

Fall 2018 GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

GSC 60001

Perspectives on Gender

TR 3:30pm-4:45pm

Barbara Green/ENG

This interdisciplinary seminar provides students with an overview of key concepts and terms in gender theory. Students will read prominent feminist and queer theorists of gender, analyze their arguments, and learn to critique and apply them. We will begin with early feminist explorations of gender. However, we will also explore contemporary theories, including those from outside feminist theory that move our understanding of gender outside heteronormativity and beyond the binaries of male/female and masculine/feminine. Our constant concern is to consider what these theories mean in their specific sociohistorical contexts and to contemplate their potential implications for our own and others' lives, not to mention culture and society at large. This seminar requires close reading and discussion of theoretically rigorous and critically sophisticated texts and thus requires the active participation of committed students.

GSC 60209

Gender, Sexuality, & Development

MW 12:30pm-1:45pm

Julia Kowalski/MGA

In this course, we will examine the creation of “gender” and “sexuality” as objects of development practices around the world. While development projects often assume that gender and sexuality are stable, coherent categories of identity, scholars have long shown that both take socially and historically specific forms as they emerge through social practices. In this course we will read a range of critical case studies that demonstrate the complicated ways that local and transnational ideas about gender, sexuality, and development intersect in everyday life around the world. This course will help you approach “gender” and “sexuality”—two key terms in development discourse and global affairs—with an understanding of how these categories shape not just individuals but institutions, processes, and practices.

GSC 60565

Gender and Peace Studies

TR 11:00am-12:15pm

Susan St. Ville/IIPS

This course will place the resources of gender theory into conversation with peace studies. In so doing it will highlight both how the category of "gender" serves as a useful analytical tool for peace scholars while at the same time noting how specific situations of conflict and peacebuilding call into question and so prompt a reshaping of prominent concepts in gender theory. In the first section of the course we will consider how attention to the social marginalization of women has clarified the differential effects of war and peace efforts. Topics to be covered include women's greater vulnerability to personal and systemic forms of violence in

conflict situations, the sexual politics of warfare including the use of sexual violence as a tool of war, and the role of women as perpetrators of violence. We will spend time considering the efforts of the international community to enhance "gender mainstreaming" through UNSCR1325 and other initiatives. We will consider also the increased roles in peacebuilding that have emerged for women as a result of the attention to gender, including formal calls for women to be included in peace processes, the recognition of gender-based war crimes, and grass-roots peacebuilding initiatives by women. Our study of women's peacebuilding in particular sites will position us in the final section of the course to think still more critically about concepts of gender and power. Critics of contemporary gender theory frequently charge that in its radical questioning of concepts of the self and identity, gender theory has lost its ability to be politically effective. In light of our analyses, we will take up this challenge asking whether and in what ways "gender" remains a useful tool for students of peace studies and what possibilities our inquiry might open for reimagining concepts of gendered identity to inform future work in peacebuilding.

GSC 60604

The Archeology of Death

MW 9:30am-10:45am

Meredith Chesson/ANTH

While many anthropologists may argue that there are very few universals throughout human cultures today and in the past, one fact of life is shared by everyone: death. Drawing upon ethnographic and archaeological case studies of mortuary practices, this course explores the social, economic, political, and ritual structures associated with how people in the past (and even today) dealt with their dead. Topics to be covered include how death and mortuary practices resonate strongly with issues of gender, race, class, sexuality, ethnicity, and notions of personhood; the notion of social memory; power and inequality; and the ethics of studying the dead. While we will focus on archaeological approaches to understanding what people do with and believe about the dead, the breadth of the case studies encompass many disciplines, including classics, art history, gender studies, history, and anthropology.

GSC 63607

LGBT in the 20th-Century USA

MW 2:00pm-3:15pm

Gail Bederman/HIST

Interdisciplinary Seminar

This course covers the varied experience of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (and other gender-fluid) Americans over the course of the twentieth century. As much as possible, it will focus on the voices of LGBT people themselves, in the context of the changing meanings of what it was to claim those identities. To do this we will draw on primary sources—art, music, film, literature, interviews and oral histories, memoirs and autobiographies, plays, films. The focus will be on the ways people understood who they were--and what homosexual/gay/lesbian/queer/transsexual/transgender/et al identities meant to them--and how these identities changed over the course of the twentieth century, using a wide variety of primary sources and relevant disciplinary frameworks.

GSC 63608

Francophone Extremes: French Writing on the Cutting Edge

W 3:30pm-6:15pm

Alison Rice/ROFR

Taught in French

Francophone contemporary written work represents a wide variety of locations and experiences. In order to effectively depict places and events that are new and diverse, writers from around the world who have chosen French as their idiom of composition are currently engaging in innovative stylistic methods resulting in the creation of idiosyncratic French-language texts that don't shy away from tough topics ranging from immigration to climate change to violence to love. This course will include special emphasis on the growing number of women writers from around the world who are depicting with unprecedented care the heretofore unexplored experiences of women in countries ranging from Haiti to Rwanda. Authors include Mauritian-born Nathacha Appanah, Algerian Maïssa Bey, Guadeloupean Maryse Condé, Patrick Chamoiseau from Martinique, Julia Kristeva of Bulgaria, Congolese-native Alain Mabanckou, and Slovenian-born Brina Svit.

GSC 63700

Foundations in Gender Studies

W 3:15pm-5:45pm

Elizabeth Evans/ENG

This course introduces students to the interdisciplinary field of Gender, Women's, and Sexuality Studies (GWSS) by focusing on key concepts in feminist and queer research. We will discuss major figures in the development of the field, examine current theoretical debates and methodologies, and consider relevant pedagogical philosophies. The course offers a strong interdisciplinary underpinning for future research and teaching in GWSS and for GWSS-informed work across the disciplines. Course expectations include extensive reading, vigorous participation in discussion, and a final paper on a gender-focused topic of the student's choice. Students will have the option to satisfy some of the written requirement for the course by designing their own undergraduate GWSS or GWSS-informed syllabus along with two lesson plans.

GSC 67000

Special Studies

Department Approval Required

Special studies are available with Gender Studies – Affiliated Faculty.