



Course Descriptions

WGS 1000. Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies.

This course serves as an introduction to the academic discipline of women's and gender studies. Encouraging individuals to develop to their fullest potential, women's studies uses feminist and interdisciplinary methods to teach, conduct research, and expand existing bodies of knowledge. Critical thinking, the production of theory, and the assumption of community and global responsibility are integral to these methods. In this class students will explore these ideas while becoming aware of the ways in which gender is a social construct that impacts the political, economic, and social realities of women and men's lives. *Four credits.*

WGS/CRJ 1800. Women and Crime. This course explores women's involvement in the criminal justice system—from victim and offender to practitioner and service provider. *Four credits.*

WGS/PHL 2016. Family Ethics. This course is an introduction to historical and contemporary ethical perspectives on the family and its relation to the broader social, religious, and political order. *Service Learning sections are available. Four credits. [E]*

WGS/SOA 2030. Sociology of the Family. The course will provide a survey of the American family, including racial-ethnic variation within the family. Recent transformations of the family will be emphasized. Topics will include cohabitation, civil unions, marriage, divorce, remarriage, parenting, provision of care to aging family members, and domestic violence. The effect of public policy on family formation and function will be examined. *Four credits. [S]*

WGS/SOA 2040. Race and Ethnicity. This course is an introduction to the sociology of race and ethnicity. The course surveys general theoretical approaches to race and ethnicity and applies them to specific historical developments in American race relations. Specific contemporary issues will be addressed in the course, including: racial/ethnic identity, residential segregation, immigration, education, and affirmative action. Emphasis will be given to the intersection of race/ethnicity, class and gender. *Four credits. [S]*

WGS/ENG/GBS 2220. Women's Literary Tradition.

Exploring women's roles as producers and consumers of literature, this course traces the evolution of a women's

literary tradition through the reading and discussion of a variety of authors and genres. Rather than follow a strict linear trajectory, the course is arranged thematically to reflect the diversity of women's voices, roles, and experiences. Topics to be covered may include identity and difference, the female body, and marriage and motherhood. *Prerequisites: ENG-1102 or ENG 1103. Four credits. [L, GS]*

WGS/HST 2240. U.S. Women's History. This survey course examines the history of U.S. women, place their experiences in the context of political, social, and cultural change, and consider the ways evolving notions of gender both shaped women's lives and broader U.S. history. Students will examine the lives of famous and unknown women and analyze how their experiences reflected the time and situations in which they lived. Honors section available. *Four credits.*

WGS/COM/SOA 2274. Women, Gender, and Culture.

This course is an interdisciplinary survey of the historical and contemporary practices and perspectives of women's studies in America, exploring the range of voices from our forefathers of past decades to young females today. We will question systems of oppression, differences, and hierarchies; look at the interactions of sexuality and power; examine the social construction of gender; explore the performative aspect of gender; delve into women's connection to both high and popular culture; and analyze the ways in which our society inscribes gender on our physical bodies. Attention will also be given to various situations of women outside of the United States. *Four credits.*

WGS 2881, 3881, 4881. Special Topics. Variable credit. May be repeated.

WGS/REL 3007. Women in the Bible. This course examines selected stories about women in both Testaments from literary, historical, sociological, and theological perspectives. The hermeneutic of liberation employed will examine the texts for both their oppressive and their liberating potential. *Four credits. [R]*

WGS/SMG 3030. Gender Issues in Sport. This course exposes students to obvious and subtle issues in the sport domain that contribute to different opportunities and experiences for individuals based on gender. The relationship between sexuality, masculinity, femininity and sport has been a slow evolving process throughout history. This course will examine such topics as masculinity in sport, media representation in sport, and transgressing femininities in sport. Students will discuss gender equity issues as they

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relate to sports coverage and career opportunities in sports organizations. *Prerequisite: Junior Standing. Four credits.*

WGS/SOA 3040. Social and Global Inequalities. A study of the various factors that both contribute to and reduce social and global inequalities. Emphasis is placed on the intersection of race, ethnicity, class, and gender as a basis for inequality. The effects of globalization on inequality are also considered and various theoretical explanations for inequality are examined. *Four credits.*

WGS 3100. Feminist Theory and Praxis. This course examines feminist theory and praxis through the lens of service learning. In partnering with community programs that empower and address the needs of women, students will have the opportunity to enhance their understanding of course concepts as they put feminist thought into action. The weekly readings and classroom meetings will engage students in a critical examination of several influential and emerging works of feminist theory. The theories and methodologies discussed in class will then be practiced, tested, and analyzed through students' engagement with community partners. *Four credits.* [SL]

WGS/HST 3242. War, Gender, and the Military in

U.S. History. This course allows students to evaluate the role gender has played in shaping American society, with particular attention paid to how moments of stability (peace) or instability (war) prompted either the revision or affirmation of standard gender roles. *Four credits.*

WGS/SPN/GBS 3280. Latin American Women Writers.

Discussion and literary analysis of poetry, prose, theatre, and essay by Latin American women writers. This course, cross-listed with Women and Gender Studies and Global Studies, will introduce students to canonical women authors as well as less known writers of the region. Works will be studied as an expression of the cultural context in which they were produced. Discussion will be centered on how these works enter into a dialogue with issues that affect women and their role in Latin American society. Special attention to the discussion, understanding and application of techniques for literary analysis. *Prerequisites: SPN 2130 with a grade of C or higher, and SPN 2140 or SPN 4010, or the permission of the instructor. Four credits.* [GS]



**WGS/ENG/GBS 3298. Women Writing Worldwide.**

This course pairs together current feminist theory with contemporary fiction by women writers from around the world. Topics covered include construction of the female body, women and work, relationships and family, exile and immigration, and women and war. *Four credits.* [L, GS]

WGS/PSC 3311. Women and Politics. This course considers the theoretical foundations of women's roles in society and examines the scope and nature of the difference that women make in politics. It examines the changing role of women in American politics—as citizens, voters, candidates and elected officials—from the 1800s to the present. Finally, it evaluates the ways that legislation and litigation have altered the political and legal rights of women in modern society. *Four credits.*

WGS/SOA/COM 3334. Media Representations: Race, Class and Gender. This course is a critical and theoretical study of the assumptions and representations of mainstream media—advertising, music, film, television, comics and animation—through the lenses of gender, race, ethnicity, whiteness, sexuality, age, and ability, considering media content as well as media production and audience reception. *Prerequisites: COM 2204 or permission of the instructor. Four credits.*

WGS/COM/GBS 3374. Global Media Representation of Women. This course examines theoretical as well as key issues on global media representations of women. Topics include the nature of media and how it creates and challenges stereotypes, as well as its exclusionary representation. We will examine women's portrayals in media forms that include: television, print and online media, music videos, advertisements, videogames, etc. We will also examine the work of women in the industry. *Prerequisites: ENG 1102 or ENG 1103, and COM/SOA/WGS 2274. Four credits.* [GS]

WGS/BIO 3500. Biology of Women. This course will examine the physiology of the adult female body and will address health issues that are unique to or different in women. Emphasis will be placed on the effects of female sex hormones on multiple processes (reproductive, nervous, endocrine, and cardiovascular) in the body. *Four credits.*

WGS/COM/SOA 4424. Gender Speak. This course—coming from both a theoretical and practical perspective—will focus on gender literacy, providing you with the tools to

be more conscious and mindful of the ways you choose to communicate gender. Springing from a social constructionist framework, we will examine our society's normalized gendered practices and seek ways to understand how to negotiate that system with agency. *Prerequisites: Junior Standing or permission of instructor. Four credits.*

WGS 4444. Independent Study. Individual study and research under the guidance of a faculty member who offers coursework in the WGS program. *One to four credits each semester.*

WGS/EXS 4675. Body and Identity. This course looks deeper at how our bodies fit (and don't fit) within society and are a physically and socially constructed entity that influences our identity. The way we move, adorn, and utilize our bodies all reflect and also help shape our sense of who we are. In a way, our appearance is linked with our essence. Grasping the significance of the body involves studies of personal psychology and physiology as well as studies of historical, social, and cultural variations in experience and identity. *Prerequisite: Junior Standing. Four credits.*

WGS 4810–4815. Student Internship. Variable credit. Credit-bearing internships are arranged through the Office of Career and Internship Services.

