assignments, students will develop critical thinking, analytical, writing and speaking skills. *Prerequisite: 01:988:101 or 235. Credit not given for both this course and 01:016:312.*

01:988:315 Women Writers of the Arab World (3)

Section 01: Kashou – TTH3:50-5:10PM

This course is designed to provide students with a comprehensive overview of the emergence and development of fiction written by Arab women. Emphasis will be laid on differences and similarities between Western and Arab feminist theories and identity issues as reflected in their literature. The course will provide a general understanding of modernist Arabic poetics, and the emergence and development of new literary genres of Arabic writing in the 19th and 20th centuries. Students will become familiar with the development and transformation of literary language, structures and imagery as embodied in selected texts by leading authors. Students will explore processes of change and the search for personal and cultural identity on the literary level in relation to the political and social spheres.

01:988:332 The Color of AIDS: The Politics of Race During the AIDS Crisis (3)

Section 01: Coan – TTH2:00-3:50PM

Focuses on AIDS crisis, explores relationships between illness, race, ethnicity, and gender in health policy, research, and care for communities of color.

01:988:336 Women and American Politics (3)

Section 01: Sanbonmatsu – W2:00-5:00PM

01:988:350 Gender and Spirituality (3)

Section 01: Jackson-Brewer – MTH12:10-1:30PM

Class explores women's spirituality, feminist theology, and spiritual systems from around the world. How are spiritual systems and practices gendered?

01:988:396 Topics in Women's and Gender Studies (3)

Section 01: Philosophical Issues in Feminism – Derstine – W12:10-1:30PM, F2:00-3:20PM

Section 02: Writing for Social Change – Gay – M2:00-5:00PM

01:988:405 Gender and Human Rights (3)

Section 01: Bunch – T12:10-3:10PM

Examines history and discourse of women's human rights; uses of humanitarian law in wartime; issues of gender-based violence, health, and sexuality. Prerequisite: 01:988:101 or 235 or permission of instructor.

01:988:408 Gender, Economic Inequality & Health (3)

Section 90: Online Class

Examines how resource distribution shapes health risk, access to health care, and clinical outcomes. Relationship of gender, class, race, sexuality, and nation to health.

01:988:409 Gender, Environmental Justice & Health (3)

Section 90: Online Class

Examines women's health in relationship to contradictions between capitalist growth and resource exhaustion. Health consequences of environmental crises linked to new markets and technologies.

01:988:413 The Global Pharmaceutical Economy & Health (3)

Section 90: Online Class

Explores aspects of pharmaceutical industry. Analyzes burdens and benefits of drug research and development on different populations.

01:988:422 Internship in Women's and Gender Studies (3)

Sections 01, 02: Hours by Arrangement

Students work in organizations related to women's and gender studies. Supervision by assigned staff at the placement. Paper, student journal, and assessment of work performed at placement required. *Permission of undergraduate director required.*

01:988:426 Internship for IWL Scholars (BA) – Women, Work, and Community (3)

Section 01: Rajan – TH10:20-1:20PM

Examination of women, community activism, and leadership for change; explores how women's leadership shapes organizations, social movements, and policy development. Interns work in placements relevant to their policy interests and produce proposals for social action projects. *Prerequisites: Acceptance into IWL Leadership Scholars Program and 01:988:344, or by permission of instructor.*

01:988:429 Engendering Development (3)

Section 01: Balakrishnan – W3:50-6:50PM

Examines gender differences in economic opportunity, human rights, and political representation across developing countries. *Prerequisite: 01:988:101 or 235 or 301.*

01:988:445 Feminist Advocacy for Women's Rights through the United Nations (3)

Section 01: Mokhtar – T10:20-1:20PM

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. 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). In 2015, the CSW review 20 years of progress since the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing China. The course will explore four broad themes: global strategies for sustainable development; human rights and macroeconomic policies; the contributions and insights of feminist perspectives on women's economic rights and development and the possibilities and liabilities of the United Nations as a venue for feminist advocacy. The course will encourage the use of an intersectional lens to explore these themes.

01:988:465 The Queering of Theory (3)

Section 01: Cohen – T3:50-6:50PM

In this course, we will explore the changes in thinking “sex” and “sexuality” during the 1970s and 1980s that preceded the new queer apotheosis in order to understand the problems and questions to which “queer” provided a possible answer. In the 1970s and 1980s, “Lesbian and Gay”, or “Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual” (and sometimes “Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transsexual”) named political movements as well as academic fields. Yet as questions about these identities got more troubling and as thinking about sexuality got more complicated, these names had increasing difficulty bearing the weight of both historical events and theoretical inquiry. Theoretically speaking, after publication of Michel Foucault’s *History of Sexuality, vol. 1* in 1976 (and its translation into English in 1978), “sexuality” began to be understood as (a) problematic, rather than appearing as a self-evident aspect of human experience. Historically speaking, after the emergence of the AIDS epidemic in the early 1980s, the notion that “sex” could (or should) serve as the basis for political affinity seemed less clear-cut, and even the notion of what “sex” means—or should mean--became less obvious (as the debates about “safe sex” revealed).

01:988:490 Seminar: Women and Contemporary Issues - Motherhood: Nature and Culture, Policy and Politics (3)

Section 01: Trigg – W10:20-1:20PM

This capstone seminar will examine motherhood as an institution and/or set of cultural practices as it draws on memoirs, novels, film, poetry, and historical and sociological literature to investigate the representations and realities of diverse mothers in the United States. We will consider historical contexts as well as contemporary policy and politics that shape the experiences of American mothers and the ways we interpret and judge their lives and needs. This course will pay attention both to common threads and to the important differences of race, ethnicity, and class. The central issues this class will address include: (1) the maternal ideal and who does (and does not) exemplify it; (2) the emotional terrain of motherhood--diverse mothers' own feelings about pregnancy, childbirth, and motherhood; (3) the ways that race, class, sexuality, citizenship, and ethnicity inform the experiences of and resources available to mothers and the construction of motherhood in the United States; (4) the ways that mothers are represented (or represent themselves) in selected films and memoirs, and how we can "read" these in different historical contexts; (5) the labor of motherhood; and (6) the politics of care. Together we will seek to understand the ways in which a complex and multifaceted cultural discourse about motherhood shapes diverse experiences of motherhood through time, and in our present moment. The class will give students the opportunity to conduct research using appropriate current literature on a relevant topic of their choice, and present upon it.

01:988:494 Independent Study (3)

Sections 01, 02, 03, 05, 06: Hours by Arrangement, Section 04: Perez – F2:00-3:20PM

Independent study project under the guidance of a faculty supervisor. Permission of associate director required.

01:988:497-498 Honors Research in Women's and Gender Studies (3)

Section 01: Nachescu – W10:20-1:20PM

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.

Sexuality Studies (888)

01:888:291 Francophilia: Literature and Sexuality in Modern France (3)

Sections 01-04: Parker – TTH2:00-3:20PM

Explores cultural representations of non-conforming sexualities in France from the late-19th century to the present. Approach combines writing exercises with close reading and analytical discussion of literature, theory, and film within evolving historical context. Taught in English.

01:888:338 Transnational Sexualities (3)

Section 01: Schein – MW3:50-5:10PM

Considers how globalization alters conceptualizations of sexuality and its relationship to gender. Issues include global, diasporic, and postcolonial gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender activism, tourism and travel, HIV/AIDS organizing, "sexual rights" discourses, sex work, and asylum based on gender and sexual orientation. Prerequisite: 01:988:101 or 190 or 235 or 201 or 202.

Social Justice Courses (904)

01:904:202 Practicing Social Justice (3)

Section 01: Nazombe – TTH2:00-3:20PM

Introduces students to diverse practices of social justice activism including grassroots organizing, labor organizing, political organizing, and transnational organizing. Readings about social change efforts are combined with student participation in community mobilizations, labor organizing efforts, political campaigns, and transnational social movement and nongovernmental organization (NGO) activism.

01:904:392 Topics in Social Justice (1.5)

Section 01: Thompson – T10:20-1:20PM

Intensive investigation of particular social justice issues such as environmental justice, outsourcing of reproductive labor, the informal economy, the prison-industrial complex. Topic varies each semester. Designed for social justice living-learning communities.

01:904:401-402 Social Justice Capstone Seminar (3)

Section 01: Rizzo – W12:10-3:10PM

In-depth exploration of a particular social justice issue such as globalizing inequality, gendered migration, war and displacement, refugee camps, militarization, the color of AIDS, asylum-seeking, the prison-industrial complex. Topic varies with instructor. See [website](#) for details.

01:904:493-494 Social Justice Independent Study (3)

Section 01: Schuller – Hours by Arrangement

Supervised individual study of selected topics of interest with extensive reading and a research paper. Reserved for social justice minors.