

GENDER & WOMEN'S STUDIES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

(FORMERLY WOMEN'S STUDIES COURSE DESCRIPTIONS)

GWS 117: CHILDBIRTH AND WOMEN'S WRITING (4)

Also listed and described as ENG 117. No prerequisite. Open to first-year students.

GWS 125: AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN'S POLITICAL ACTIVISM (4)

Also listed and described as POLS 125. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite.

GWS 141: INTRODUCTION TO GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES (4)

This course includes topics such as origins of patriarchy, history of women's rights movements, theories of women's oppression, the social construction of gender, literary representations of women, women and industrialization, family and sexuality, feminist approaches to science, and the female experience as a force for social change. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite.

GWS 150: BLAZING NEW WORLDS: WOMEN IN SCIENCE FICTION (4)

Also listed and described as ENG 167. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite.

GWS 156: THE BIOLOGY OF WOMEN AND ITS SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS (4)

This course considers the biological processes that occur in a woman from birth until death and health issues arising from these processes. Topics discussed include, but are not limited to: the reproductive cycle and its control; fetal development and childbirth; effects of aging; nutrition; diseases of women and their treatment; the relationship between women and the health care system, including the previous use of mostly male models in biological and medical research; recent and current developments in research on women's health; and the impact of gender on diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of disease. Laboratory experiences include a Web-based exploration of the female anatomy (and comparison with the male anatomy), culturing bacteria and testing for antibiotic sensitivity, analyzing drugs in simulated urine and blood, analyzing food for vitamin and protein content, measuring blood glucose (in connection with diagnosis of diabetes, working with commercially available dipstick-types of medical tests (ovulation, pregnancy, blood sugar, ketone levels), and statistical analysis of national health data. Also listed as BIOL 156. Not intended for students majoring in biology. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite.

GWS 174: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S VOICES (4)

Also listed and described as ENG 174.

GWS 197F: FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR - ART AND PERFORMANCE (4)

Also listed and described as DANC 197F.

GWS 197F: FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR – BELL HOOKS: RAGE, LOVE, AND CREATING BELOVED COMMUNITY (4)

This course explores the life and work of feminist author, cultural critic, public intellectual, and social justice activist bell hooks. From *Ain't I a Woman: Black women and feminism*, written when hooks was 19, to *Writing Beyond Race: living theory and practice*, hooks has published nearly 40 books that speak to the pressing issues of our times: race, white supremacy, sexism, intersectionality, homophobia, capitalism, and spirituality in movements for social justice. Students will participate in an inclusive, feminist classroom that challenges each of us to think deeply about and to practice social justice and beloved community in our everyday lives. Open to first-year students only. Placement to be determined during the summer.

GWS 197F: FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR - STEPPIN' UP AND SPEAKIN' OUT: THE RHETORIC OF WOMEN LEADERS (4)

Also listed and described as COMM 197F.

GWS 197F: FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR – WOMEN/ BODIES/ VOICES (4)

This class works from the premise that “knowledge is power” to the conclusion that self-knowledge leads to personal and community empowerment. Reading from a feminist perspective, we’ll think about how literature helps us better understand ourselves and our communities. Course texts include fairy tales, stories, essays, and novels by authors such as Margaret Atwood, Eve Ensler, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Barbara Kingsolver, Robin McKinley, and Peggy Vincent. Also listed as ENG 197F. Placement to be determined during the summer.

GWS 197F: FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR - WOMEN OF DISCOVERY (4)

Also listed and described as CHEM/HIST 197F.

GWS 197F: FIRST-YEAR SEMINAR - WOMEN, HEALTH, AND POWER (4)

Also listed and described as ENG 197F.

GWS 203: WOMEN AND LAW (4)**GWS 203: WOMEN AND THE LAW (4)**

This course examines how women have been treated by wielders of the power of the law. Using constitutional and statutory case law, the course investigates women’s reproductive rights, sexuality and family law, equal employment, woman battering, pornography, hate speech, and sexual exploitation. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite.

GWS 208: GENDER, ETHNICITY, AND CLASS (4)

Also listed and described as POLS 208. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite.

GWS 209: FEMINIST PHILOSOPHIES (4)

Also listed and described as PHIL 208. Open to first-year students with permission.

GWS 211: MULTICULTURAL WOMEN WRITERS (4)

Also listed and described as ENG 211.

GWS 212: SEXUAL POLITICS (4)

This course introduces ideas developed in feminist theory about the social and political construction of areas of experience relating to the body, gender, and sexuality. The course asks the following questions: What is communicated by, through, and about sex and sexuality in public controversies? What is the relationship of sexuality to struggles for power? What role has debates about sexuality and gender played in visions of social change? Issues analyzed in the subject include reproduction, pornography, trafficking of girls and women, early and forced marriage, sexual violence, sexual identity, and the sexual politics of meat. We will use experiential learning, film, lecture, readings, and discussion to accomplish course goals. Also listed as POLS 212. Prerequisite: GWS 141 or sophomore, junior, or senior standing.

GWS 213: GLOBALIZATION AND POVERTY (4)

This course is an introduction to the current debates about poverty and inequality within and between countries in this age of globalization. It looks at the causes and consequences of globalization, for example, the losses by women, children, and men in status, freedom, safety, education, and their diminished access to the basic needs of food, housing, and health care. We also examine how and why wealthy nations have failed to notice, let alone assist, the millions of people trapped in absolute poverty. How do nations, and individuals in them, justify their belief that they have no moral responsibility to help people in poverty? Also listed as POLS 213. Prerequisite: *q*. Open to first-year students.

GWS 215: GENDER AND COMMUNICATION (4)

Also listed and described as COMM 215.

GWS 216: RHETORICAL THEORY - FROM ANCIENT GREECE TO THE RENAISSANCE (4)

Also listed as REL 215. No prerequisite.

GWS 217: RHETORICAL THEORY - FROM ANCIENT GREECE TO THE RENAISSANCE (4)

Also listed and described as COMM 217.

GWS 218: GLOBAL GAYZ - THE LESBIAN AND GAY MOVEMENT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS (4)

This course examines the global movement for lesbian and gay civil rights. It introduces students to an interdisciplinary body of research, which focuses on contemporary sites of contention, for example the right of lesbians and gays to define what counts as a marriage or family. Other topics include: legal status of lesbians and gays around the globe, the extent of state-sponsored homophobia and heterosexism in the world, the differences among gay and lesbian movements in both form and objectives, and existing protections against hate crimes. Also listed as POLS 218. No prerequisite. Open to first-year students.

GWS 219: FOOD, CULTURE, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE (4)

Also listed and described as ANTH/ES 219.

GWS 220: LIFE HISTORIES/SELF-NARRATIVES (4)

Also listed and described as ANTH 220. Prerequisite: ANTH 145, SOC 110, or GWS 141.

GWS 222: WOMEN IN ANCIENT AND MEDIEVAL EUROPE (4)

Also listed and described as HIST 222.

GWS 223: WOMEN IN BUDDHISM (4)

Also listed and described as REL 223.

GWS 224: WOMEN IN EARLY CHRISTIANITY (4)

Also listed and described as REL 224. Open to first-year students with permission.

GWS 225: GENDER AND WOMEN'S HISTORY IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE (4)

GWS 225: WOMEN IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE - WITCHES, QUEENS, AND COURTESANS (4)

Open to first-year students. Also listed and described as HIST 225.

GWS 226: GENDER AND WOMEN'S HISTORY IN MODERN EUROPE (4)

Open to first-year students. Also listed and described as HIST 226.

GWS 230: TEXTUAL CONSTRUCTION OF GENDER (4)

Also listed and described as ENG 230. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite.

GWS 242: ANTHROPOLOGY OF GENDER AND SEXUALITY (4)

Also listed and described as ANTH 242.

GWS 243: CHILDREN'S LITERATURE (4)

Also listed and described as ENG 242.

GWS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC – AMERICAN WOMEN TO 1865 (4)

This course will explore women's experiences in America from 1500 to 1865. Topics will include the ways in which women have shaped American politics, economics, society, and culture. Also listed as HIST 250. No prerequisite.

GWS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC – AMERICAN WOMEN SINCE 1865 (4)

Also listed and described as HIST 250. No prerequisite.

GWS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC – DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LAW (4)

This course explores the way domestic violence has been treated by the law in Virginia and across the U.S. We will study how the criminal justice system's response has evolved over time and analyze some current controversies. Topics include mandatory arrest policies, marital rape, the impact of domestic violence on child custody cases, and the role of sex discrimination. No prerequisite.

GWS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC -- ECOFEMINISM (4)

This course examines domination of gender, class, race and the environment as an interconnected, historical and global matrix. Utilizing the theories and activism of feminism, deep ecology and critical race theory, the course highlights both the problems and solutions in the gendered degradation of the natural world. We examine the consequences of this embedded gendered, racial and class system for individuals, communities and the global collective as well as the impact on other species and natural resources. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite. Also listed as SOC 250.

GWS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC -- GENDER AND ANIMAL RIGHTS (4)

This course examines the connections between the oppression of women and the oppression of animals. To see how the struggles for animal liberation and women's liberation are both concretely and theoretically connected, we examine issues such as animal experimentation and patriarchal culture; responding to racism in an anthropocentric world; the interrelationship between sexism and "speciesism"; the need to integrate feminism, animal defense, and environmentalism; the interconnected abuse of women, children, and animals; institutional violence; feminist ethics, and vegetarianism, and a beastly theology: the place of animals in the universe. No prerequisite.

GWS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC -- GENDER AND SPORTS (4)

This course is a theoretical examination of women and their participation in sports. Topics covered include the legitimacy of women's sports, Title IX, competing femininities, hegemonic masculinity, and sporting institutions as contexts in which women and men learn gender roles. The course emphasizes gender and the links between cultural constructions of femininity and women's sporting activities. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite.

GWS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC – GENDER, CULTURE, AND VISUAL MEDIA (4)

This course is a survey of theoretical approaches to an anthropological understanding of the relationships between visual media, culture, and gender. Among the topics examined are theories of culture, gender, cross-cultural aesthetics, and visual media. The course emphasizes gender as a means of exposing hidden assumptions about power, image, and social action. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite.

GWS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC – INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (4)

Employing theories, perspectives and materials from sociology, feminist theory and critical race theory we examine the historical and contemporary structures, laws, ideologies and practices which subject indigenous peoples to a matrix of exploitation and repression, Listening to the voices and strategies of indigenous people in the U.S. and globally, we explore new perspectives, ideologies and solutions to these issues. Also listed as SOC 250.

GWS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC – NATIVE FEMINISMS (4)

Also listed and described as SOC 250. No prerequisite.

GWS 250: SPECIAL TOPIC – THEATRE FOR SOCIAL CHANGE (4)

Also listed and described as THEA 250. Open to first-year students. No prerequisite.

GWS 252: GENDER AND GLOBALIZATION (4)

This course provides an international perspective on women's lives and highlights the importance of race, ethnicity, and nation in constructions of gender and privilege. Among the topics covered are: the way in which the legacies of colonialism affect social, cultural, and economic connections among women; the role of women and the construction of gender in the formation of modern nation-states; the globalization of media and its effect on the meanings of body, beauty, and family; the global feminization of labor; and global feminist movements. Also listed as INTL 252. Prerequisite: GWS 141. Open to first-year students.

GWS 260: RACE, CLASS, GENDER (4)

Also listed and described as SOC 260. No prerequisite.

GWS 290: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 or 4)

Independent study conducted below the advanced level. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration.

GWS 307: WOMEN AND WORK (4)

Also listed and described as SOC 307.

GWS 310: THE BODY AND SEXUALITY IN EUROPEAN HISTORY (4)

Also listed and described as HIST 310.

GWS 312: WOMEN AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS ACROSS THE GLOBE (4)

In this course we examine voluntary forms of collective action known as social movements from an interdisciplinary perspective. Our emphasis is on women and the ways they have organized on their own and together with men at the local, national, regional, and global levels, both within and across difference. We look at movements organized around human rights, peace and war, race and ethnicity, sexuality, the environment, and development and capitalism in a variety of locales. Also listed as ANTH 312. Prerequisites: ANTH 145 or GWS 141 or SOC 110 and junior or senior standing.

GWS 314: WOMEN AND ART (4)

Also listed and described as ART 314.

GWS 317: DRESS, GENDER, AND SOCIAL IDENTITY (4)

This student-led seminar explores the role of dress in creating gender and social identities. The course is global in scope and broad in chronological span, ranging from the ancient Mediterranean world and medieval western Europe to African tribal cultures and modern Islamic societies. Topics include the veil in Muslim society, symbolic properties of costume, the construction of masculinity, wedding attire, and contemporary fashion photography. Also listed as ART 317. Prerequisite: one 200-level art history class.

GWS 318: SEXUAL ETHICS (4)

Also listed and described as REL 318. Prerequisite: junior standing.

GWS 320, 520: TRANSFORMING FAMILIES (4)

How do you define "family"? Families take a variety of forms and are influenced by factors such as gender, race, class, sexual orientation, age, and geographic location. This course examines the transformation of the "family unit" in communities in the U.S. over the past 50 years. Issues to be examined include: experiences of working mothers, debates over absent fathers, single-parent households, "family values," and GLBT parenting. Prerequisites: GWS 141 and GWS 338.

GWS 324: FEMINISM AND CONTEMPORARY ART (4)

Also listed and described as ART 324. Prerequisites: ART 264 or ART 314 or GWS 141 or GWS 338 or permission.

GWS 325: NINETEENTH-CENTURY EUROPEAN ART (4)

Also listed and described as ART 325.

GWS 328: QUEER THEORY (4)

This course examines the founding philosophical, psychoanalytic, and critical texts of the new heterogeneous field of study known as queer theory. We begin by considering the premise that queer is more than a catchall term or synonym for lesbian and gay. We proceed by taking seriously the various critiques of identity that emerged in France during the past half century. This is not a course in lesbian and gay studies. Neither is it a course in cultural studies or popular representations of sexuality. Topics for discussion include: “gay and lesbian” versus “queer”; the historical emergence of the concept of sexuality; techniques of normalization; the authority of experience; politics beyond identity politics; the aesthetics of self-formation, self-care, self-replication, and self-dissolution; and the range and limits of queer critique. Prerequisites: GWS 141, GWS 248, or GWS 338.

GWS 328: 19TH CENTURY WOMEN WRITERS (4)

Also listed and described as ENG 328. Prerequisite: sophomore standing; English majors must have completed at least one 100-level or 200-level literature course in English.

GWS 334: GENDER AND IMPERIALISM (4)**GWS 334: SEX AND RACE IN THE AGE OF EMPIRE (4)**

Also listed and described as HIST 334. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

GWS 338: SURVEY OF FEMINIST THOUGHT (4)

This course provides an intensive study of the various theories which form the conceptual base for feminism (among these are liberal, radical, Marxist, and postmodern—to name a few). It provides a critique of traditional intellectual and research frameworks that have omitted women’s perspectives and experiences and looks in detail at the intersections of gender with race, class, sexuality, and culture. Prerequisite: GWS 141, GWS 252, or other 200-level women’s studies course.

GWS 339: FEMINIST ISSUES IN MENTAL HEALTH (4)

What is pathological? What is normal? Utilizing a feminist, interdisciplinary perspective, this class examines how power and bias have been used in the field of mental health to oppress various populations. In particular, we’ll explore the impact of racism, sexism, ageism, classism, and homophobia on theories and treatments of mental illness. Not open to first-year students.

GWS 342: ADVANCED STUDIES IN CHILDREN’S LITERATURE: THE TOMBOY CHARACTER (4)**GWS 342: ADVANCED STUDIES IN CHILDREN’S LITERATURE (4)**

Also listed and described as ENG 342.

GWS 343: DRAG: THEORIES OF TRANSGENDERISM & PERFORMANCE (4)

For more than 2,500 years, cross-dressing has been an integral part of the Western theatrical tradition, from Greek drama to Shakespeare, from the castrati to Milton Berle, American burlesque, and modern-day drag kings and queens. This course examines historical, theoretical, and autobiographical perspectives on drag, including transgenderism and performance in non- Western cultures. Prerequisites: GWS 141 and junior or senior standing.

GWS 344: MEN AND FEMINISM (4)

Can a man be a feminist? What role(s) can/should men play in the feminist movement? This course examines men's participation in feminism, exploring how (and why) some men seek to create more equitable gender relations. We also explore feminist reactions, both positive and negative, to male involvement in the feminist movement. Prerequisites: GWS 141 and junior or senior standing.

GWS 345: ARAB WOMEN WRITERS (4)

Also listed and described as ENG 345.

GWS 350: SPECIAL TOPIC - 19TH-CENTURY WOMEN WRITERS (4)

Also listed and described as ENG 350. Prerequisite: sophomore standing; English majors must have completed at least one 100- or 200-level literature course in English.

GWS 350: SPECIAL TOPIC - FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES ON ENVIRONMENTALISM (4)

Students will examine women's relationships with earth, non-human animals and nature, and other human animals. The course explores the connections between the mastery of women and the mastery of nature, the origins of feminist perspectives on environmentalism and their relation to the science of ecology and to other branches of feminist thought. Students will explore issues such as biological diversity, industrial and animal agriculture, biotechnology, war and violence, spirituality, development, sustainability, environmental health issues, environmental racism, and activism. Critiques of modern science, technology and political systems as well as solutions will be included. Also listed as POLS 350. Open to first-year students with permission.

GWS 350: SPECIAL TOPIC – LAVENDER SCREEN/LESBIAN CINEMA (4)

Also listed and described as ENG 350. Prerequisite: sophomore standing or permission.

GWS 350: SPECIAL TOPIC – SOCIOLOGY OF GENDER (4)

This course considers gender in a U.S. context, with particular attendance to its inseparability from race, class, sexuality, ability, age, and citizenship. Using a sociological, constructionist, and feminist framework, we will explore gender as it interacts with major social institutions, like the family, education, religion, and the labor market. Also listed as SOC 350.

GWS 350: SPECIAL TOPIC – SOCIOLOGY OF THE FAMILY (4)

Also listed and described as SOC 350.

GWS 350: SPECIAL TOPIC – SPIRITUAL ACTIVISM (4)

In this course we: a) consider the meanings and roles of spirituality in social justice movements, b) explore theories and practices of social transformation rooted in love, compassion and liberation, and c) investigate how notions of difference and radical interconnectedness inform spiritual activism. Readings will emphasize the work of Gloria Anzaldúa, Audre Lorde, Layli Maparyan, Jaqui Alexander, Anna Louise Keating, and more. Also listed as REL 350.

GWS 354: ITALIAN RENAISSANCE ART - MARRIAGE, BIRTH, AND DEATH (4)**GWS 354: MARRIAGE, CHILDBIRTH AND DEATH IN THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE (4)**

Also listed and described as ART 354.

GWS 362: SPIRITUAL ACTIVISM (4)

In this course we: a) consider the meanings and roles of spirituality in social justice movements, b) explore theories and practices of social transformation rooted in love, compassion and liberation, and c) investigate how notions of difference and radical interconnectedness inform spiritual activism. Readings will emphasize the work

of Gloria Anzaldúa, Audre Lorde, Layli Maparyan, Jaqui Alexander, Anna Louise Keating, and more. Also listed as REL 362.

GWS 372: IMAGES OF WOMEN IN FILM (4)

Also listed and described as FILM 372. Prerequisite: prior film course or permission.

GWS 379: FEMINIST THEORY (4)

Also listed as ENG 379. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

GWS 382: ADVANCED STUDIES IN AMERICAN LITERATURE – GRAPHIC NOVELS (4)

Also listed and described as ENG 382. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

GWS 382: ADVANCED STUDIES IN AMERICAN LITERATURE: LITERATURE OF PROTEST (4)

Also listed and described as ENG 382. Prerequisite: sophomore standing.

GWS 390: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 or 4)

Independent study conducted at the advanced level. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration.

GWS 399: INTERNSHIPS (2 or 4)

Application must be made with faculty prior to registration.

GWS 470: SEMINAR IN GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES (4)

"Feminist journeys" is the theme of this capstone course. Students examine feminism as a journey, both historically and politically, and in their own lives as feminists and gender and women's studies majors/minors through the method of autoethnography. The course goal is to integrate the personal and political in innovative and creative ways. Students play a significant role in shaping the class and complete a major final creative project in the medium of their choice. Prerequisites: GWS 141, GWS 338, and senior standing.

GWS 480: SENIOR THESIS (4)

A research paper based upon inquiry into a specific issue within women's studies. Students must consult with GWS adviser in the spring semester of junior year. Research begins during Fall Term and ends Short Term.

GWS 490: SENIOR HONORS THESIS (4, 4)

Offered to qualified women's studies majors. Students must consult with GWS adviser in the spring semester of junior year. Research is completed over Fall, Short, and Spring Terms.