

Fall 2019 GRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

GSC 60001

Perspectives on Gender

TTH 2:00pm-3:15pm

Gail Bederman/HIST

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 60531

Queer Migrations

TTH 12:30pm-3:15pm

Francisco Robles/ENGL

In this course, we will examine the intersections of migration with LGBTQ* identities. We will begin with James Baldwin's *Another Country* (1961) and explore the ways that migration and movement (in multiple senses), as seemingly fundamental aspects of queer identity, further intersect with race, ethnicity, and gender. Throughout the course, we will be asking—and responding to—several questions, such as: How is the idea of home, as space and place, explored by LGBTQ* writers? Is migration a necessary paradigm for thinking of and through the LGBTQ* community? How have cities been shaped by queer identities? How is migration expressed through textual form in LGBTQ* texts? How do race and ethnicity intersect with gender and sexuality? There are many more questions that will be raised, and these five are just some of the first that we will think through. This is an interdisciplinary course with a bit of an international focus. Because this course works through a range of film and literature, we will be discussing various formal strategies and methods used by each medium, and how these textual qualities map onto and explore content. We will be concerned with “movement” as a paradigm, and as such, will examine how movement is conveyed in film and literature, especially in regards to LGBTQ* identities.

GSC 60532

Habits of Modern Life: Gender, Mobility, and the Everyday

MW 12:30pm-1:45pm

Barbara Green/ENGL

Elizabeth Evans/ENGL

This team-taught graduate course, cross-listed with Gender Studies, is intended to introduce students to the contours of two conversations currently animating gender studies approaches to modernism/modernity: discussions of the everyday and of modern mobility. Interdisciplinary approaches to everyday life in modernity draw our attention to the habits, routines, and patterns of ordinary life, to the non-events of modernity and the organizing practices that governed behavior and sensibilities. Discussions of mobility, especially when combined with gender analysis, focus our attention on the new freedoms for women offered by modernity – the movement of women “out of the cage” as one classic history of the period puts it. When brought together, these two approaches highlight the ways in which the interwar period in Britain has been read as both a period of enhanced freedoms for women and a period of great retrenchment. Additionally, the combination of these two discussions allows us to begin parsing the relationship between the “event” and the “non-event” as well as the transformation of one into the other – the radical “shock” of the street becomes the “blasé” attitude of the city dweller, the emergence of the airplane as a mode of transport accompanies an “airmindedness” that governs modern sensibilities. We will read texts by Benjamin, Simmel, de Certeau, Highmore, Lefebvre, Woolf, Rhys, and others.

GSC 60539

GSC 61539

Women and Television

TTH 2:00pm-3:15pm

Lab W 5:00pm-7:30pm

Mary Kearney/FTT

This course provides students with an introduction to critical and cultural approaches to feminist/queer studies of television, including historiography, textual analysis, industry studies, and reception studies. Our primary objective will be considering the relationship between gender, feminism, and television, with particular emphasis on U.S. television’s industrial history, representational strategies, and reception practices. In addition to performing close textual and contextual analyses of gendered televisual representations, we will investigate various representations of feminism on television, including those deemed “postfeminist.” We will also examine the gendered construction of television production and reception, with a particular focus on women’s involvement in both.

GSC 60582

Gendered Glissandos:

Slipping Stereotypes in Contemporary Francophone Literature and Film

MW 11:00am-12:15pm

Alison Rice/ROFR

Cancelled by Primary Department

~~Recent French-language literary and cinematic texts reveal that stereotypes regarding race, class, and sex in a variety of countries and settings are not stable. Many factors ranging from climate change to migration to social media are affecting the way individuals react to traditional expectations and encouraging more fluid definitions of identity. Instead of fitting neatly into the~~

projections that their family, religion, society, and nation have imposed upon them, protagonists creatively embody other forms of behavior and belief, incorporating many influences from around the world into their actions and values. In this course, we will examine short stories, novels, advertisements, films, and essays to determine how depictions of gender and sexuality are evolving on the page and screen in a world of increasing international movement and influence. We will take a close look at the creative work of women authors and filmmakers in an effort to discern how they are making great strides in disciplines that have long been dominated by men in the French-speaking world. Expectations include three 5-page written compositions as well as an oral presentation and in-class assignments. *This course will be taught in French.*

GSC 63657

**Feminist & Queer Prison Studies
Interdisciplinary Seminar**

**TTH 3:30pm-4:45pm
Pamela Butler/GS**

In recent years, scholars and activists have begun to understand sites of confinement—such as the prison, the asylum, and the refugee camp—as sites that produce and police genders and sexualities. This interdisciplinary seminar introduces students to feminist and queer work in the emerging field of critical prison studies, focusing on scholarship and arts that reach across and beyond disciplines to explore histories, experiences, and politics of confinement. At shifting intersections of racism, ableism, militarism, capitalism, and the state, institutions and practices of confinement raise complex questions about gender, sexuality, and academic knowledge production. Our readings will explore these questions, integrating the work of free-world academics with theory, research, art, and personal narrative produced by prisoners and survivors. In addition to the structural and interpersonal violences that characterize incarceration and confinement, we will focus on the creative, joyful, and loving ways that humans in confinement craft identities, have sex, build relationships, and create communities of care. Throughout the semester, we will consider how disciplinary norms and boundaries delineate the limits of inquiry, and we will center critically interdisciplinary work that unsettles the institutional organization of knowledge.

GSC 63662

Animal Encounters

**MW 9:30am-10:45am
Natalie Porter/ANTH**

Cancelled by Primary Department

How do humans relate to nonhumans across cultures and ecologies, as beings to think with, live with, love, kill, and consume? This course introduces multispecies studies—a field of research and writing that examines nonhuman life forms as objects of analysis and as beings with political lives and importance. We will explore how multispecies scholars engage with nonhumans in multiple worlds, from blasted landscapes and built environments to atmospheric spaces and microbial seas. As we look at nonhumans in these diverse arenas, we will critically interrogate longstanding binary distinctions between nature and culture, human and nonhuman, and consider alternative ways of apprehending and engaging with life in its myriad forms. Drawing from anthropology as well as philosophy, and feminist science studies, we will foreground nonhumans in debates about race and classification, gender and sex, language and communication, ethics and technology, sustainability and collapse. We will approach these debates from an anthropological perspective that focuses on the ways that we shape our bodies and worlds with and alongside other species.

GSC 63663

Anthropology of Everyday Life

MW 12:30pm-1:45pm

Meredith Chesson/ANTH

Have you ever pondered how people live(d) in a world without television, YouTube, iPhones, Lady GaGa, and cellphones? Why have bellbottoms come and gone twice in the last 50 years? Will we be forced to relive the fashion mistakes of the 1980s? What new stuff will people invent and sell next? In asking and answering these questions, we must focus on one underlying query: What does our stuff really say about who we are and who we want to be? This course combines lectures, discussions, and interactive small group activities to explore the nature and breadth of peoples' relationships with their things. We will investigate why and how people make and use different types of objects, and how the use of these material goods resonates with peoples' identities in the deep past, recent history, and today. Since everyone in the class will already be an expert user and consumer of things, we will consider how people today use material objects to assert, remake, reclaim, and create identities, and compare today's practices to those of people who lived long ago. Class members will learn about how anthropologists, including ethnographers (studying people today) and archaeologists (studying past peoples) think about and approach the material nature of our social, economic, and political lives. We will discuss why styles and technologies change through time, and why, in the end, there is very little new under the sun in terms of human behaviors and the way people produce and consume goods. The topical breadth of this workshop encompasses most social science disciplines, including history, economics, psychology, and anthropology, and resonates with classics, art history, and gender studies.

GSC 63700

Foundations in Gender Studies

W 3:30pm-6:00pm

Elizabeth Evans/ENG

Cancelled by Primary Department

~~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.