

GeNDeR Studies Program

Graduate Courses

Spring 2020



GSC 60001

Perspectives on Gender: Theory and Practice

TR 2:00pm-3:15pm

Pamela Wojcik/FTT

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 60541

Transnational/Transgender

TR 11:00am-12:15pm

Pam Butler/GSC

The interdisciplinary field of transnational transgender studies reveals how concepts, systems, and experiences of gender cross political and geographic boundaries, and how people move within, across, and against the gender categories available to them. Centering transgender knowledges and practices, this course explores how gender moves across space and time. How and why have some persons transitioned across gender boundaries, and what happens when they do? How do ideas about gender travel across national borders, and how are those ideas (and those borders) transformed along the way? What does transgender studies have to do with nation-states, economics, and global political dynamics? How have political and economic structures of movement - such as empire, migration, globalization, settler colonialism, and tourism - shaped gender in local and global contexts? And what social movements, cultures, visions, forms of resistance, and possible futures emerge out of these encounters? This seminar is discussion-based and centered on collaborative learning. Students will pursue independent research on a topic related to transnational transgender studies, share their research in class, and help to lead and facilitate class discussions.

GSC 60555

Feminist and Multicultural Theologies

TR 11:00am-12:15pm

M. 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 60626

African American Musicals in Theatre, Film and Television

MW 9:30am-10:45am

La Donna Forsgren/FTT

This course traces the development of African American musicals as they cross different social, cultural, and aesthetic boundaries. The course invites students to contextualize a variety of musical performance traditions—ranging from 19th c. blackface minstrelsy to today's television hip hopera Empire—through the lens of black feminist and queer theories. In so doing, students will engage in critical discussions about how individual artists, spectators and African American musical productions more broadly have signified, reaffirmed, and challenged dominant US society's understandings of race, class, gender, and sexuality.

GSC 60651

GSC 61651

Media & Identity

TR 2:00pm-3:15pm

T 5:00pm-7:30pm Lab

Mary Kearney/FTT

This course focuses on critical analyses of identities in media culture. Taking a cultural studies approach, we will interrogate theories and popular discourses of identity while exploring how identities are constructed, negotiated, resisted, and transformed within media culture. Our primary questions in this course are: What is identity? How do our identities inform our various relationships to media culture? And, how does media culture impact the construction of our identities? Our sites of analysis will be media representation (narrative, performance, aesthetics), media production (industrial and alternative), and media consumption (reception practices and audiences). We will examine a broad array of media forms, including film, television, the Internet, and popular music. Conventional demographic identities, such as gender, age, race, sexuality, class, and religion, are central to the course, although other identities, including geographic, lifestyle, and virtual identities, will be examined also. We will strive toward critical analyses that understand identities as socially constructed, not biologically determined, and intersectional, not autonomous.

GSC 63554

Beyond Theory: Literature and Feminism in Latin America

W 3:30pm-6:15pm

Vanesa Miseres/ROSP

In this course, we will study feminism through women's literary and journalistic texts (essays, novels, poetry) that were fundamental in the emergence and consolidation of this social movement in Latin America. Which feminist practices and discourses have developed since the first half of the nineteenth century, when women began to gain space in the public sphere, and during the first decades of the twentieth century, when Latin America enters incipiently into the international debate on women's rights (vote, divorce, etc.)? How does artistic and literary creation contribute to feminism? How can we understand today's feminist movements by analyzing women's literature from the past two centuries? The

course approaches to these and other questions in the history of Latin American feminisms, from the 19th century to the present. With an interdisciplinary perspective that includes literary criticism, cultural and gender studies, history, philosophy, law and political science, in each unit we will analyze the development and transformation of women's rights debates in the continent. We will also study the ways in which concepts such as "body", "family", "maternity", "machismo", "patriarchy" or "eroticism" are defined within a women's literature that strives for social change and for the revision of stereotypical representations of women and their roles in society. For advanced, native or near-native Spanish speakers

GSC 63659

**The Human and Its Others
Interdisciplinary Seminar**

W 2:00PM-4:45PM

Lindsey Breitwieser/GSC

This course introduces students to core theoretical understandings of humanity, personhood, agency, and animacy. Grounded in a decolonial, crip, queer, and anti-racist feminist perspective, we will discuss humanity's socioscientific construction and ideological ties. The first part of the course investigates what it means to be a person and what populations have been excluded from this realm through discourses of monstrosity, animality, and madness. The next part focuses on the materiality of the human, the construction of the body, and humanity's entanglement with nature, non-human animals, and things. The final part asks students to develop their understanding of these frameworks further by applying them to emerging scholarship that puts non-humans and the inanimate at the center of analysis.

GSC 67000

Special Studies

Department Approval Required

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

GSC 83540

Archives & Power: Gender, Race, Sexuality

W 12:30PM-3:15PM

Karen Graubart/GSC

This seminar is an introduction to the critical study of archives, particularly for those interested in historical research. Historians are generally aware that archives are not mere repositories of information, but we do not always think about the ways buildings and institutions guide our research. We will read theoretical critiques of archives, with special attention to the ways that archives marginalize, naturalize, or silence certain bodies and practices. Part of the seminar will center Atlantic history, colonial Latin America, and the history of slavery. We will also carry out a practicum, visiting archives on campus and nearby as well as those hosted online, to see how these issues play out in particular ways. Open to graduate students as well as advanced undergraduates (who should contact professor for more information).