Perspectives on Gender
GSC 60001
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.

Gender, Sexuality, & Development
GSC 60209
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.

Gender and Peace Studies
GSC 60565
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.

The Archeology of Death

GSC 60604

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.

LGBT in the 20th-Century USA

GSC 63607

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.
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.

This course introduces students to the interdisciplinary field of Gender, Women’s, and Sexuality Studies (GWSS) by focusing on key issues in feminist and queer research, providing a history of the development of the field, highlighting central theoretical debates and methodologies, and presenting relevant pedagogical philosophies. The course offers a strong interdisciplinary underpinning for future research and teaching in the field with the aim of preparing graduate students for the academic job market and employment in GWSS positions or positions with GWSS responsibilities. Toward that end, students will 1) design their own undergraduate GWSS syllabus along with two lesson plans, and 2) produce a final paper on a gender-focused topic of their choice.

Special studies are available with Gender Studies – Affiliated Faculty.