

SPRING 2018

GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

GSC 60001

Perspectives on Gender: Theory and Practice

TR 2:00pm-3:15pm

Barbara Green/ENG

This course encourages you to develop your own perspective on gender and gender issues by reading across a span of thinkers who have engaged issues related to sex and gender including: debates over women's rights, difference, the body, sexuality, gender performance, gender surgery, gay marriage, masculinity, race, transgender politics, and more. Students will read and analyze texts by diverse writers from the 19th century to the present day, speaking from perspectives informed by suffrage and abolition movements, second wave feminism, third wave feminism, Black liberation and Black pride movements, gay liberation and queer pride movements, and men's movements; and from disciplines such as political science, anthropology, psychology, literary criticism, film theory, history, biology, sociology, cultural studies, and more. Throughout, students will consider how ideas about gender have changed over time and why, how the ideas and debates relate to their lives and everyday practices, and which ideas can or should be put into practice and how.

GSC 60522

Prisons and Policing in the United States

TR 3:30pm-4:45pm

Pamela Butler/GS

Scholars and activists use the concept of the "carceral state" to describe the official, government use of policing, surveillance, and mass imprisonment to exercise control over society. This course examines the histories, cultures, politics, and economics of prisons and policing in the United States, in order to determine how the U.S. carceral state has been a factor in the social construction of race, gender, and citizenship.

We will study the genealogy of the U.S. carceral state -- beginning with the surveillance embedded in the earliest practices of slavery and settler colonialism, tracing its development through the 19th and early 20th centuries, and concluding with the rise of the modern prison industrial complex. We will then focus on contemporary U.S. prisons, policing, and surveillance, using case studies including the "war on drugs," immigrant detention, sex-crime regulation, and police violence. Finally, we will consider alternatives to prisons and policing, as we learn about academic research and activist movements working to end state and police violence, abolish prisons, and create opportunities for restorative justice. Over the course of the semester, students will learn about the historical development and ongoing maintenance of the carceral state, using an intersectional framework that highlights the ways in which prisons and policing have both shaped, and been shaped by, race, gender, citizenship, and economics. Along the way, students will ask and address such questions as: How does the U.S. carceral state function as a tool for social control? What histories, policies, and ideologies underlie the carceral state? How have individuals and organizations worked to transform or abolish the carceral state? How have art and cultural production been used to normalize and/or critique the carceral state? And can we imagine a world without prisons or police?

GSC 60524

Rethinking US Fiction of the Twentieth and Twenty-first Centuries

TR 11:00am-12:15pm

Francisco E. Robles/ENG

In this class, we will explore alternate routes of theorizing and conceptualizing America, especially given the changing political environment and the shifting identity of the United States, its literatures, its people, and its artists. By attending in particular to American prose fiction, we will consider how literary movements are shaped, articulated, and geographically instantiated by works that thematize and formalize gender, race, ethnicity, sexuality, class, and migration.

GSC 60555

Feminist and Multicultural Theologies

TR 9:30-1:45am

Mary Catherine Hilkert/THEO

An exploration of how the voices of women have helped to reshape theological discourse and to bring to light new dimensions of the Christian tradition. The course will focus on the significance of gender and social location in understanding the nature and sources of theology, theological anthropology, Christology/soteriology, the mystery of God, and women's spirituality. The class will also consider the contribution of theology to gender studies. Readings will include selections from theologians who identify their work as feminist, womanist, Latina, mujerista, Asian and Asian American, post-colonial, or lesbian/queer, and/or those who are located in the "Third World"/global South."

GSC 63500

GSC 61500

**Gender and Space
Interdisciplinary Seminar**

T 3:15pm-5:45pm

T 6:00pm-8:00pm Lab

Pamela Wojcik/FTT

This course will investigate the many intersections and problematics of gender, place, and space. Space, place and gender have been key topics in areas such as architecture, law, history, sociology, urban studies, literary criticism, cultural studies, film studies, and gender; and the class will draw from those various disciplines. Students will address the issue of gender, place and space through a variety of disciplinary approaches, investigating a wide range of real and imagined places and spaces, including masculine spaces, feminine spaces, queer spaces, children's spaces, and raced spaces; spaces such as the home, the office, the railroad, the apartment, the cinema, the store; the urban, the suburban. The course will pay particular attention to how space and place are produced and negotiated as spaces of fantasy in mid-20th century American films and popular literature. We will consider spaces as intersectional and dynamic.

GSC 67000

Special Studies

Department Approval Required

Students conduct an independent research project supervised by the instructor. Permission of the instructor is required.